

2 Samuel 12 Introduction – DAVID Confronted; Repents; Finds God's Mercy.

Proverbs 28:13, "Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy."

1 *John 1:9*, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Isaiah 61:2-3, "[God comforts] all who mourn; ... to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes" (a 'finely worked' *priestly* headdress; v.6). Our Great God delights to bring "beauty out of ashes."

This is exactly what we see in king David's life, a man greatly blessed by God; deeply fallen by the deceitfulness of pride; yet, mercifully, lovingly restored, but at a painful cost: both severe and *on-going*. All of which are life-lessons, vital to know and to remember.

Furthermore, we learn:

1) If the temptation to sin can happen to David, it can surely happen to *us*! "Guard your heart with all vigilance, for out of it comes the issues (decisions) of life." (Solomon, Proverbs 4:23); and,

2) Sin *concealed* only self-destructs; but sin *confessed* is God's pathway to mercy and life.

David's *trilogy* in the Psalms chronicles this tragic episode in his life: Psalm 51 (Deep Contrition); Psalm 32 (Love and Joy Return); Psalm 103 (High Praise for God's Steadfast Love and Forgiveness).

12:1-7a; God *sent* Nathan the prophet to confront the king. Nathan delivered a parable to David that he thought was a real-life situation. In response, the king's righteous indignation was ignited over the severe injustice that the parable contained. Indeed, David was totally unprepared for the prophets next words. They were like an arrow that would pierce his own heart. The guilty party in Nathan's parable, who David by his own mouth condemned as worthy of *death*, was David himself. "*You are the man!*" exclaimed Nathan, God's prophet (v.7). In life it is so easy to be blind to our own sin, yet willing and quick to pass judgment on another just like David. Surely, Jesus' words in the Sermon on the Mount expose this very human tendency when Jesus fired a similar arrow at the hearts of His listeners, saying, "*You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.*" (Matt. 7:5).

12:7b-12; Emphatically God rehearsed His Own role in all that David had become and all that he had achieved (see the emphatic "I" twice in v.7). David's successes, his

prosperity in life had all been granted to him by the good hand of God. That is, everything! (vv.7b-8). And then David's horrific sins were laid out before him by God Himself (v.9). Clearly God's heart was grieved by His beloved servant's sin (note: this is also true of our own sin as well. Cf. Eph. 4:30, "*Grieve not the Spirit of God ...*"). Then, in verse 10, the Divine Judge pronounced the sentence and penalty for David's sin (vv.10-12). Sin carries a high cost. It always does. Sin carries consequences that are immediate and those that often last a lifetime.

12:13-25; David responded with a broken and contrite heart, saying, "*I have sinned against the LORD*" (v.13; see Psalm 51). David's sincere repentance saved his life and throne; but the consequences of his sin would plague him the rest of his life, even to his dying day (cf. 1 Kings 1). Verses 14 – 23 recount the death of Bathsheba's child and David's grieving. Yet this bitter episode ends in verses 24-25 on a high note: one of hope, and grace, restoration, and of joy returned. Marvelous is the mercy and grace and forgiveness of God! For Solomon ("peace") was born, whom the LORD named "Jedidiah," meaning, "*Beloved of the LORD.*" Exceedingly merciful and gracious is our God!! So should His children be! (Eph. 5:1).

12:26-31; The warfare with Ammon that Joab had left unfinished in 10:14, he now returns to finish. Joab then leaves the final defeat of Ammon and their subjugation to David as king.