

Fathered by God Part 10: "In the Valley continued" (11-17-2019)

Review: New Section of this Series - "Conversations with Our Father" - Last Week: In the Valley (protection)

Today: Walking through the Valley (correction)

Psalms 23:1-6 (ESV)

(1) A Psalm of David. The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. (2) He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. (3) He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. (4) Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. (5) You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. (6) Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Note: Rob's Observation last Week . . . In verses 2-3 God is leading us, in verse 6 His Mercy follows us

- **God leads me & pursues me** (I don't get there on my own, and I don't tend to stay there either):
 - Green Pasture & Still Waters
 - Restoration of my Soul
 - In paths of Righteousness - He get's me headed in the right direction!

Today: David pursued by Nathan (because he is being pursued by God)

Overview: David, Bathsheba, & Uriah. Then David confronted by the prophet Nathan (1 Samuel 11 & 12)

Nathan's story - the stolen lamb (2 Samuel 12:1-6). Let's see David's response . . .

2 Samuel 12:5-6 (ESV)

(5) Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man, and he said to Nathan, "As the LORD lives, the man who has done this deserves to die, (6) and he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity."

Note: David sees His sin from the outside . . .

- He recognizes how wrong it is.
- He sees the damage it caused.
- He sees how the man had no pity (he was calloused to his own sin and it's effects)
- He proclaims judgement - there is a debt to be paid, and death is the punishment

Are we willing to see our sin for what it really is?

- This is where confession is such an important part of the process of reconciliation.

- If there is no acknowledgment of what's been done wrong, there can be no true repentance!
- Minimizing your sin will never lead to healing and true change.

Confession is essential and leads to real change:

1 John 1:9 (ESV)

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

James 5:16a (ESV)

Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed . . .

Note: We've got to see our sin for what it is, and own up to it. That's when real healing and cleansing happens!

David has righteous anger right now, but He thinks it's toward someone else. Now let's see what Nathan does:

2 Samuel 12:7 (ESV)

Nathan said to David, "You are the man! Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you out of the hand of Saul.

Notes: Nathan says - God protected you (staff), and has blessed you (goodness). But now, David is going to need the rod (correction), and mercy. David's response here is essential . . .

2 Samuel 12:13-14 (ESV)

(13) 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) Nevertheless, because by this deed you have utterly scorned the LORD, the child who is born to you shall die."

Note: There is Repentance, Mercy, & yet ongoing Consequences. Let's see how David deals with the fallout . . .

The child becomes deathly sick . . .

2 Samuel 12:16 (ESV)

David therefore sought God on behalf of the child. And David fasted and went in and lay all night on the ground.

Note: David pursues relief from the consequences

- The child dies . . .

2 Samuel 12:20 (ESV)

Then David arose from the earth and washed and anointed himself and changed his clothes. And he went into the house of the LORD and worshiped. He then went to his own house. And when he asked, they set food before him, and he ate.

Note: David does not get what he wants. Yet, he worships and goes on living!

- The servants are confused by David's response . . .

2 Samuel 12:22-23 (ESV)

(22) He said, "While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept, for I said, 'Who knows 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 will not return to me."

Note: David is trusting in God's ultimate redemption. Reunion with this child, and life eternal.

How could David arrive to this place in his life?

What was his time of fasting and prayer like, that he could find peace in the midst of destruction and tragedy?

Thank God that David was willing to record and then publicly declare, his Conversation with the Father . . .

From Psalm 51 - verses and notes

(1) Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love

Note: David asks for mercy in vs. 1 and then continues this request for mercy and cleansing: 1, 2, 7, 9, 10, 14

• David Asks for Mercy

(3) For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

Note: He address this more in several verses including: 4, 14

(4) Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified
in your words and blameless in your judgment

(14) Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation

• David acknowledges his sin and its consequences

(6) Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

(10) Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

(11) Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

(12) Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

(17) The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

• **David wants real inward heart changes, and seeks it from God's presence alone!**

Additional Note: The issues of corporate revival and national awakening . . .

The Psalm closes with verses 18-19 where the focus shifts from David's personal confession to the larger group of all God's people - his city and his temple

Psalms 51:1-19 (ESV)

(18) Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; build up the walls of Jerusalem; (19) then will you delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

Note: We desire big picture change, but David shows us the real path there. Individual people looking in the mirror and getting right with God. Personal revival will always precede large scale revival.

Conclusion: When you are in the valley - seek the Lord, because he is already pursuing you. You may be in need of either his correction or his protection, but you can be certain that His goodness & mercy are following you, and you can trust in His ultimate plan of Redemption!

The full Psalm for further reading and reflection . . .

Psalms 51:1-19 (ESV)

(1) To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba. Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. (2) Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! (3) For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. (4) Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. (5) Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. (6) Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart. (7) Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. (8) Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice. (9) Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. (10) Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. (11) Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. (12) Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. (13) Then I will

teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you. (14) Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness. (15) O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. (16) For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering. (17) The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. (18) Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; build up the walls of Jerusalem; (19) then will you delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on your altar.