

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF DAVID

PART II

STUDY NUMBER FIFTEEN - 2 Samuel 12:1-31

In our previous studies of the life of David we have seen him climb the pinnacle of success in the kingdom, and then in our last study we saw a tragic fall.

It has been over a year now because the child has been born, and David is facing a lot of unhappy days.

Psalm 6

“O Lord, do not rebuke me in Thine anger,
Nor chasten me in Thy wrath.
Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am pining away;
Heal me, O Lord, for my bones are dismayed.
Any my soul is greatly dismayed;
But Thou, O Lord - - how long?

I am weary with my singing;
Every night I make my bed swim,
I dissolve my couch with my tears.
My eye has wasted away with grief;
It has become old because of all my adversaries.

Psalm 32

When I kept silent about my sin, my body wasted away
Through my groaning all day long.
For day and night Thy hand was heavy upon me;
My vitality was drained away as with fever-heat of
summer.
I acknowledge my sin to Thee,
And my iniquity I did not hide;
I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord';
And Thou didst forgive the guilt of my sin.

This chapter could be called,
CONFRONTATION & REPENTANCE.
It's a faithful servant, a faithful friend;
coming in and locking horns with David.

Bill Moyers was President Johnson's closest advisor. He
was a very young man to be appointed
to that position.

When President Johnson was asked in an interview why
he chose Moyers, his reply was this:
*"I can tell you the answer in one sentence:
Bill Moyers always tells me the truth."*

Most personal confidantes to the powerful men
in the nation have a tendency to be yes-men,
or at least it would be a temptation to do that.
To tell them what they want to hear rather than what
they ought to hear.

Three thousand years earlier there was Nathan the prophet, who was a personal advisor to the most powerful man in the world at that time.

David had committed a terrible sin. I'm sure there was a lot of whispering and gossip about the scandal buzzing around the palace but no one dared say a word to David.

His bride of a few months was obviously pregnant; her poor husband was dead, murdered on the battlefield on David's order, and now it seemed that all was well with David and his new wife.

He was in a silent cover-up, continued deception and hypocrisy.

This lie was lived for the better part of a year. God let it pass for this long. It looked like sin actually does pay.

Psalm 50:21

“These things you have done, and I kept silence. You thought that I was just like you. I will reprove you and state the case in order before your eyes.”

Proverbs 20:17

“Bread obtained by falsehood is sweet to a man, but afterward his mouth will be filled with gravel.”

Lamentations 3:7

“He has walled me in so that I cannot go out.
He has made my chain heavy.”

J. Vernon McGee points out, “God’s man may get into sin, but he will not stay in sin. That is the difference which distinguishes God’s man from the man of the world. The sheep may fall into the mud, but he will struggle out of it as soon as he can. A pig will stay in the mud and enjoy it.”

Look at VERSE 1, we are going to just jump right into this today.

v. 1 The Lord sent Nathan to David. When he came to him, he said, “There were two men in a certain town, one rich and the other poor.

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When he came to him he said,
*“There were two men in a certain town,
one rich and the other poor.”*

Would you notice that there are no greetings, there’re no prayers.

Nathan does not come in and say, “listen David I’ve got a special message, need to have a word of prayer and I’m going to share this message.”

There's none of that.

He walks right in and immediately
he starts right out by telling this story.

And the confrontation is so brief;
it's just a few verses.
He's here and then he's gone.

Have you ever wondered why God allowed this thing to go
on for a whole year.

I think so the consequences of it would run
its course.

So the baby would be born,
so David would actually feel that he has successfully
covered this and life was going to go on as usual.

And all of a sudden, Nathan the man who said,
you cannot build the temple, it does not fit
God's purpose.

Now comes to say, you cannot sin without suffering the
consequences for it.

We need to remember one other thing here.

David, I think believes that this is a real happening in the
kingdom.

In other words, he is being asked by Nathan
the prophet to rule on a domestic problem.

So David is listening to the story, getting ready to rule in wisdom and great leadership on this affair that has taken place in the kingdom, that Nathan is aware of, and does not see himself at all until a little bit later.

v. 2 The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cattle,

Have you ever wondered why Nathan turns to livestock? Remember David knows all about this, he came out of the sheep fields.

v. 3 but the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb he had bought. He raised it, and it grew up with his children. It shared his food, drank from his cup, and even slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him.

“But” we have a contrast, VERSE 3:
“but the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb that he had bought.”

Now his kids had a future farmer’s project at school and so they decided they were going to raise a little lamb.

And that’s the picture he describes here, he raised it and it grew up with him and his children, it shared his food, drank from his cup and even slept in his arms.

“It was like a daughter to him.”

Has David ever had that experience?

Why he probably named every one of those lambs back there when he was in high school and was out there tending the sheep.

Each of them had a special name and he knew what it was like to hold some of those little lambs in his arms and have them so close to him.

Now, what he is describing here is the guy with just one little pet lamb and the rich guy with big flocks.

Now the focus is on the rich man.

v. 4 “Now a traveler came to the rich man, but the rich man refrained from taking one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare a meal for the traveler who had come to him. Instead, he took the ewe lamb that belonged to the poor man and prepared it for the one who had come to him.”

Here comes this guest to town, and the rich man is delighted to see him, but he has not made preparations for mealtime.

This guy has all this livestock out here and he walks across the fence and captures the little pet lamb, slices his throat, skins it and prepares a meal for this guest that has come in.

You can just see David, I mean the redhead is not only boiling on the top and bristling but the face is also turning very, very red.

You know what David is thinking, he just jumps up in the middle of the story and he says put on your swords, what is the guy's address, let's go get him. He doesn't deserve to live for doing something like that.

You see how easy it is to point out sin in other people's lives and you don't see it in your own.

Especially when you are out of fellowship.

v. 5 David burned with anger against the man and said to Nathan, "as surely as the Lord lives, the man who did this deserves to die!"

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Do you notice the difference here?
How was David two weeks ago?
Oh he was kind wasn't he?

He reached out to this handicap son of Jonathan, Mephibosheth and meets all of his needs and lets him eat at his table.

He goes over to the king of the Ammonites and he tries to be nice to him over here.

The quality of a person walking with God is that he is tender, he's kind, he's gentle.

You can really tell a person's spiritual health by their words and actions.

But David has been out of fellowship for a year. He has been playing a game.

So now you are harsh,
now you want justice,
no lack of pity,
I mean there is no pity at all.

Rev. Allan Redpath says,
“Have you observed that when you excuse sin in your own life, you become very critical of it in other people. The person who hides an uneasy conscience and a sense of guilt may flash out in anger against the sin of another.

Is that why some of us are so merciless with the Christian who has tripped up?

Is that why we have no gospel for the believer who falls?

It may be not because we are very holy but because we are unholy that we condemn the thing in another as we refuse to judge in our own lives.

Let us not forget the words of our Master,
‘He that is without sin among you, let him first cast the stone.’”

v. 6 He must pay for that lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and had no pity.”

David comes back with the human response,
“He must pay for that lamb four times over.” Why?
“Because he did such a thing and had no pity.”

David is consumed in it.
He is boiling by the story.
Now Nathan is ready to strike.

v. 7 Then Nathan said to David, “You are the man! This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: ‘I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul.

I think Nathan is broken hearted.
I think tears are running down his cheeks
as he hears David, bark out these signals of justice. I think he is trembling.

Nathan is so choked with tears that his voice has turned to whisper, and he says,
“you are that man, that deserves to die,

that needs to pay back four times what you took, David you are it.”

You talk about a bolt of lightning from the throne of God.

David just realizes that standing over in the corner is a harp that has been silent for over a year, and laying on the desk is a sacred pen that hasn't written any psalms either.

And he realizes, “hey the guy is right.”

After Nathan makes the statement of judgment, he immediately launched into what the Lord God of Israel has to say.

Five things I have done for you!

First “I anointed you king over Israel.”

Second “I delivered you from the hand of Saul.”

v. 8 I gave your master's house to you, and your master's wives into your arms. I gave you the house of Israel and Judah. And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more.

The Lord, in summarizing all of the

past relationship with David, uses the words 'anointed,' 'delivered,' and 'gave.'

Third "I gave your master's house to you (the house of Saul).

Fourth and your master's wives into your arms."

Fifth "I gave you the house of Israel and Judah."

And this is reference to the fact that at 37(1/2) years of age David ascended to the throne and became king of the land.

The Lord then makes a very interesting statement: "and if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more."

All you needed to do was ask, acknowledge, and I would answer!

Jeremiah 32:27

"Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh. Is anything too difficult for me?"

Jeremiah 33:3

"Call to me and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things which you do not know."

Psalm 37:3-5

“Trust in the Lord and do good. Dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness. Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord; trust also in him and he will do it.”

v. 9 Why do you despise the word of the Lord by doing what is evil in his eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and you took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites.

The Lord now raises the question Why?

With regard to the murder of Uriah the Hittite.

It is David taking matters into his own hands in this relationship.

Having done away with Uriah the Hittite, you then took his wife to be your own.

Because of the letter that you wrote to Joab with the instructions, “In my sight you are guilty of murdering that man; he was killed with the sword of the Ammonites.”

v. 10 Now therefore the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.”

The Lord is able to forgive but there are also consequences that will continue because of this disobedience.

Galatians 6:7

“God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.”

“Now therefore the sword will never depart from your house.”

And the reason this is going to be true, David, is because:

1. You despised me in the acts of adultery and murder,
2. And in the taking of the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.

v. 11 “This is what the Lord says: ‘Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity upon you. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will lie with your wives in broad daylight.

v. 12 You did it in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel.”

Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity to you.

Hebrews 12:5-11

“And you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, ‘My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor faint when you are reprov’d by him; for those whom the Lord loved he disciplines, and he scourges every son whom he receives.’ It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us and we respect them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.”

“I am going to bring calamity upon you.”
We cannot imagine what David is going

to experience in the days that are ahead:
grief in his home like few men in the
scriptural record, **turmoil, tragedy, rape**
and **uncontrollable sin.**

Your wives will be taken right out
into broad daylight.

I am sure David sits there with his mouth open,
listening to the voice of God through Nathan.

v. 13 Then David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against
the Lord.” Nathan replied, “The Lord has taken away
your sin. You are not going to die.

David, standing absolutely condemned says,
“I have sinned against the Lord.”

I agree with you, Lord, this was wrong.
And he has repented of it, and now Nathan says, “God
won't kill you David.”

Nathan's reply to David's confession is two-fold:

1. The Lord has taken away your sin.
2. You are not going to die.

v. 14 But because by doing this you have made the enemies
of the Lord show utter contempt, the son born to you will
die.”

David, the Lord has taken away your sin.
You are not going to die.

But in contrast, because the consequences
of doing this, has made the enemies of the Lord
show utter contempt, the son born to you will die.

After the words “the son born to you will die,” Nathan
doesn't say another word but turns
and walks out of the presence of the king,
who has to feel a horrible sting in his heart.

I imagine a gush of emotions comes over David.

v. 15 After Nathan had gone home, the Lord struck the
child that Uriah's wife had borne to David, and he became
ill.

Bathsheba calls David and tells him to come home, the
child is seriously ill.

v. 16 David pleaded with God for the child. He fasted and
went into his house and spent the nights lying on the
ground.

v. 17 The elders of his household stood beside him to get
him up from the ground, but he refused, and he would not
eat any food with them.

- v. 18 On the seventh day the child died. David's servants were afraid to tell him that the child was dead, for they thought, "While the child was still living, we spoke to David but he would not listen to us. How can we tell him the child is dead? He may do something desperate."
- v. 19 David noticed that his servants were whispering among themselves and he realized the child was dead. "Is the child dead?" he asked. "Yes," they replied, "he is dead."
- v. 20 Then David got up from the ground. After he had washed, put on lotions and changed his clothes, he went into the house of the Lord and worshiped. Then he went to his own house, and at his request they served him food, and he ate.

As soon as David got the news that his little son was dead, he immediately got up from the ground where he had been praying and fasting for seven days, and he washed himself, put on the lotions and changed his clothes.

The first thing he did after getting cleaned up was, to go into the house of the Lord and worship.

This is a man after God's own heart.

Having experienced the chastening hand of God upon his life, instead of running away, he runs into the Lord's presence, and there bows in worship before his Lord.

The second thing he did following the worship was, he went to his own house, and at his request they served him food, and he ate.

When we face the consequences of sin in our lives, we have to be careful to guard ourselves against bitterness, and we mustn't blame God or ask him how he can do this to us.

In essence, David is a tremendous illustration of one who recognizes God's hand in his life.

It was just as if David said, God did this. I accept it. I will go on from here. This is an incredibly mature response.

Psalm 86:11,12

¹¹ Teach me your way, O LORD ,
and I will walk in your truth;
give me an undivided heart,
that I may fear your name.

¹² I will praise you, O Lord my God, with all my heart;
I will glorify your name forever.

v. 21 His servants asked him, “Why are you acting this way? While the child was alive, you fasted and wept, but now that the child is dead, you get up and eat!”

The servants are mystified by David’s response to this crisis in his life by asking the question “Why are you acting this way?”

v. 22 He answered, “While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept. I thought, ‘Who knows? The Lord may be gracious to me and let the child live.’

v. 23 But now that he is dead, why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I will go to him, but he will not return to me.”

David has some questions for his servants. “Why should I fast now that he is dead?” and “Can I bring him back again?” and then his statement, “I will go to him but he will not return to me.”

While the child was still alive, he could keep thinking there would be hope.

Maybe it won’t happen; maybe the Lord will change his mind.

But now that he has died, he faces the truth.

David accepts the permanent fact that this child is dead and says, “I will rely on God to get me through this crisis.

I will comfort myself with God's word."

After you claim the truth of Scripture in a crisis
it is amazing the stability you will have.
Refuse to give up and go on.

The tendency is to give up and to say, I'm though; I'm
finished with living life.
It isn't worth it any longer.

v. 24 Then David comforted his wife Bathsheba, and he
went to her and lay with her. She gave birth to a son, and
they named him Solomon. The Lord loved him;

After this period of mourning and grief,
David goes with Bathsheba, his wife,
and she becomes pregnant.

She gave birth to a son.
And the text tells us they named him Solomon which
means "son of peace", and the Lord loved him.

Tell me God doesn't forgive,
tell me God doesn't take a mess and make
a miracle happen.
Tell me God doesn't point to the future.
The consequences have been suffered temporarily. Out of
this relationship that was born in lust,
out of all of that, God can bring
something beautiful. And the Lord loved him!

v. 25 and because the Lord loved him, he sent word through Nathan the prophet to name him Jedidiah.

And because the Lord loved him, he sent word through Nathan, the prophet to name him Jedidiah. That means, The delight of the Lord; the beloved of the Lord.

This is a proud father saying, hey, this is my grandson.

There are four things that really stand out as we come to the end of this traumatic trial and the confession:

Number 1: When you go through suffering and a storm, it's a lonely business. And people can be around you, they can cry with you, but you have got to face it alone. It's lonely.

Number 2: It's a learning experience. I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go.

Number 3: While you are riding out the storm, it's a temporary experience. This too shall pass, and I can't wait until they get it behind us.

Solomon said, "The end of a trial is better than its beginning", and it really is, such great wisdom.

Number 4: Riding out the trial is a humbling experience. We just don't want to tell people we have problems.

We protect our ego by saying everything is great.

So it's LONELY, it's LEARNING, it's TEMPORARY, and it's a HUMBLING experience.

v. 26 Meanwhile Joab fought against Rabbah of the Ammonites and captured the royal citadel.

During this time that all of this is going on, Joab is out fighting against the Ammonites some 40-45 miles northeast of Jerusalem.

He captured the royal citadel.

v. 27 Joab then sent messengers to David, saying, "I have fought against Rabbah and taken its water supply. This is great; look at this.

v. 28 Now muster the rest of the troops and besiege the city and capture it. Otherwise I will take the city, and it will be named after me."

Joab tells David to get with the program and besiege the city and capture it, otherwise Joab is going to take the city and name it after himself.

v. 29 So David mustered the entire army and went to Rabbah, and attacked and captured it.

v. 30 He took the crown from the head of their king - - its weight was a talent of gold, and it was set with precious stone - - and it was placed on David's head. He took a great quantity of plunder from the city

v. 31 and brought out the people who were there, consigning them to labor with saws and with iron picks and axes, and he made them work at brickmaking. He did this to all the Ammonite towns. Then David and his entire army returned to Jerusalem.

What are some of the lessons that we can learn from this particular passage?

Lesson #1: The consequences of sin are very severe.

Lesson #2: The Lord is always willing to give more if we come to him with our need.

Lesson #3: Calamity can come into the life of the Christian through chastening.

Lesson #4: The right response to revelation is the acknowledgement: "I have sinned against the Lord."

Lesson #5: Confrontation should lead to conviction, confession, and cleansing.

Lesson #6: The Lord forgives, forgets, and points to the future.

Lesson #7: We will go to be with our departed loved ones but they will not return to us.

Lessons Learned In The Life of David

PART II

STUDY NUMBER FIFTEEN - 2 Samuel 12:1-31

12:v. 1 The Lord sent Nathan to David. When he came to him, he said, "There were two men in a certain town, one rich and the other poor.

v. 2 The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cattle,
v. 3 but the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb he had bought. He raised it, and it grew up with him and his children. It shared his food, drank from his cup and even slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him.

v. 4 Now a traveler came to the rich man, but the rich man refrained from taking one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare a meal for the traveler who had come to him. Instead, he took the ewe lamb that belonged to the poor man and prepared it for the one who had come to him."

v. 5 David burned with anger against the man and said to Nathan, "As surely as the Lord lives, the man who did this deserves to die!"

v. 6 He must pay for that lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and had no pity."

v. 7 Then Nathan said to David, "You are the man! This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul.

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v. 9 Why did you despise the word of the Lord by doing what is evil in his eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites.

v.10 Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.'

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v.31 and brought out the people who were there, consigning them to labor with saws and with iron picks and axes, and he made them work at brickmaking. He did this to all the Ammonite towns. Then David and his entire army returned to Jerusalem.

QUESTIONS:

- 1. Read 2 Samuel 12:1-31 several times and in your own words outline what is happening in the life of David.**
- 2. According to verse 1, who does the Lord send to David?**
- 3. How does David respond to the story told by Nathan, according to verses 5 & 6?**
- 4. What does Nathan say to David in verse 7?**
- 5. What is David's response, according to verse 13?**
- 6. How does David respond to the death of his child, according to verse 20?**
- 7. How does God demonstrate his grace to David and Bathsheba in verses 24 & 25?**

8. What is David doing at the end of the chapter, and how does this relate to chapter 11:1?
9. Which verse in the study has meant the most to you?
10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

Lessons Learned In The Life Of David:

STUDY NUMBER FIFTEEN - 2 Samuel 12:1-31

LESSON #1: The consequences of sin are very severe.

LESSON #2: The Lord is always willing to give more if we come to Him with our need.

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LESSON #6: The Lord forgives, forgets, and points to the future.

**LESSON #7: We will go to be with our departed loved ones
but they will return to us.**