

Let's Worship God

15th-20th June 2026

2 Samuel



II SAMUEL

Monday - 2 Samuel 12:1-4 - The Grace That Exposes Us

2nd Samuel 12 is undoubtedly a solemn chapter. David is confronted with the terrible sins he has committed. Before the chapter ends, his infant child dies because of that sin. Yet this is also a chapter that's full of God's grace. It describes a day that David dreaded, a day which David probably hoped would never come. Yet how much worse a position David would have been in if he had got away with it! If he had never been called to account in this life for the sins he had committed. It's the same with us. We don't want to be confronted with our sins. We don't want to have to face up to them. But actually, it would be infinitely worse if God in his grace didn't expose them, and they remained hidden, rather than being dealt with. That's the lens through which we need to see this chapter. Because this is not primarily a chapter about judgement, but about God's grace seen even in his judgement.

At the end of the last chapter, it looks like David has got away with it. He's committed adultery with Bathsheba. Even though she's pregnant, he's managed to cover up his sin by murdering her husband. She bears him a son, and no-one is any the wiser, except Joab, his army commander, and maybe a few servants. But none of them are going to tell. Although others don't see what's been going on, God sees. And although a reckoning doesn't come right away - it does come eventually.

That's true for all of us. There may be things we get away with on earth. There may be times when we successfully pull the wool over other people's eyes. But we can't do it to God. The reckoning may not come immediately. It may not even come in this life. But it will come. As the Holy Spirit puts it in Numbers 32: 'Be sure your sin will find you out'. That's a good thing! That's one of those verses we tend to see as a threat. We don't want our sin to find us out. But it will happen. Your sin will find you out. The only question is whether your sin will find you out after death - when there's no more time to do anything about it. Or whether by God's grace your sin will find you out in this life - and he enables you to respond in the right way. That's what happens in this chapter.

Question

1. Why is it better to be confronted with your sin than to have it hidden?

Prayer Points

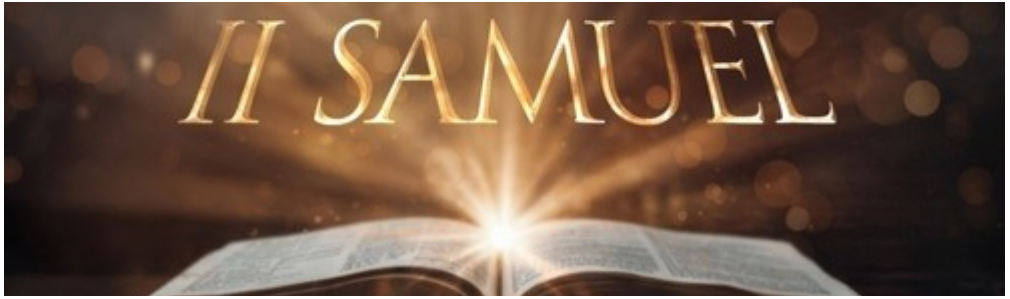
1. Give thanks that God in his grace shows us our sin.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

And Nathan said to David, "The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die."

2 Samuel 12:13b

Praise: Psalm 141:1-5 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Tuesday - 2 Samuel 12:1-4 - God's Word Confronts

In the first verse of chapter 12, after all the scheming and sending and deception, God is the one who sends. That's good news. It's good news because it tells us that God won't allow his servants to remain comfortable in their sin, but will expose it, lest they settle down in it. You may succeed in your unfaithfulness. But in his grace the LORD will come after you. God doesn't wash his hands of his unfaithful servants. He didn't do it to Jonah. He didn't do it to Peter. And he doesn't do it to David here. That's not to say that God's pursuit of us is pleasant. Far from it. At the time, we'd rather he just left us in our sin. But where would we be if he did that? How terrible would it be if we succeeded at sin, and God just left us to it. That wouldn't be grace, that would be judgement. Romans 1 tells us that for God to give us up to the lusts of our hearts is actually his judgement. So for there to be a day of reckoning on this earth, where we're given the opportunity to face up to our sin - that's actually his grace. Of course it's still up to us to respond rightly to that. But if we're given the opportunity to do so, the reason for it is God's kindness. So what might a similar day of reckoning look like for us? Well it probably won't be as dramatic as it was for David. But the basic elements will be the same. At the heart of it, what God does is send his word to David. That's Nathan's role as a prophet. He's someone who brings God's word. And as he does so, David's sin is exposed.

As Nathan goes to David, he's both brave and clever. For a start, he's brave. He's going to the most powerful man in the kingdom to call him out for his sin. Nathan knows that David has killed Uriah. And if David didn't think twice about killing a soldier, what's to say he won't turn round and do the same to Nathan? So he's brave in answering God's call to go about confronting David. But he's also clever in how he goes about it. Why does Nathan tell David a story, a parable, rather than just coming out with it? It's because we often don't react well to a full-on confrontation. Our instinctive response is defensiveness and self-justification. So instead Nathan tells David a parable.

Question

1. Why is it good that God confronts us in our sin?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that God's Word reveals our sin.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

And Nathan said to David, "The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die."
2 Samuel 12:13b

Praise: Psalm 141:6-9 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

II SAMUEL



Wednesday - 2 Samuel 12:5-12 - Contempt of God

David responds to the story as he should. But he doesn't yet see that it's about him. He's indignant that someone else would do this - but he can't see that he's done things far worse. In fact his religious indignation in vs 5 and 6 is almost sickening. David can talk about God, he can quote God's law, and yet all the while he's living with hidden sin, which is actually far worse than what the rich man in the story has done. But even though there's an element of hypocrisy, David's indignation is genuine. It's at that precise moment that Nathan pronounces some of the most dramatic words in all the Bible: 'You are the man'.

In verses 7 and 8 God reminds David of all that he'd given him. Then God spells out exactly what he'd done. David hadn't just done bad things, but he'd hurt people - people made in God's image. But that's not even the worst of it. The worst part of his sin is that he has despised God. By his sins, David wasn't just showing contempt for what God had given him. He was showing contempt for God. In this chapter God exposes David's sin for what it really is. And he exposes the sin of His people for what it really is. It's contempt of God. Yes we might blame other people. We might blame our circumstances. But really our sin is contempt of God. Yes for David, and for us as well - our sin will bring consequences. But what should really cut us to the heart isn't its consequences - but the contempt that we've shown for God.

God in his grace still exposes our sin. We want to hide away in the darkness, but he wants to shine his light on us, so that our sin can be exposed - and dealt with. He does that with his word. What does that look like? Well it might look like sitting through a sermon. Perhaps nobody else realises. Maybe the preacher himself doesn't realise. But something that's said cuts you to the heart. Or perhaps it's an open and honest conversation with a friend. Or a visit from the elders to discuss an issue that has arisen. These are things we naturally want to run from. By nature, we resent them. But actually, it's only because he is loving and gracious that God comes after us. While he's still pursuing us, there's hope. But once he leaves us to our sin, then we know we're in trouble.

Question

1. What was David's greatest sin here?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for God's Word and the light it shines on our lives.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

And Nathan said to David, "The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die."
2 Samuel 12:13b

Praise: Psalm 51A:1-2 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

II SAMUEL

Thursday - 2 Samuel 12:13-18 - The Forgiveness That Finds Us

When David's day of reckoning comes, he doesn't run from the light. He doesn't make excuses. He doesn't just accept part of the blame. But he says, v13: 'I have sinned against the LORD'. Such a simple confession. And Nathan responds: 'The LORD also has put away your sin'. And that's it. It's almost an anti-climax! It seems too easy! We want more than that. We want David to wallow in his guilt. We want to see him in anguish. We want to see him agonise over the possibility of pardon, as if we could somehow merit God's forgiveness by the intensity of our repentance. But the important thing isn't the outward emotion of David's repentance. The important thing is that he genuinely repents. That's not to say that David was emotionless. Among other things, he must have had a huge sense of relief surging through him to be able to confess something that had been eating away at him for so long. But actually the simplicity of his repentance is more a sign of the reality of it, than a sign that there's something missing. David repented without trying to play down what he'd done or make excuses for it.

Perhaps you know someone putting off becoming a Christian because they think they need to work up the right emotional temperature. Or because just saying a simple prayer like David's sounds too easy. But it's not about our effort. It's about God's grace. So if you want to become a Christian, there is no hard thing you must do. Simply say like David: 'I have sinned against the LORD'. You can tell God that you've sinned against him, and ask him to forgive you. And he will.

But, we think: surely David has to do something? Surely it's not fair that he escapes death? After all, the Bible says that the wages of sin is death. Are we saying that all David has to do is pray a prayer, and he escapes death? No. Not at all! Because a death still had to happen. In order for David to be forgiven, Jesus had to die. In order for you to be forgiven, Jesus had to die. We can never think that forgiveness is cheap if we look at the cross. Although David's infant son dies in this chapter as a direct consequence of David's sin, the boy's death doesn't make atonement. Only the death of Jesus can do that.

Question

1. What must we do to be forgiven?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for the gift of forgiveness through Christ.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

And Nathan said to David, "The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die."

2 Samuel 12:13b

Praise: Psalm 51A:3-4 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

II SAMUEL

Friday - 2 Samuel 12:14-18 - Discipline Not Punishment

If the boy's death isn't atonement for David's sin - is it punishment for his sin? No. Certainly, the boy's death is a result of David's sin. But it's not a punishment for it. Charles Spurgeon once began a sermon with these words: 'God's people can never by any possibility be punished for their sins'. Spurgeon goes on: 'God has punished them already in the person of Christ. Christ, their substitute, has endured the full penalty for all their guilt, and neither the justice nor the love of God can ever exact again that which Christ has paid'. But even though God doesn't punish his people, he does chastise them. Calvin makes the same distinction: "When [God] rejected Saul he punished in vengeance; when he deprived David of his child, he chastised for amendment". That's not just playing with words. It describes the difference between God acting as a judge, and God acting as a Father. The Christian is in a totally different relationship to God from the non-Christian, because the Christian is a member of God's family. As a son he will be disciplined for wrongdoing. But that's very different from a sentence handed out by a judge. God punishes his enemies. But he doesn't punish his children. He only ever disciplines them. They're different things with different aims. God's punishment isn't sent for the good of sinners, but for the honouring of God's law and the upholding of his justice. Whereas God's chastisement - however painful - is sent for the well-being of his children. As part of God's ongoing chastisement and discipline of David, his son dies.

That opens up a number of questions. One very real question might come from someone reading this who's lost a child and who says - does this mean that my child died because of me? Are we saying that God might kill a child because of something its parents have done? I'm not saying that God never sends physical chastisements on us because of something we've done. But God is a loving Father. He's not out to get us. Nor is what God does here the normal way that he acts. But even if God were to bring some physical chastisement into our lives as a direct result of some sin we had committed, he would make that crystal clear, just as he does here with David. He wouldn't leave us guessing. Our God isn't a God who will leave his people torturing themselves as to whether he's brought something into their lives because of their sin. So what I would say to someone in that position is that unless God has made it as clear to you as he made it to David here that it's your sin which has brought something about, then that's not why it has happened.

Question

1. What is the difference between punishment and discipline?

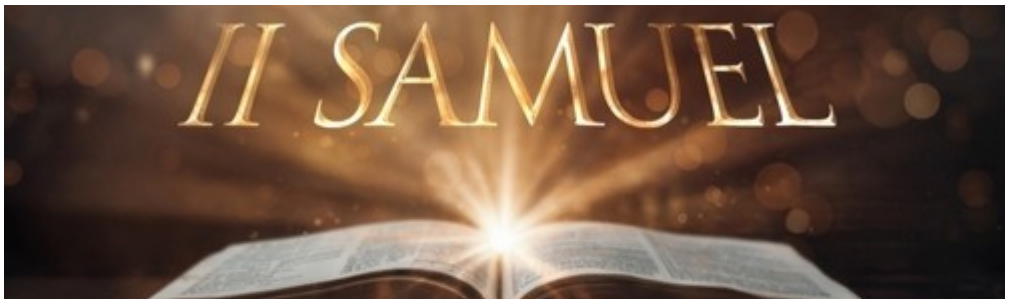
Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that God is a loving and good Father.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

And Nathan said to David, "The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die." 2 Samuel 12:13b

Praise: Psalm 51A:5-6 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Saturday - 2 Samuel 12:16-31 - Pointing To A Better King

God told David that his child will die. But even so, when the child becomes sick, David fasts and prays. Does David not believe God, we might wonder? The answer is that David has encountered God's grace. As a result he now can't help thinking that God might show grace to his son as well? Perhaps God has told him the child will die in the same way that he would later tell Nineveh that they would be destroyed. Maybe it's to stir David to turn to him. Alas, it's not to be. The child dies. At this point David has done his weeping. He rises, washes, worships, and comes home. Even though God hasn't answered his prayer, he responds in faith that he will see the boy again. This is a hope, a confidence, that any Christian parent who experiences the heartbreak of losing a child can have. The parents of Dutch theologian Herman Bavinck lost an infant son within two weeks of his birth. A few years later, their oldest child, Dina, died at the age of 13. Four years after that, they lost another daughter, Femia, aged only eight. The sense of loss they felt was profound. The author of their biography comments: 'Their only comfort lay in the covenant of grace: God had promised to be faithful to their children in life and death'.

The chapter ends with the continuation of the Ammonites and the capture of Rabbah. It takes us back to the beginning of the last chapter, before David ever laid eyes on Bathsheba. If it seems like an anticlimax to the chapter - I think it's meant to be. David is restored to service, in a sense. But his sin, even though it's forgiven, will still cast a long shadow over the rest of his life. The sword will not depart from his house.

It's clear that just like the other leaders in 1st and 2nd Samuel, whether Eli or Samuel or Saul, all of them are flawed, even David, the man after God's own heart. So once again this book lifts our eyes beyond David, and points us forward to God's true Messianic King, Jesus Christ.

Questions

1. Why does David pray for his son when he knows what God will do?
2. To whom does this chapter point?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

And Nathan said to David, "The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die."

2 Samuel 12:13b

Praise: Psalm 51A:7-9 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

**God tells us that
Ezra read from
the book of the Law
day after day
and that
the people of God
were filled with joy!**

Let's Worship God is produced
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