

II SAMUEL

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to II Samuel chapter 12 as we continue our study through the Word of God. If you remember from last time we saw David commit two sins that were punishable by death. He committed adultery with Bathsheba and she became pregnant. And he had her husband, Uriah, one of his mighty men, killed in battle in such a way that it looked as if David was cleared of any wrongdoing. No one would know that he committed these sins and now that Bathsheba was a widow, carrying the child of David's, he would marry her and he would look good before the people!

Man may try to cover his sin but God loves man too much to let that sin remain covered. As we move from II Samuel chapter 11 to chapter 12 one year has passed by and physically, spiritually David is not doing well. And yet, he refused to repent and get right with God. He continued to fight against God. How do I know that he was not doing well? Because of what David wrote in Psalm 32, which deals with his sin with Bathsheba and the murder of her husband. Here we see not only how his physical body was affected by his refusal to repent of his sins, but also spiritually he was dry, there was no life in him. And David, like us, will fight and fight until our sin is finally brought into the light and we repent and get right with God! You see, God was not looking to destroy David, but to restore him and the same is true in our own lives. Sin destroys lives and God wants to restore us out of our sins.

Now listen to what David wrote in Psalm 32:3-4 we are told, **“When I kept silent, my bones grew old Through my groaning all the day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was turned into the drought of summer.”** The Amplified Bible puts these verses like this, **“When I kept silence [before I confessed], my bones wasted away through my groaning all the day long. For day and night Your hand [of displeasure] was heavy upon me; my moisture was turned into the drought of summer.”** And The Living Bible tells us, **“There was a time when I wouldn't admit what a sinner I was. But my dishonesty made me miserable and filled my days with frustration. All day and all night your hand was heavy on me. My strength evaporated like water on a sunny day.”**

So now almost a year has passed by since he sinned with Bathsheba and murdered her husband and that is where we will pick up our study this evening, in II Samuel chapter 12, starting in verse 1 and lets see what the Lord has for us as we study His Word.

II SAMUEL 12

VERSES 1-4

1. Nathan, the prophet of God comes to David with this story. It is the story of two men, one who was rich and the other poor. The rich man had many flocks and herds while the poor man had one little ewe lamb that was like a pet to him. Then one day the rich man had a visitor and instead of taking from his flocks and herds, he took this poor man's little ewe lamb and cooked him up for his visitor. Since David is the king, he could evaluate the situation and put forth a sentence upon this rich man for what he had done. And, we will see how this all plays out.

2. Please understand that just because almost a year went by it doesn't mean that God approved David's actions. Remember what we were told in II Samuel 11:27, "**But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD.**" And for almost a year God was convicting David and he was not responding to this conviction, so now God brings Nathan the prophet to David to expose his sin. God does not give up, He will try to keep drawing us away from sin and back to Him, but it truly is our choice if we will respond or not. It is amazing how far we will go into sin, the destruction it brings to our lives and we still refuse to repent and get right with God. That is where David is at right now. And listen carefully how he responds to this story in the next two verses.

VERSES 5-6

1. David was furious over what this man did. How could he be so insensitive? And David is so angry he wants this man put to death for what he did, even though this was not a capital crime. He also wants him to pay back four sheep for the one he took, which is out of the Law. In Exodus 22:1 we see this spoken of and that tells me that David knew the Words of God but he was distant from God himself. That is an important lesson for us. We may know God's Word, we may apply God's Word to other people's lives, but folk's, it is for us and if we don't apply it to our lives, we are wrong and God will not leave us in that condition. And for David, God is going to keep working on him.

Remember what Jesus said in Matthew 12:37, "**For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned**", David is about to be condemned by his own words!

VERSE 7a

1. Nathan tells David that he has just condemned himself! Can you imagine the boldness of Nathan to tell the king something like this, but he did because Nathan loved the Lord and he loved David and did not want David to continue down this path of destruction.

And for us, are we willing to love our brothers and sisters in the Lord that much that we are willing to expose their sin in love so that they can be restored? Paul makes this point in Galatians 6:1-5, where he tells us, **“Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. For each one shall bear his own load.”**

Paul uses the Greek word KATARTIZO (kat-ar-tid'-zo) for **“restore”** and it carries with it the idea of “to put in order” or “to restore to its former condition.” It was used as a medical term to set a broken or displaced bone or in Mark 1:19 it is used of the apostles mending their nets.

Now, to set a broken bone means you have to get close to that person in need, you have to touch them. It may cause them some pain as you reset the bone but the idea is always a healing not destruction. It is done in love not hatred. To mend a net you have to physically touch that net and repair it, so too with someone who has fallen into a trespass. In Genesis 9:20-23 we are told of Noah after the flood, **“And Noah began to be a farmer, and he planted a vineyard. Then he drank of the wine and was drunk, and became uncovered in his tent. And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers outside. But Shem and Japheth took a garment, laid it on both their shoulders, and went backward and covered the nakedness of their father. Their faces were turned away, and they did not see their father's nakedness.”** Ham gossiped, told others of what happened to his father while Shem and Japheth walked in backwards and covered their father’s sin – that is love! It is as Peter tells us in I Peter 4:8, **“And above all things have fervent love for one another, for ‘love will cover a multitude of sins.’”**

Think of it like this. When you are teaching your child to walk and they fall, what do you do? Do you go up to them and yell at them, “I told you so! You are not ready to walk! You fool! I am ashamed of you and I am going to tell everyone what you did!” No, at least I hope you don’t do that! You pick them up, place them back on their feet and encourage them to go forward and you tell everyone that they are standing, that they are trying to walk, you encourage them, support them, love them.

In the church there are those who like to gloat over the sins of others, seeing them fall and that is not the heart of God. We are to restore them by sharing their sin, exposing their sin and loving them. You see, by the grace of God we stand or as Paul put it, “. . . **restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.**” Galatians 6:1. John Stott put it this way, “This suggests that gentleness is born of a sense of our own weakness and proneness to sin.”

Now Paul does seem to contradict himself here. In verse 2 he tells us to “**bear one another’s burdens**” and here in verse 5 he said, “**each one should bear his own load.**”

The word that Paul used for “**burdens**” in verse 2 is BAROS or a heavy load. And here in verse 5 the word for “**load**” or “**burden**” is PHORTION (for-tee’-on), which speaks of a backpack, something a soldier would carry. Thus, we are to help those with their heavy burdens but we are also responsible for carrying our own load as we walk in the Lord. Paul, in Hebrews 10:24-25 put the principle like this in regards to helping others, stirring them up, “**And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.**”

May we have that kind of love for one another, the love that was shown by Nathan towards David with the idea of restoration and not destruction!

VERSES 7b-9

1. As the Lord speaks through Nathan, He is telling David that his actions show the ingratitude, the lack of appreciation in all that God had given to him and if he did want more, he just needed to ask and not act in this sinful way!

2. Now as we look at all that David had and the sin he committed because he wasn't satisfied, we too may be angry towards him, outraged at his actions. Before we act that way, what about our own lives? Look at all that God has blessed us with and are we satisfied in what He has given to us? Are we moving towards sin because we are not satisfied? Thus, before we move in that direction any farther, may we repent and be satisfied in what God has given to us, such as our marriages, our jobs, our homes, our family, our friends, our church and-so-on. In other words, be thankful and praise God for the blessings that He has bestowed upon you. You see, David had it all and tragically, it was not enough for him and look at what it cost him. Don't let that happen to you!

VERSES 10-12

1. Remember what David told Nathan after hearing of this story, that this rich man needed to repay the poor man for taking his ewe lamb fourfold. Well, that is exactly what we see here, God seeking a fourfold restoration for the murder of Uriah by David. David's family is going to be a mess, and we will see the death of this child that David had with Bathsheba, the death of his son Amnon, Absalom, and Adonijah, as the Lord said, "**. . . 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.**" And did you notice that God did not even use Bathsheba's name for He wanted David to know whose wife she was, Uriah's and not David's, he took her from him!

2. Now please don't come to the conclusion that God does not forgive our sins, He does.

But we must also understand that there are consequences to our sins and that is what David will face. Because David brought calamity to another man's house, God will bring calamity to the house of David and that is exactly what we will see. There will be rape, murder, rebellion and-so-on, all as a result of David's sin. Folk's, God will forgive our sins but also understand that there are consequences to our actions, may we not forget that!

3. After all that David heard, how will he respond? You see, there is a choice we must make. We can repent or we can get angry and refuse to repent. I have had to speak to enough people and sadly, most of the time people refuse to repent and get right with God, and they get angry with me. That truly is sad. And God will continue to deal with you on those issues because He loves you and He is waiting for repentance so that He can restore. Listen to how David responds to his situation.

VERSE 13a

1. Notice that David does not blame anyone but himself for his actions. He does not include Bathsheba in this, although she was involved. In fact, David's repentance is not long, it is not drawn out, he does not make excuses for his actions, and in the original Hebrew, his statement that reads in our English translation, "**I have sinned against the LORD**" is only two words, hata al-Yahweh. It is as Keil and Delitzsh wrote, "The words are very few, but that is a good sign of a thoroughly broken spirit. There is no excuse, no hiding, no concealment of the sin. There is no searching for a loophole, no pretext put forward, no human weakness pleaded. He acknowledged his guilt openly, candidly and without any denial of truth."

Also, Morgan tells us, "In all this David was pre-eminently revealed as a man after God's own heart. Other men who had been guilty of such failure might have defended their actions, might have slain the prophet. Not so with this man. He knew God, and he knew the wrong of his action, and he confessed his sin." It was true repentance on the part of David and we know this because as we read on we see that God forgives David of his sin!

2. In Psalm 51 we see the response of David as he heard from Nathan and God convicted him of his sin. We are told, "**Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions, And my sin is always before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your sight —**

That You may be found just when You speak, And blameless when You judge.
Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me.
Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, And in the hidden part You will make
me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I
shall be whiter than snow. Make me hear joy and gladness, That the bones You have
broken may rejoice. Hide Your face from my sins, And blot out all my iniquities.
Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not
cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me by Your generous Spirit.
Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners shall be converted to You.
Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, The God of my salvation, And my
tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness. O Lord, open my lips, And my mouth
shall show forth Your praise. For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it;
You do not delight in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A
broken and a contrite heart — These, O God, You will not despise. Do good in Your
good pleasure to Zion; Build the walls of Jerusalem. Then You shall be pleased with
the sacrifices of righteousness, With burnt offering and whole burnt offering; Then
they shall offer bulls on Your altar.” Psalm 51:1-19.

Here we see the heart of a broken man before God, repenting of his sin and then, after he has confessed his sin, then he can offer sacrifice to God or then He can serve God. You see, David was now aware of his sin, he desired cleansing of his sin from God, he saw the judgment of God for his sin and he repented and got right before God and what God required of David He requires of us. Our sin is against Him, we are responsible and thus, we must repent and get right with God. Yes, like David our sin will affect others, but the greatest result of our sin is against our Lord!

VERSES 13b-15a

1. David committed two capital crimes or crimes that were punishable by death. He committed adultery with Bathsheba and he murdered her husband Uriah! But notice the grace and mercy of God, for God forgave David as he repented of his sins. We see this forgiveness by God spoken of in Psalm 32:1-5 as we are told, **“Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity, And in whose spirit there is no deceit. When I kept silent, my bones grew old Through my groaning all the day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was turned into the drought of summer. I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, ‘I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,’ And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.”**

Remember that David tried to hide his sin for almost one year, but when he realized his error, he confessed it before God, and God forgave him. And the Hebrew implies that even before David spoke these words, as he confessed them in his heart, God was standing with forgiveness - **TOTAL FORGIVENESS!** In Isaiah 1:18-19 we read **“Come now, and let us reason together,’ Says the LORD, ‘Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool. If you are willing and obedient, You shall eat the good of the land.”**

The Lord has put away our sins, they have been covered by the blood of Christ and thus, we are saved from spiritual death. Then why do we need to confess our sins before God now that we are saved? Not for salvation but for fellowship because our sins can hinder our relationship with God. And never forget this, God is always waiting with His arms of forgiveness that are opened wide for us if we would only repent and return to Him!

2. Now here’s the problem. Many allow Satan to mess them up in this area. They allow him to mess with their minds, telling them that God won’t or can’t forgive them. That their sin is beyond forgiveness. That they blew it so bad this time God has given up on them. That is not what God says. In I John 1:9 we read **“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”** Complete forgiveness is found in Christ. And remember, the only sin that will keep you out of heaven is your rejection of the free gift of God, that is Jesus Christ, for in Him is found the forgiveness of sins.

3. Let me also make this point. When a person is involved in sin they rationalize with themselves, “Okay, I know it is wrong and I will have to pay the price for my actions, but I have calculated the cost and it is worth it! I have calculated the cost and I can handle it!” Really? Again, listen to what Nathan told David regarding his sin and what it will cost him, **“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.’ 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.’ . . . 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.”** II Samuel 12:10-11, 14. You see, it is never what you calculated it to be! It is always far worse and that is why God warns us not to go down that path, He hates sin and so should we! The fighting, the rape, the murder within David’s own family and here in verse 14 we see Nathan speak of the death of his son with Bathsheba. I am sure David never calculated all that this sin would cost him and thus, may we learn the lesson!

4. Now we are told that Nathan the prophet goes home, his work is completed and with positive results. The thing to remember is that Nathan did not know how David would respond to what he was saying and that is a good lesson for us. If God has spoken to our hearts on an issue, we need to act upon it. I know for me, I remember several years back the Lord spoke to my heart about an issue that I needed to bring to the attention of someone and I knew that the response was not going to be good. Prior to going on vacation we had a board meeting and I asked the two men if they would be willing to continue on as being elders and they both said “Yes” and that was that, or so I thought.

On vacation the Lord spoke to my heart and said to me, “Joe, you did not ask them if they would support you in the work you are doing!” And, of course, my response was, “Lord, they said that they wanted to continue to be my elders in this church.” And the Lord said to me again, “Joe, you did not ask them if they would support you in the work you are doing!” I knew then what the Lord wanted me to do and I knew that it would not be good but I needed to do it.

When I came home we had another board meeting and I asked them the question that the Lord told me to ask and one of the elders threw his pencil on the table and said, “I knew it would come to this!” You see, he could not support me in the work and the Lord exposed it. I can tell you that it is not always easy and it always does not work out well, but if the Lord speaks to your heart on an issue that you need to speak to someone about, you need to do it in love with the idea of restoration not destruction. You see, I told this elder that since he could not support me he obviously could not be an elder, that would not make sense. But he was more than welcome to stay in the church but sadly he didn’t. That is all you can do, just as Nathan had done and then it is up to the individual to listen to God or become hard to what God is showing them.

VERSES 15b-17

1. I thought Bathsheba was now married to David, so why does it say, “**And the LORD struck the child that Uriah’s wife bore to David . . .**”? Because God looks upon the marriage covenant seriously and David broke that covenant and even though Uriah is dead, God does not honor what David has done.

2. Just as God had spoken through Nathan the prophet regarding this child, it came to pass and the child was very ill. Now why does David pray for his son when God said that this child was going to die? Because David was falling upon the grace and mercy of God for his son recognizing that he did not deserve it, but he knew God and thus, he fasted and prayed for his son.

VERSE 18

1. This goes on for seven days and the child dies. And as David's servants saw what happened, David not being in the room with the child or if he was in the room, not close to the child, and they were afraid to tell David. They saw how he wouldn't eat and now that the child has died, what will he do when he hears the news! We will see his response in a minute.

2. How come the prayers of David were not answered? How come this child died? Please understand that prayer does not change the mind of God, in fact, prayer helps us to understand the mind of God, His will for a situation and we truly want His will to be done and not ours. David was right to pray, but it does not force God to change His plan. And I will deal with this issue of this innocent child dying and how this was worse for David and Bathsheba than it was for this child in a few minutes.

VERSES 19-21

1. David figures out that something is going on as his servants are all whispering and he realizes the child has died. The servants then see David get up, he washed himself, changed his clothes, and went into the house of God to worship the Lord. How can he worship God when his child has just died? Because David was at peace with what God had done. It is not that he wasn't grieving over losing this child, but, as we will see, he has a correct perspective of this situation. The ability to worship God, to honor Him in a time of crisis is a wonderful demonstration of spiritual confidence, He trusted in the Lord! Then he went to his own house and ate and this blew the minds of his servants. How can David's emotions, his actions change like this when the situation became worse? David is going to answer that in the next two verses for us.

VERSES 22-23

1. David submitted to the sovereignty of God. You see, while the child was alive, there was still hope that God's mercy would be extended and the child would be healed. Now that the child is dead, David looks forward to meeting the child again in heaven. He realized the child could not come back but one day he would see him again. That is a healthy outlook on death. In Matthew 18:10 Jesus tells us, "**Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven.**" The word *angels* in this verse should be translated "spirits." When a little baby dies today, that baby goes immediately to be with the Lord. That is the teaching of the Word of God.

Because of what David believed, he could rejoice when his infant son died because he knew that one day he would see him again. Tragically, when his son Absalom died many years later, rebelling against David, he could only mourn for him because David was not sure where Absalom was but he did know where his infant son was!

2. Now I just want to make a few comments on a place that the Catholic Church calls Limbo, a place where infants who were not baptized are suppose to go, for they cannot go to God because of their sin, even if they died before birth or were aborted they say. I will just give you a few quotes and please understand, even though this is an established doctrine within the Catholic Church, they are in LIMBO regarding this place today, they are unsure if it is real!

- **13th century:** St Thomas Aquinas (1226-1274), who was the first major theologian to speculate about the existence of a place called limbo. Its name is derived from the Latin *limbus*, which means “hem” or “edge”. There, on the edge of heaven, the unbaptised would exist in a state of what he described as “natural happiness”.
- **18th century:** A group known as the Jansenists reverted to St. Augustine’s belief. They rejected the idea of Limbo in favor of eternal torture of unbaptized infants, etc. in Hell. In response, Pope Pius VI wrote *Auctorem Fidei* in 1794. It condemned their teaching as being “*false, rash, and injurious to Catholic education*” because they denied the existence of a place “*which the faithful generally designate by the name of limbo for children.*” Pope Pius VI implied that there are two possibilities: that unbaptized infants might spend eternity comfortably in Limbo or they might spend it being tortured in Hell. The Jansenists’ denial of the possibility of Limbo was un-Catholic.
- **1905:** Pope Pius X made a definitive declaration confirming the existence of Limbo. However, this was not an infallible statement by the pope: “Children who die without baptism go into limbo, where they do not enjoy God, but they do not suffer either, because having Original Sin, and only that, they do not deserve paradise, but neither hell or purgatory.”

- **1984:** Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, then head of the Vatican's *Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith*, stated his personal disbelief concerning Limbo during an interview. He said that: "Limbo has never been a defined truth of faith. Personally, speaking as a theologian and not as head of the Congregation, I would drop something that has always been only a theological hypothesis." He became Pope Benedict XVI in 2005.

Folk's, as I read the Scriptures, as I learn about the love, the grace, the mercy of God, I have no problem believing that infants who die, unborn children who die, children who die before the age of accountability, go to be with the Lord. You may not agree with me, but that is what I believe the Scriptures are teaching. Yes, we are all born sinners but all our sins do not send us to Hell, our rejection of Jesus does and those sins are just the punishment we will receive in the Lake of Fire. Thus, unborn children who die in the womb, those children who have not reached the point of accountability, understanding sin and salvation, if they die they go to be with the Lord, I am certain of that!

Let me read you something written in 1907 by R. A. Webb. Listen to this: "If a dead infant were sent to hell on no other account than that of original sin, there would be a good reason to the divine mind for the judgment because sin is a reality, but the child's mind would be a perfect blank as to the reason of its suffering. Under such circumstances, it would know suffering, but it would have no understanding of the reason for its suffering. It could not tell itself why it was so awfully smitten and, consequently, the whole meaning and significance of its sufferings, being to it a conscious enigma, the very essence of the penalty would be absent, and justice would be disappointed, cheated of its validation."

So here's a final summary: all children who die before they reach the age of accountability, by which they convincingly understand their sin and corruption and embrace the gospel by faith, are graciously saved eternally by God through the work of Jesus Christ, being elect by sovereign choice, innocent of willful sin, rebellion, and unbelief, by which works they would be justly condemned to eternal punishment. So, when an infant dies, he or she is elect to eternal salvation and eternal glory. My first funeral service here at Calvary Chapel of Manitowoc was for the unborn child of Chris and Inga, who died just prior to his birth. And as hard as it was, the comfort I could give them is that this child is with the Lord and one day they will see him again! Thus, with the death of a child, as hard as that is, don't count it as a human loss; count it as your eternal gain. Count not that child as having lost, but having gained, having passed briefly through this life, untouched by the wicked world, only to enter into eternal glory and grace. That is what David was rejoicing about and even though that child could not come back, he will see him one day! Thus, the true sadness should be over those children of yours who live and reject the gospel. Don't sorrow over your children in heaven; sorrow over your children on earth, that they should come to Christ.

Yes, children are born sinners, their death proves that, but never being able to understand the truth and therefore consciously reject it and choose rebellion, they have no record against them in the books of God and they then constitute a marvelous and vast opportunity for sovereign grace to operate, apart from any works at all. What a comfort that should be to those who have lost children!

3. Now some have a hard time with this, feeling that the child was judged for David's sin. Why did the child have to die? We touched on this a little, but that is a wrong outlook on death. The child was with God, to be precise, in Abraham's bosom until the resurrection of Christ. Thus, the child did not have pain or suffering but experienced eternal joy. David on the other hand felt deep pain and sorrow over the situation. The judgment was upon David and not the child.

VERSES 24-25

1. It is not until after the judgment that Bathsheba is called David's wife. And they have another son and call his name Solomon, which means "peaceful" or "at peace." But God gives him another name; He calls him Jedidiah, which means, "Beloved of the LORD." David has repented before God. Prior to that he was dry, weak, he ached physically and spiritually, but now the grace and mercy of God is extended to him and he is at peace because He is loved by God and the evidence for that was his son Solomon! Folk's, you will never find peace, rest, strength apart from God, living in sin. You must come before Him and repent and He will forgive you, His arms are open wide to receive you, but you must come to Him! David did and look at the blessing he received! And yes, there will be consequences to his sin, that will not go away, but God has forgiven him and thus, as I have said, he is at peace knowing that the Lord loves him! It is as Lamentations 3:22-23 tells us, "**Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.**" May we not forget that, each day is new in the Lord!

VERSES 26-28

1. We pick up once again with this battle against the people of Ammon and it has almost been a year of fighting before they achieved this victory. How come it took so long? I think it wasn't until David repented before God that the victory over this enemy was given to them, as Joab cuts off their fresh water supply and thus, it would be a short time before the city fell! It is as Trapp wrote, "David's sin at home had hindered Joab's good success abroad, and retarded the conquest of this city Rabbah, which now is ready to be taken, that David reconciled to God may have the honour of it."

2. You have to give Joab credit here, he recognizes once the city of Rabbah falls, that he will get the credit and not David. So he calls for David to come to the battle so that when they get the victory, their king, David will get the honor. That was a great thing to do.

VERSES 29-31

1. Notice that David goes back to doing what he should have done in the first place, leading the children of Israel into battle and not staying at home doing nothing, allowing that idle time to be used by the Devil to bring him down. And look at the restoration that takes place, David is credited with the victory and this victory was achieved not by military might, but by his repentance before God for his sin, his returning to God. It is as Augustine wrote, "David's fall should put those who have not fallen on their guard, and save from despair those who have." What a lesson this is for all of us!

2. Next time we will see in our study the problems that arise because of David's sin. Yes, God has forgiven him, but there were still consequences for his actions and they will be deep and harsh! It is as J. Vernon McGee wrote,

There is that old bromide [a conventional or trite saying] which says, "If you are going to dance, you are going to have to pay the fiddler." If you are going to indulge in sin, you will have to suffer the consequences. The Lord gives it to us straight in Galatians 6:7: "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." You are not going to get by with sin. Galatians 6:8 goes on to say, "For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting." There is no question that David had sown to the flesh. Don't think for one minute that now he can walk away from his sin, make a sweet little confession, and that is it. I have heard people say, "Well, the blood of Christ covers it." It certainly does, and you don't lose your salvation, brother. But I want to tell you that sin causes a festering sore that has to be lanced."

- J. Vernon McGee, Thru The Bible, p. 217

As I close, remember what Paul told us in Romans 15:4, "**For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.**" These are lessons for us to learn from so that we may not fall prey to the schemes of the Devil and we can learn how to walk from the examples of God's people here in the Scriptures.