

2 Samuel 12

Lesson 8: Repentance & Restoration

Overview of 2 Samuel 12

- vs. 1-4—Nathan's Parable
- vs. 5-6—David's Reaction
- vs. 7-14—God's Judgment
- vs. 14-23—The Child's Death
- vs. 24-25—Solomon's Birth
- vs. 26-31—David's Victory over Ammon



Nathan's Parable (12:1-4)

- Parable = “a simple, immediately comprehensible narrative designed to convey a truth that far exceeded its surface meaning”
- Took David off guard by focusing on greed & selfishness, not adultery & murder
- Engaged David as Judge

David's Reaction (12:5-6)



Exodus 22:1

- If a man steals an ox or a sheep and slaughters it or sells it, he shall pay five oxen for the ox and four sheep for the sheep.
- David knew & invoked the law.

You are the man!



God's Judgment (12:7-14)

- David's Past Blessings (7-8)
- David's Offenses (9-10)
- David's Consequences (10-12, 14)
- David's Confession (v.13)
- God's Mercy (v.13)

David's Past Blessings (12:7-8)

- Position
- Protection
- Wealth
- Royal Privilege
- United Nation to Rule
- Promise of More

David's Offenses (12:9)

- Despising God's Word & God Himself
- Committing Murder
- Committing Adultery
- Note that he broke at least 5 of the Ten Commandments: no other God, no coveting, no lying, no murder, no adultery.

David's Consequences (10-12, 14)

- He will reap what he has sown.
- His household will be filled with immorality and violence (brother raping sister, brother killing brother, son taking father's concubines publicly)
- He will pay fourfold—4 sons will die (unnamed baby, Amnon, Absalom, Adonijah).

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David's Confession (12:13)

- "I have sinned against the LORD."
- No excuses or blame shifting or denying the truth (unlike Saul in 1 Sam. 15:19-35)
- All sin is ultimately against the Lord.
- If we love Him, we'll obey Him (Jn.14:15).

God's Mercy (12:13)

- "The LORD also has taken away your sin; you shall not die."
- David expected to die.
- Lev. 20:10 says both parties to adultery should be executed.
- Why did God show mercy?
- Right of a Sovereign to pardon

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The Child's Death (12:14-23)

- Why? Because David had "given occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme" (14).
- Yet David fasted & prayed for the Lord to show mercy because He knew God had been merciful in the past.

The Child's Death (12:14-23)

- David prayed while his prayers could make a difference (no good to pray for the dead).
- When God's answer was clear, he yielded to God's will.
- "I will go to him, but he will not return to me" (23)—innocent baby in heaven.

The Child's Death (12:14-23)

- Child died on the 7th day (12:18) before he would have been circumcised and named on day 8 (Lev. 12:3).
- David washed himself & went before the Lord in worship before breaking his fast—hunger for right relationship with God was greater than physical hunger (12:20).

Solomon's Birth (12:24-25)

- Having received comfort from God, David comforted his wife.
- Solomon means "God's restoration or peace."
- Jedidiah means "God's beloved."

Solomon's Birth (12:24-25)

- Was Solomon David and Bathsheba's 2nd or 4th son? (2nd)
- 1 Chronicles 3:5 says, "These were born to him in Jerusalem: Shimea, Shobab, Nathan and Solomon, four, by Bath-shua the daughter of Ammiel."
- Not necessarily listed in birth order

David's Victory over Ammon

- See 2 Sam. 10—These are the ones who humiliated David's envoys and then hired mercenaries to fight David.
- They are the ones used by David to kill Uriah in battle (12:9).
- Joab summons David to come & take credit for the final victory.

David's Victory over Ammon

- David took great wealth from them, including a gold crown weighing about 75 pounds.
- The final verse (depending on your translation) appears to indicate that David tortured the Ammonites OR that he put them to forced labor to rebuild the cities & house his soldiers.

Lessons

- All sin is ultimately against God. (When we see our sin only as wronging other people, we don't yet understand its seriousness.)
- If we love God, we will obey Him.
- Repentance is turning AWAY from sin and TO God. It's more than feeling sorry.

Lessons

- Forgiveness doesn't remove all consequences of sin. (A severed limb doesn't grow back. David faced dire consequences. Can't put the world back the way it was.)