

## 2 Samuel 12 (b) - Consequence of Sin and the Mercy of God

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In the earlier part of the chapter - the LORD moved David to confess and renounce his sin so he could find MERCY

- Pro 28:13 NIV Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but ***the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy.***

He received mercy - yet there were consequences for his sin

2 Sam 12: 13 (b) Nathan replied, "**The LORD has taken away your sin. You are not going to die.**  
14 But because by doing this **you have shown utter contempt for the LORD**, the son born to you **will die.**"

The terrible truth about sin

**God hates it - (He hates evil doers - It magnifies His mercy to know this)**

- Pro 6:16-19 NIV There are **six things the LORD hates**, seven that are detestable to him: 17 haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, 18 a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, 19 **a false witness** who pours out lies and a **person who stirs up conflict** in the community.
- Psa 5:5-6 NIV The arrogant cannot stand in your presence. **You hate all who do wrong;** 6 you destroy those who tell lies. The bloodthirsty and deceitful you, LORD, detest.
- Mar 7:20-23 NIV He went on: "What comes out of a person is what defiles them. 21 For it is from within, **out of a person's heart**, that evil thoughts come--sexual immorality, theft, murder, 22 adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. 23 **All these evils come from inside** and defile a person."

**Sin is an affront to His holiness**

- Lev 10:1-3 NIV Aaron's sons Nadab and Abihu took their censers, put fire in them and added incense; and they offered unauthorized fire before the LORD, contrary to his command. 2 So fire came out from the presence of the LORD and consumed them, and they died before the LORD. 3 Moses then said to Aaron, "This is what the LORD spoke of when he said: "**Among those who approach me I will be proved holy; in the sight of all the people I will be honored.**" Aaron remained silent.

**Our sin affects those around us...(we don't sin in a vacuum)**

- Heb 12:15 NIV See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up **to cause trouble and defile many.**
- Pro 22:24-25 NIV Do not make friends with a hot-tempered person, do not associate with one easily angered, 25 **or you may learn their ways** and get yourself ensnared.
- A woman who takes drugs could affect the birth of her child

## There is a difference between God's forgiveness and consequence of our sin

- Psa 99:8 NIV LORD our God, you answered them; you were to Israel a forgiving God, though you punished their misdeeds.
- Gal 6:7-8 NIV Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. 8 Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.

## David pleads with God - The child dies - David accepts the LORD's verdict

15 After Nathan had gone home, **the LORD struck the child** that Uriah's wife had borne to David, and he became ill. 16 **David pleaded with God for the child.** He fasted and spent the nights lying in sackcloth on the ground. 17 The elders of his household stood beside him to get him up from the ground, but he refused, and he would not eat any food with them...

18 On the seventh day the child died. David's attendants were afraid to tell him that the child was dead, for they thought, "While the child was still living, he wouldn't listen to us when we spoke to him. How can we now tell him the child is dead? He may do something desperate." 19 David noticed that his attendants were whispering among themselves, and he realized the child was dead. "Is the child dead?" he asked. "Yes," they replied, "he is dead." ...

20 **Then David got up from the ground. After he had washed, put on lotions and changed his clothes, he went into the house of the LORD and worshiped.** Then he went to his own house, and at his request they served him food, and he ate. 21 His attendants asked him, "Why are you acting this way? While the child was alive, you fasted and wept, but now that the child is dead, you get up and eat!" 22 He answered, "**While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept. I thought, 'Who knows? The LORD may be gracious to me and let the child live.'**" 23 But now that he is dead, why should I go on fasting? Can I bring him back again? I will go to him, but he will not return to me."

### **MERCY - God can be moved by prayer**

- David pleaded with God for the child, even though the LORD told him the child would die
- He thought "who knows" maybe the LORD will be gracious to me
  - Exo 32:9-14 NIV "I have seen these people," the LORD said to Moses, "and they are a stiff-necked people. 10 Now leave me alone so that my anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them. Then I will make you into a great nation." 11 But Moses sought the favor of the LORD his God. "LORD," he said, "why should your anger burn against your people, whom you brought out of Egypt with great power and a mighty hand? 12 Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out, to kill them in the mountains and to wipe them off the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce anger; relent and do not bring disaster on your people. 13 Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac and Israel, to whom you swore by your own self: 'I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and I will give your descendants all this land I promised them, and it will be their inheritance forever.'" 14 **Then the LORD relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened.**

- Jonah 3:8-10 NIV But let people and animals be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence. 9 Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish." 10 **When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.**

#### **MERCY - This infers that children who die go to heaven**

- I will go to him, but he will not return to me

#### **David accepted the LORD's judgment in the situation**

- David went into the house of the LORD and worshiped
- Job fell on his face and worshiped - Job 1:20
- Abraham - Sodom and Gomorrah, "Will not the judge of all the earth do right?" (Gen 18:25)

#### The aftermath and notes about the mercy of of God

24 Then David comforted his wife **Bathsheba**, and he went to her and made love to her. She gave birth to a son, and they named him **Solomon**. **The LORD loved him; 25 and because the LORD loved him, he sent word through Nathan the prophet to name him Jedidiah.**

#### **MERCY - seen the name the LORD gave to Solomon - THE LORD LOVED HIM**

- The name Solomon - derived from Shalom / Peace
- The name Jedidiah - means **beloved of the LORD**
- The boy who was the product of a marriage that began in adultery, murder and lies became the wisest man on the earth, and the one who built the temple for God

#### **MERCY - God sent judgement and blessing through the same man - Nathan**

- The LORD SENT Nathan to bring judgement
- The LORD SENT through Nathan to speak his blessing in the naming of the child
- This is also true with Jesus
  - Heb 12:5-11 NIV And have you completely forgotten this word of encouragement that addresses you as a father addresses his son? It says, "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, 6 because the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son." 7 Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father? 8 If you are not disciplined--and everyone undergoes discipline--then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all. 9 Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live! 10 They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness. 11 No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

### **MERCY - how the scriptures describe Bathsheba**

- Vs 15 - Bathsheba's name is NOT mentioned - **she is called wife of Uriah** (even though she married David)
- Vs 24: This time her name IS mentioned and **she is called David's wife**

### **MERCY - seen in David's continued victory**

26 Meanwhile Joab fought against Rabbah of the Ammonites and captured the royal citadel. 27 Joab then sent messengers to David, saying, "I have fought against Rabbah and taken its water supply. 28 Now muster the rest of the troops and besiege the city and capture it. Otherwise I will take the city, and it will be named after me." 29 So David mustered the entire army and went to Rabbah, and attacked and captured it. 30 David took the crown from their king's head, and it was placed on his own head. It weighed a talent of gold, **[roughly 100 pounds]** and it was set with precious stones. David took a great quantity of plunder from the city 31 and brought out the people who were there, consigning them to labor with saws and with iron picks and axes, and he made them work at brickmaking. David did this to all the Ammonite towns. Then he and his entire army returned to Jerusalem.

### **MERCY - The LORD brought David back to the place where the failure began and gave him victory...**

- 2Sa 11:1 NIV In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king's men and the whole Israelite army. They destroyed the Ammonites **and besieged Rabbah**. But David remained in Jerusalem.