

Our Promise Keeping King – 2 Samuel

2 Samuel 12:1-31

“His Mercy is More” – January 6, 2019



Introduction

In 2 Samuel 11, we saw the tragic and destructive fall of David into adultery, murder, deceit and desperate cover up. The king who had led so well in the first ten chapters, took a dramatic turn for the worse. By the end of chapter 11, it seemed that as bad as it was, he'd got away with murder, successfully covering his sin up. But had he? 2 Samuel 11:27 tells us, "The thing that David had done displeased the LORD." He may have been able to fool the people around him, but he couldn't fool God. He saw everything and *hated* what David had done and would face the consequences of his sin. 2 Samuel 12 reveals God's severe mercy, teaching us it's better to accept the painful sting of discipline today, then to face God's judgement tomorrow.

Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:33-40](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

Sermon Outline

- I. Scene 1 (12:1-7) Exposed by God's word
- II. Scene 2 (12:7-15) Shattered by God's word
- III. Scene 3 (12:15-23) Trusting God's word
- IV. Scene 4 (12:24-25) The grace of God's word
- V. Scene 5 (12:26-31) The priorities of God's word

Read & Discuss

1. Read [2 Samuel 12:1-7](#)

David has been hardening his heart against God and drifting away from God to satisfy his selfish desires. God would have been justified to take his hand off of David and let him have his way – and drift into hell ([Romans 1:24-25](#)). But in His mercy, God pursues his child who is drifting and sends Nathan to confront him, wake him up to where he's heading, and turn back to God. As painful as it may be to have God expose our sin by His word, it is for our good. Can you recall a time God has pursued you when you were drifting away? We, as the church are called to speak the truth in love to each other. In our church covenant we promise to "Walk together in Christian love by faithfully caring for, watching over, and admonishing one another as occasions may require." What does speaking the truth without compromise and in love look like?

2. Read [2 Samuel 12:7-15](#)

In contrast to Saul, who blame-shifted, twisted the truth, and got defensive when confronted by his sin ([1 Samuel 15:15-23](#)), David confessed his sin. To confess our sin is to agree with God; to repent is to turn away from our sin to follow/trust God. David does both. God in His grace, forgives David's sin, but even when God forgives our sin, it doesn't mean the consequences of our choices disappear. In the coming chapters, David will face the painful consequences but even then, he has come to know the unfailing love and mercy of God. Take some time to read [Hebrews 12:3-11](#). How can a sovereign God (a God in control of all things) use even the evil consequences of sin as an instrument of good? What hope does that offer us in our own pain and suffering?

3. Read [2 Samuel 12:15-23](#)

When the child falls ill, David seeks after God, weeps and fasts for seven days praying that God would spare the child's life. In the end, God's answer is 'no,' but David is able to accept God's answer (even with unanswered questions), trust in Him, and he goes to the house of God *to worship*. What did David know about God that gave him the courage to ask God for mercy – even after he'd sinned as he had? What is the basis of our confidence to approach a holy God and to ask Him for what we need ([Hebrews 4:14-16](#))?

4. Read [2 Samuel 12:24-31](#)

After David's sin, Nathan's confrontation, and God's forgiveness, God turns around to bless David's marriage to Bathsheba and bless them with a second child, Solomon. To confirm God's blessing, He sends Nathan with a message of approval – adding to Solomon's name, "Jedidiah," meaning *beloved of God*. How could God bless them like this? Because of grace! Because He *really* had put away David's sin as He promised in v13. We may be shocked at first by the scandalous nature of God's grace in David's story – but David's story is *our* story. We too have been saved by God's amazing grace ([Ephesians 2:1-9](#)). Where do you find yourself today in this account of David's life? *Exposed by God's word?* If so, what sin do you need to confess, to come into the light with and turn away from? *Shattered by God's word?* Have you repented, but now are putting the pieces back together? *Why are we to see God's discipline as His love? Has enough time passed that your heart is mended?* Celebrate God's grace and where appropriate, tell others what God has done. That's what David does for our encouragement (see [Psalm 51](#) and [Psalm 32](#)).

Prayer of Response

- 1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?
- 2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand, believe, desire, or do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

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