

1  **DAVID AND BATHSHEBA: THE JOY OF SALVATION**

2 Samuel 12

2  **WARRIORS & POETS**

- Story-by-story study through the united kingdom period of Israel and Judah.
- David has sinned with Bathsheba. It is an act which will forever define his relationship not just with his own family, but with history – with us.
- Nathan the Prophet has come to David and confronted him with the awful reality of his sin: The ingratitude which led to idolatry, which led finally to adultery and murder.
- After dodging it for so long, David finally accepts responsibility for what he has done.

3  **DAVID'S SIN**

- *David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." And Nathan said to David, "The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die. Nevertheless, because by this deed you have utterly scorned the LORD, the child who is born to you shall die." Then Nathan went to his house. And the LORD afflicted the child that Uriah's wife bore to David, and he became sick. (2 Samuel 12:13-15)*

4  **DAVID'S SIN**

- David's sin has been "put away" or "covered", and therefore he will not have to suffer the eternal consequences of his sin.
- There are, however, consequences in his earthly life that David will have to experience – starting with the death of his infant son, and continuing on throughout the rest of his family.
- There are differing levels of punishments for sins – and punishment is only one kind of consequence.

5  **SEEKING THE LORD**

- *David therefore sought God on behalf of the child. And David fasted and went in and lay all night on the ground. And the elders of his house stood beside him, to raise him from the ground, but he would not, nor did he eat food with them. (2 Samuel 12:16-17)*
- It is during this time of seeking the Lord that David writes Psalm 51.

6  **THE JOY OF SALVATION**

- David's great desire during this time of seeking the Lord is that the joy of his salvation would be restored:
- *Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. (Psalms 51:12)*
- Eventually, the judgment that God has pronounced comes to pass – and David's response seems especially odd to everyone around him.

7  **THE CHILD DIES**

- *On the seventh day the child died. And the servants of David were afraid to tell him that the child was dead, for they said, "Behold, while the child was yet alive, we spoke to him, and he did not listen to us. How then can we say to him the child is dead? He*

*may do himself some harm." But when David saw that his servants were whispering together, David understood that the child was dead. And David said to his servants, "Is the child dead?" They said, "He is dead." (2 Samuel 12:18-19)*

#### 8 **THE CHILD DIES**

- For an entire week David acts as though he is already in mourning – he lies in old clothes with his face toward the ground, refusing any food or help that is offered to him.
- When the child finally dies, his servants aren't sure what to tell him. If this is how he is reacting to it being sick, how will he react to the news that his child has died?

#### 9 **DAVID'S PERPLEXING BEHAVIOR**

- *Then David arose from the earth and washed and anointed himself and changed his clothes. And he went into the house of the LORD and worshiped. He then went to his own house. And when he asked, they set food before him, and he ate. Then his servants said to him, "What is this thing that you have done? You fasted and wept for the child while he was alive; but when the child died, you arose and ate food." (2 Samuel 12:20-21)*

#### 10 **DAVID'S PERPLEXING BEHAVIOR**

- As soon as David finds out that the child has died, he does something very unusual: He gets up, puts on fresh clothes, and goes to the Tabernacle to worship.
- Then, he returns to his palace and breaks his fast. His servants are deeply perplexed (and maybe a little worried or even a little angry) at his behavior.

#### 11 **DAVID'S PERPLEXING BEHAVIOR**

- *He said, "While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept, for I said, 'Who knows whether the LORD will be gracious to me, that the child may live?' But now he is dead. Why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he will not return to me." (2 Samuel 12:22-23)*
- Although David's behavior is not necessarily a model for how every family should deal with the loss of a child, it does represent a very important attitude shift from where he was before.

#### 12 **JOY**

- Previously, David's attitude has been one of selfish avoidance – he has done everything in his power to avoid the consequences of his actions, without any regard to the people he has hurt along the way.
- Now, David's focus has shifted toward having the joy of the relationship between himself and God restored. He knows that his child is being taken from him as the punishment for his sin, so as soon as this is done, David is ready for the joy to return.

#### 13 **WHAT IS JOY?**

#### 14 **IT IS NOT AN ACT OF THE WILL**

- *By the waters of Babylon, there we sat down and wept, when we remembered Zion. On*

*the willows there we hung up our lyres. For there our captors required of us songs, and our tormentors, mirth, saying, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!" How shall we sing the LORD's song in a foreign land? (Psalms 137:1-4)*

15  **IT IS NOT THE SAME AS HAPPINESS**

- *For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock. And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the LORD. Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me! (Psalms 27:5-7)*

16  **JOY COMES WHEN WE ARE SECURE IN THE LORD**

- *There are many who say, "Who will show us some good? Lift up the light of your face upon us, O LORD!" You have put more joy in my heart than they have when their grain and wine abound. In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety. (Psalms 4:6-8)*

17  **JOY COMES THROUGH COMMUNION WITH GOD**

- *You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore. (Psalms 16:11)*
- *His glory is great through your salvation; splendor and majesty you bestow on him. For you make him most blessed forever; you make him glad with the joy of your presence. (Psalms 21:5-6)*

18  **JOY COMES THROUGH OBEDIENCE**

- *O you who love the LORD, hate evil! He preserves the lives of his saints; he delivers them from the hand of the wicked. Light is sown for the righteous, and joy for the upright in heart. Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous, and give thanks to his holy name! (Psalms 97:10-12)*
- *The wicked have laid a snare for me, but I do not stray from your precepts. Your testimonies are my heritage forever, for they are the joy of my heart. (Psalms 119:110-111)*

19  **WHAT IS JOY?**

- Joy is the deep resonance of the soul when things are as they should be. Because we were created for the worship of and for a personal relationship with our Maker, the highest form of joy is always to be found in him.
- Of this, all earthly joys are only a shadow. But this does not degrade those joys – rather it elevates them.
- Nothing will sap your joy quite like sin.

20  **PSALM 32**

*Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,  
whose sin is covered.*

*Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity,  
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.*

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21  **PSALM 32**

*For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away  
through my groaning all day long.  
For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;  
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.  
Selah.*

22  **PSALM 32**

*I acknowledged my sin to you,  
and I did not cover my iniquity;  
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"  
and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.  
Selah*

23  **PSALM 32**

*Therefore let everyone who is godly  
offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found;  
surely in the rush of great waters,  
they shall not reach him.  
You are a hiding place for me;  
you preserve me from trouble;  
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.  
Selah*

24  **PSALM 32**

*I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;  
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.  
Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding,  
which must be curbed with bit and bridle,  
or it will not stay near you.*

25  **PSALM 32**

*Many are the sorrows of the wicked,  
but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.  
Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous,  
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!*

26  **SOLOMON**

- *Then David comforted his wife, Bathsheba, and went in to her and lay with her, and she bore a son, and he called his name Solomon. And the LORD loved him and sent a message by Nathan the prophet. So he called his name Jedidiah, because of the LORD. (2 Samuel 12:24-25)*
- Jesus is a better king – and he is always waiting for us with love and mercy on the other side of repentance.

27  **BACK TO WORK**

- *Now Joab fought against Rabbah of the Ammonites and took the royal city. And Joab sent messengers to David and said, "I have fought against Rabbah; moreover, I have taken the city of waters. Now then gather the rest of the people together and encamp against the city and take it, lest I take the city and it be called by my name." So David gathered all the people together and went to Rabbah and fought against it and took it. (2 Samuel 12:26-29)*

28  **WHERE IS YOUR JOY?**

- Is something stealing your joy?
  - Inordinate love
  - Unforsaken sin
  - Unscriptural standards
- Seek the restoration of the relationship. Seek satisfaction in Christ.