

2 Samuel 12 (a) The Glorious Mercy of God

Have you ever done something so wrong that you wonder how God could ever forgive you?

- In Chap 11 David committed adultery, lies & deception, and multiple murders

The way to mercy

- Pro 28:13 NIV Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but **the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy.**
- ½ the battle is getting us to the place where the LORD can work in us

Easy to see the sin of others, but miss how our sin affects relationship to God

2Sa 12:1-31 NIV **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. 2 The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cattle, 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. 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." 5 **David burned with anger against the man** and said to Nathan, "As surely as the LORD lives, **the man who did this must die!** 6 **He must pay for that lamb** four times over, because he did such a thing and had no pity."

The LORD confronts David's sin and its consequences

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. 8 I gave your master's house to you, and your master's wives into your arms. I gave you all Israel and Judah. And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more. 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. 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.' 11 "This is what the LORD says: 'Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity on you. Before your very eyes **I will take your wives** and give them to one who is close to you, and he will sleep with your wives in broad daylight. 12 You did it in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel.'"

- David despised the word of the LORD
- David despised Him
- That there are consequences to sin (we reap what we sow)

The turning point, this is where everything changes

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.**

- Notice there is **immediate forgiveness** - these are capital offenses - you will not die

*Mic 7:18 NIV Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but **delight to show mercy.***

Psalm 51 David's response

Psa 51:1-19 NIV For the director of music. A psalm of David. When the prophet Nathan came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba. ***Have mercy on me***, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion ***blot out my transgressions***. 2 ***Wash away all my iniquity*** and ***cleanse me from my sin***. 3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

He appeals to the mercy of God

- **Have mercy on me** - to bend or stoop in kindness to an inferior; to favor
 - Blot out my transgressions
 - Wash away my iniquity
 - Cleanse me from my sin

He takes ownership of his sins

- **My Transgressions** - a revolt - to break away or to set yourself against lawful authority
- **MY Iniquity** - crooked, twisted or bent
- **MY Sin**

He acknowledges God's justice

4 **Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge.**

- He is RIGHT in a moral or forensic sense - in his verdict
- He is JUSTIFIED - clear innocent - when he judges

Only the LORD can restore Him

5 Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. 6 Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place.

Cleansing from sin

- 7 **Cleanse** me with hyssop, and I will be clean; **wash** me, and I will be whiter than snow.

From depression, shame and guilt -- to JOY AND GLADNESS

- 8 **Let me hear** joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. 9 Hide your face from my sins and **blot out** all my iniquity.

God to create a pure heart and a right spirit

- 10 **Create** in me a pure heart, O God, and **renew** a steadfast spirit within me.

A renewed desire for God's presence

- 11 **Do not cast** me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.

RESTORE the Joy of Salvation - a WILLING (voluntary - ready to obey you) spirit

- 12 **Restore** to me the joy of your salvation and **grant** me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

Restoration leads us to engage again in the work of the LORD

- 13 **Then I will teach transgressors your ways**, so that **sinner will turn back to you**.

Praise to God is the only legitimate response to mercy and forgiveness

- 14 **Deliver me from the guilt** of bloodshed, O God, you who are God my Savior, and **my tongue will sing of your righteousness.** 15 Open my lips, Lord, and **my mouth will declare your praise.**

A broken and contrite heart is what he wants

16 You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. 17 My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, **God, will not despise.** 18 May it please you to prosper Zion, to build up the walls of Jerusalem. 19 Then you will delight in the sacrifices of the righteous, in burnt offerings offered whole; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

- We **despise** God when we sin --- But He does not **despise** us when we repent

The Resurrection

Rom 4:25 He was delivered over to death for our sins and was **raised to life for our justification.**

He delights to show mercy

*Mic 7:18-19 NIV Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but **delight to show mercy.** 19 You will again have compassion on us; you will **tread our sins underfoot** and **hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.***