

King David

Loss

2 Samuel 12:14-25

June 30, 2019 am

HDBC

The story of King David is one of the dominant stories in the Old Testament. This very sermon series will end up being three to four times larger than my normal sermon series. That's ok. In the course of this study we are dealing with so many things in David's life that mirror our own lives. In the course of doing so, we are learning . . . and hopefully maturing.

During the last three messages we have looked at David's sin with Bathsheba. **First**, we looked at the actual sin: adultery, deception, murder, followed by months of harboring these sins. **Second**, we considered Nathan's confrontation of David, that led to his confession. **Third**, we discovered 15 statements of truth that are found in Psalm 51, David's testimony of his confession.

Before leaving this part of David's life, I want us to tackle one of the more difficult parts of this story. It is difficult emotionally and theologically. There are things that God does, that go beyond our ability to comprehend or to justify with our limited perspective. This is one of those.

David's sin with Bathsheba led to the conception of a son. I stand amazed at the mystery of God's sovereignty. God routinely produces good things even out of horrific situations. **A botched abortion leads to the birth of a live child who grows up to be an outstanding spokesman for life. A man is unjustly imprisoned, but hears the gospel while in that dark place and his life is forever changed.**

Those stories abound because God is in the business of bringing beauty to ashes in this broken world. Quite frankly, these stories do not surprise me. I expect them because, that's what God does. God often demonstrates His grace through the ugliness of this world that we all experience.

However, there is a **deeper level grace** that is demonstrated when God takes **our own sinful action** and brings good out of it. **That does amaze me. Two**

people give in to sexual sin and that encounter leads to the conception of a new life. You might say, *well, this is just biology. Come one! We know where babies come from!* That is true. But it is not the entire truth. Biology is required, but what is also required is the divine act of God in creating life. There is no conception apart from the divine work of God!

So, for reasons known only to God, **He sometimes creates life out of sinful sexual encounters**. This is what happened to David and Bathsheba. Out of the darkness of their sin, a child was conceived and ultimately born. They would have a son to love, to raise, to enjoy! Once again, we see the mysterious grace of God on display.

And then, the story takes an awful turn. This ray of light that has emerged from the darkness of their sin is about to be extinguished. The child that has brought so much joy out of so much sorrow will die . . . soon. That's what Nathan had said.

Read Text. 2 Samuel 12:14-25

Not three things:

1. The death of the child (14-15)

Nathan made this sobering announcement, then quietly walked away and went to his own house. There was no more to say. Note some details about the death of the child found in these verses.

A. Predicted by God (14)

God knew beforehand what was going to happen. This is not news. He always does. What is different here is that **God revealed it**. He does not always do so, but when it accomplishes his plan, He will occasionally share it. By the way, you will note that it is predicted without conditions. In other words there was nothing that could be done to alter the outcome. It **WOULD** happen.

B. Connected with David's sin (14)

Not only did God say it would happen, but it was directly connected with the specific sin of David. ***Because of this deed***. Every bad thing is not tied to someone's sin, but in this case it certainly was. Nathan made that clear. David had to face the truth that **a few moments of personal pleasure** was directly tied to the death of an innocent life.

C. Caused by God (15)

This is the most disturbing part. I can't fully grasp it. There are things that God does that are way beyond my ability to comprehend, and this is one of them. But I trust Him. We make a serious mistake if we assume that every bad thing that happens is a direct act of God. We make an equally serious mistake if we assume that God is never directly involved in negative things that happen.

The ultimate expression of faith is not believing that God will do what we want Him to do, or that God always does what seems good for us. The ultimate expression of faith is trusting the wisdom of God when His actions seem **unfair, unkind** or even **cruel**.

Second, note the action of David.

2. The action of David Three things

A. He prayed (16-17)

He plead with God to spare the child. And who could blame him. As long as the baby was alive, there was hope. He prayed all night on his face before God. He refused to quit or even leave that position for seven days. His people tried to get him to take a break and eat something. He refused. His full focus was on his prayer for this baby.

Then, on the seventh day the baby died. So, his prayer did not change the mind of God. So, why should we pray? Remember a few things: **First**, we seldom know when God's will is unchangeable. **Second**, our praying helps us focus our attention on the things that really matter. **Third**, even if God has already determined an unchanging course of action, our praying draws us deeper into our relationship with God.

B. He worshipped (18-20)

After the baby died, David did the most surprising thing. He ended his praying and fasting. He cleaned up and entered a time of worship. Don't move too quickly over this. The very one he was worshipping was the one who refused to say "yes" to his prayer and the one who caused the death of his child. **Once more, that is beyond my comprehension.**

True worship focuses more on God's nature and less on his actions. True worship is not tied to our sense of happiness or contentment. **True worship** is not affected by the changes in our situations.

C. He taught (21-23)

His servants were confused about his actions and asked him to explain. In doing so, he taught them about God, about sin and about life. He would be unable to bring the child back. There was no expectation of resurrection. The child would not come back.

However, in a candid statement of truth, David expressed his confidence in a future that would include the child. David believed in his own salvation even after his sin. He believed that God, in his grace, had welcomed that child into heaven the moment he died.

3. The grace of God (24-25)

A. Their marriage is strengthened

Note the subtle change. In verse 15 Bathsheba is called *the wife of Uriah*. In verse 24 she is called *his wife*. No more mention of Uriah. A corner has been turned in their marriage relationship. This does not always happen in the aftermath of tragedy. But, when it involves those who know and trust God, it can and should.

B. They are blessed with another child

No child can ever **replace** a child that has died! Never! Each child is a gift from God, regardless of the length of time they are with their parents. However, this is a sign that God has forgiven and is leading them into the next phase of their lives. This . . . is an act of grace.

C. They received confirmation from God

Finally, there is additional confirmation from God. Note the affirmation that **God loved this child**. Of course God loves all children, so this statement was more than a statement of truth, it was a **statement of emphasis**. God even gave him an additional name, Jedidiah, which means *beloved of the Lord*.

Takeaways: Observations

1. **We must trust the text completely.**

Never doubt God's revealed truth

We must apply the text cautiously.

We cannot apply these principles universally.

2. **We must pray to God passionately.**

We must trust God completely.

3. **We must learn from our past.**

We must live in the present.

David restored his relationship with God. He refused to become bitter because God did not say "yes" to his praying. David comforted Bathsheba. They had another child. They went on with life.