

Gleanings of Grace

2 Samuel 12:1-25

Lesson 11

2 Samuel 11 ends with the words, *But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD.* 2 Samuel 12 begins with the words, *Then the LORD sent Nathan to David.* Thus begins God's perspective and dealings regarding David's sin. In this chapter, we find chastisement and forgiveness, both executed with God's ever glorious grace.

OBSERVATION: Read 2 Samuel 12:1-25

1. Read 2 Samuel 12:1-25 using the Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to the *LORD* and each of the people marked as key words.
Key Words: *LORD, Nathan, David/rich man, Bathsheba/lamb, Uriah/poor man, and sword*
3. The contrasting word *but* is used seven times in 2 Samuel 12:1-25. Mark the word. Choose one instance of its use and record what is being contrasted.
4. The term of conclusion *therefore* is used three times in 2 Samuel 12:1-25. Mark the word. Choose one instance of its use. Record the conclusion and what it was based upon.

Background:

1. 2 Samuel 12 reveals God's perspective of David's sin recorded in the prior chapter. Scan chapter 11 and record David's sin.

2. With Bathsheba's husband Uriah dead, David was legally free to take Bathsheba as his wife. The people of Israel would assume the baby that was conceived through their sin was the child of Uriah, not of David. Sin conceived; yet sin presumably covered. HOWEVER, what were the last words of 2 Samuel 11?

Read 2 Samuel 12:1-6

1. David seemed to think that he was going to get away with his sin. What does Numbers 32:23 declare that counters his misperception?

2. God uses different methods to expose our sin. What are a few examples?

- a. In the case of David's sin, God used a prophet and a story. Read 2 Samuel 12:2-4 and describe each of the characters in the story.

the rich man

the poor man

the ewe lamb

3. What was David's reaction to the story? verses 5,6

4. According to verse 6, what was David's reasoning for why the man should have to pay for what he had done?

- a. The Hebrew word *pity* speaks of compassion. David felt like the *rich man* had no compassion. How did David's sin reflect a lack of *pity* or compassion?

Read 2 Samuel 12:7-14

1. David understood the story, but he did not personally relate to it. In what ways can we be blind to our own sin?
 - a. According to Psalm 139:23,24, what can we do to prevent this from happening?
 - 1.) Some believe that the result of asking God to *search* us will be judgment or condemnation. Rather, what is the result of this kind of *searching* according to this verse?
 - a.) What does Psalm 143:10 add to this truth?
2. In bold, capital letters, write Nathan's four word declaration to David in verse 7.
3. Nathan proceeded to speak for the LORD. Using 2 Samuel 12:7-10, list the things: the LORD said He had done for David:

David had done:

- a. Make a list of the things the LORD has done for you.
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4. What would be the consequences of David's sin? verses 10-12,14

5. David did not respond with excuses. What did David say to Nathan?
 - a. AFTER David acknowledged his sin, what did Nathan say to him?
 - 1.) How soon did God *forgive* David after his confession?
 - a.) What does this personally mean to you?
6. 2 Samuel 12:14 begins with the word, *However*. What had David done when he committed *this deed*?
 - a. The sin of David, as a king, effected many others; it gave *great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme*. Note the admonitions in Titus 2:2-5 to godly behavior.
 - 1.) How can the sin of any believer cause *the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme* (speak evil of the LORD)?
 - b. What is the possible effect of disobedience to these admonitions? see the last phrase of verse 5.
 - 1.) How can the sin of any believer cause *the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme* (speak evil of the LORD)?

Read 2 Samuel 12:16-25

1. This section records God's commission of one of the consequences promised for David's sin. *The LORD struck the child that Uriah's wife bore to David, and it became ill*. According to verse 16, what did David do?
2. David's servants attempted to minister to him, to no avail. *On the seventh day it came to pass that the child died*. Although David's servants were afraid to tell him, David saw them *whispering and perceived that the child was dead*. Using verse 20, list what David did.
 - a. Using verses 22-23, explain David's reasoning for his actions.

3. Rest in the glorious truth at the end of verse 23. What did David declare?
 - a. David knew for a fact that he would see his son again in heaven. How might you use this verse to comfort a parent in the loss of their child?

4. Bathsheba conceived again and bore a child. What did David call him?
 - a. What an awesome indication of God's grace. In spite of David's failures, he was given a son who would reign in his place. Meditate on the closing words of verse 24 as you write them.
 - 1.) David *called his name Solomon*. Nathan called him *Jedidiah*, which means "loved of the LORD". What do you think God's message was to David as Nathan nicknamed his son?

Psalm 32 and Psalm 51 are believed to have been written by David as a result of his sin with Bathsheba, his confession, and God's forgiveness. Consider the background of these Psalms as you study them.

Read Psalm 32

1. David begins this Psalm rejoicing in *forgiveness*; God *covering* the sin that he could not *cover*. How did David describe what it was like when he *kept silent*? verses 3,4
 - a. Using your own words, describe this condition.

2. Psalm 32:5 reveals what David did regarding his sin. What three things did he do?
 - a. What did God do in response?

3. Scan verses 6,7, and 10. What did David seem to realize in a deeper way about *prayer* and the LORD after he experienced God's *forgiveness*?

4. Psalm 32:8,9 contain words of encouragement and warning from the LORD. What are they?
 - a. Why is it sometimes necessary to warn us, even after we have confessed our sin?

Read Psalm 51

1. As David reflected upon his sin, what requests did he make of the LORD?

Verses 1,2

Verses 7-9

Verses 10-12

Verse 14

2. The basis for David's requests can be found in verses 3-4. David *acknowledged his transgressions*. Using these two verses, what did David *acknowledge* or understand about his *sin*?

- a. Return to 2 Samuel 11,12. What parallels do you see in these verses?

2 Samuel 11:27 (note: *displeased* carries the thought that the LORD saw David's sin as evil)

2 Samuel 12:13

3. Reflect upon David's desire to praise in Psalm 51:15. What are some words of praise you have as you consider God's *forgiveness*?
4. Often when we sin, we try to make up for our sin through *sacrifices* of good works. Meditate upon verses 16,17 and record what God is looking for in our repentance.

REVIEW: Read 2 Samuel 12:1-25

1. Although David experienced consequences as a result of his sin, what hope did you glean from this lesson?

Then You shall be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness ... - Psalm 51:19
Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, and put your trust in the LORD. - Psalm 4:5

Observation Worksheet

2 Samuel 12:1-25

Then the LORD sent Nathan to David. And he came to him, and said to him: "There were two men in one city, one rich and the other poor. ² The rich man had exceedingly many flocks and herds. ³ But the poor man had nothing, except one little ewe lamb which he had bought and nourished; and it grew up together with him and with his children. It ate of his own food and drank from his own cup and lay in his bosom; and it was like a daughter to him. ⁴ And a traveler came to the rich man, who refused to take from his own flock and from his own herd to prepare one for the wayfaring man who had come to him; but he took the poor man's lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him." ⁵ So David's anger was greatly aroused against the man, and he said to Nathan, "As the LORD lives, the man who has done this shall surely die! ⁶ And he shall restore fourfold for the lamb, because he did this thing and because he had no pity." ⁷ Then Nathan said to David, "You are the man! Thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. ⁸ I gave you your master's house and your master's wives into your keeping, and gave you the house of Israel and Judah. And if that had been too little, I also would have given you much more! ⁹ Why have you despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in His sight? You have killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword; you have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the people of Ammon. ¹⁰ Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised Me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.' ¹¹ Thus says the LORD: 'Behold, I will raise up adversity against you from your own house; and I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun. ¹² For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel, before the sun.' " ¹³ So 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. ¹⁴ However, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also who is born to you shall surely die." ¹⁵ Then Nathan departed to his house. And the LORD struck the child that Uriah's wife bore to David, and it became ill. ¹⁶ David therefore pleaded with God for the child, and David fasted and went in and lay all night on the ground. ¹⁷ So the elders of his house arose and went to him, to raise him up from the ground. But he would not, nor did he eat food with them. ¹⁸ Then on the seventh day it came to pass that the child died. And the servants of David were afraid to tell him that the child was dead. For they said, "Indeed, while the child was alive, we spoke to him, and he would not heed our voice. How can we tell him that the child is dead? He may do some harm!" ¹⁹ When David saw that his servants were whispering, David perceived that the child was dead. Therefore David

said to his servants, "Is the child dead?" And they said, "He is dead." ²⁰ So David arose from the ground, washed and anointed himself, and changed his clothes; and he went into the house of the LORD and worshiped. Then he went to his own house; and when he requested, they set food before him, and he ate. ²¹ Then his servants said to him, "What is this 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." ²² And he said, "While the child was alive, I fasted and wept; for I said, 'Who can tell whether the LORD will be gracious to me, that the child may live?' ²³ But now he is dead; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me." ²⁴ Then David comforted Bathsheba his wife, and went in to her and lay with her. So she bore a son, and he called his name Solomon. Now the LORD loved him, ²⁵ and He sent word by the hand of Nathan the prophet: so he called his name Jedidiah, because of the LORD.