

# *Recovery From Sin*

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2 Samuel 12:15-25 And Nathan departed unto his house. And the LORD struck the child that Uriah's wife bare unto David, and it was very sick. David therefore besought God for the child; and David fasted, and went in, and lay all night upon the earth. And the elders of his house arose, and went to him, to raise him up from the earth: but he would not, neither did he eat bread with them. And it came to pass on the seventh day, that the child died. And the servants of David feared to tell him that the child was dead: for they said, Behold, while the child was yet alive, we spake unto him, and he would not hearken unto our voice: how will he then vex himself, if we tell him that the child is dead? But when David saw that his servants whispered, David perceived that the child was dead: therefore David said unto his servants, Is the child dead? And they said, He is dead. Then David arose from the earth, and washed, and anointed himself, and changed his apparel, and came into the house of the LORD, and worshipped: then he came to his own house; and when he required, they set bread before him, and he did eat. Then said his servants unto him, What thing is this that thou hast done? thou didst fast and weep for the child, while it was alive; but when the child was dead, thou didst rise and eat bread. And he said, While the child was yet alive, I fasted and wept: for I said, Who can tell whether GOD will be gracious to me, that the child may live? But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me. And David comforted Bath-sheba his wife, and went in unto her, and lay with her: and she bare a son, and he called his name Solomon: and the LORD loved him. And he sent by the hand of Nathan the prophet; and he called his name Jedidiah, because of the LORD.

- I. Forgiveness does not remove the consequences of sin.
  - A. This is a great misunderstanding about sin and salvation that is common among men.
    1. There seems to be this idea that when we are saved our troubles are over.
    2. That because God promises to remember our sins no more, everyone else will do the same.
    3. That once I am forgiven I am justified, which means, "Just as if I'd never sinned."
    4. All this false concept of forgiveness and salvation has been promoted by false teachers who do not understand it themselves and has done untold damage because it is a false hope.
    5. Forgiveness and redemption secure a bright future in eternity, but we are still living in this sinful world where we committed the sin that almost cost us death for eternity.
  - B. David, at this point has been forgiven, but now he experiences the first deep sorrow of his sin.
    1. It isn't all shouting and joy and dancing across the sky, but an immediate veil of sorrow and helplessness as he watches the baby die, and watches it's mother weep.
  - C. He hears the proclamation of Nathan that the child will surely die.
  - D. The reality that another soul is dying as a result of his sin really brings home to David's heart the awfulness of what he has done.
    1. It becomes much clearer to the mind and soul of a person what sin has done to God and what the death of his Son really means.
- II. It was the Lord that determined that this child would die, and it was the Lord who struck it with sickness, that it would die.

2 Samuel 12:15 And Nathan departed unto his house. And the LORD struck the child that Uriah's wife bare unto David, and it was very sick.

- A. The Lord is always right and always good in what He does.
  - 1. What is awful and painful, and may seem unjust to us, is still right in the sight of God, when it is his hand that does it.
  - 2. He knows what we do not know.
  - 3. He has the greater good in mind, while we cannot see much beyond our feelings.
  - 4. He has the longest view in what He is doing, while we only see the present moment.
- B. This child was conceived while Bathsheba was another man's wife.

And the LORD struck the child that Uriah's wife bare unto David,...

- 1. This child must be removed from the situation for God to do what He is going to do in the future with David.
- 2. Imagine the complications if this child lived and grew up as the king's son.
- 3. That the child died is part of God's mercy on David and Bathsheba, as well as his mercy on the innocent child.

III. We need to observe David as he deals with this first heartbreaking blow after he has been forgiven.

- A. It is very notable that he did not have the attitude of a sinner anymore.
- B. He did not wish the child to die, but fasted and prayed that it would live.
  - 1. He was obviously willing to bear the shame of his sin and have it ever before him if the child would live.
  - 2. Sinners would wish the child to die to hide their shame and spare them the responsibility of bringing him up – that is why abortion is an accepted thing now.
  - 3. It is different when the child is in your arms and sick unto death and your soul is not completely given over to selfishness.
  - 4. Add to this the grief of the mother as he watches this baby, less than a week old, slowly dies.
- C. David again believed in prayer and cast himself upon God in his trouble, as he had done all of his previous life.

2 Samuel 12:22 And he said, While the child was yet alive, I fasted and wept: for I said, Who can tell whether GOD will be gracious to me, that the child may live?

- D. David willingly accepted what God had ordained and accomplished, regardless of his own feelings and desires.

2 Samuel 12:23 But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.

- E. David's immediate response when he perceived the child was dead was to clean himself up, dress up, and go the house of God to worship.

2 Samuel 12:19-20 But when David saw that his servants whispered, David perceived that the child was dead: therefore David said unto his servants, Is the child dead? And they said, He is dead. Then David arose from the earth, and washed, and anointed himself, and changed his apparel, and came into the house of the LORD, and worshipped: then he came to his own house; and when he required, they set bread before him, and he did eat.

- F. His sorrow was not gone, and he had not been putting on a phony show of sorrow and grief.

- G. This is just clear evidence that David is again in communion with God and able to weather the storms with God as his strength and shield.
- H. It is clear evidence that David's faith in God is alive again and first in his life.
- I. It is evidence that David found comfort for his troubled soul in God and his Word.

IV. After his own restoration with God David moves to take care of the woman whose life has been filled with trouble because of his sin.

2 Samuel 12:24-25 And David comforted Bath-sheba his wife, and went in unto her, and lay with her: and she bare a son, and he called his name Solomon: and the LORD loved him. And he sent by the hand of Nathan the prophet; and he called his name Jedidiah, because of the LORD.

- A. She is now called "his wife" and not the "wife of Uriah."
- B. Sin does change things, and she is now David's charge, regardless of how she became his wife.
- C. A wife and a concubine are two different things.

CONCUBINE, n. *L.*, to lie together, to lie down.

1. A woman who cohabits with a man, without the authority of a legal marriage; a woman kept for lewd purposes; a kept mistress.

- 1. A concubine is not a fiancée – she is a woman kept for lewd purposes.

WIFE, n. plu. Wives. *G.*, a woman.

1. The lawful consort of man; a woman who is united to man in the lawful bonds of wedlock; the correlative of husband.

- D. In spite of the fact that he committed adultery with her, David did not take her as a concubine, but as a wife.

2 Samuel 11:27 And when the mourning was past, David sent and fetched her to his house, and she became his wife, and bare him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD.

- 1. This means that he made commitments to her as his wife.
- E. So now he is honoring those commitments, even though they were made in such circumstances as they were – she is still his wife now.
- F. David comforted Bathsheba his wife. How?
  - 1. With the same comfort wherewith he has been comforted of God.
  - 2. By presenting to her the real man that he was.
  - 3. By acknowledging his sin toward her and renewing his promises to her while in a different state of mind and heart.
  - 4. By assuring her future safety and care.
- G. This verse covers a span of time – she did not conceive another child 7 days after giving birth.
  - 1. So this comfort was not a one-time meeting where David said a few nice things to her – it was an ongoing, continual thing that David did for her.
- H. So David girded up the loins of his mind, cast his care upon the Lord, bore the burden for the damage his sin had caused, and carried on with a heavier load on his shoulders than ever before.
- I. It was not "as if he'd never sinned," but he would live, and not die, and he would yet praise the Lord and be a blessing, and live the rest of his life trying to repair the damage done that started with a few moments of sin.