



II Samuel 12:9-15

ICE BREAKER

David is a man after God's own heart and yet with all the good he did he also did so much harm. Share with the group what you have observed in your lifetime regarding the impact of someone's sin on others' lives and/or the impact of someone's love or righteousness on others.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What roles and responsibilities do I have that I need to bring life to others(consider family roles, work roles, church and small group roles)? Are there places where I am bringing death(be sure to consider the subtlety of passivity)?
2. The prophets' words to David cut to the core issue. His sin is against the Lord first and foremost. The prophet asks David, "Why have you despised the word of the LORD, to do what is evil in his sight?" How do I despise the word of the Lord by my behavior? If I hang on to resentment of people--even one person--I am despising the Lord. If I criticize or slander or if I am divisive I despise the Lord. Consider spending some time together as a group before the Lord asking Him to speak tenderly to you about your sin and to draw you to Himself in confession. Group leaders, try to be sensitive to the level of trust in the group. If trust is low just acknowledge that and have people share what they may be ok sharing.
3. David was hunted by Saul for years. Later David goes through much suffering because of his own sin. Nevertheless, David is not a victim. He knows he is in debt to God. In spite of all the suffering he has been through he is a debtor. What kind of suffering have I gone through? Has this suffering caused me to lose faith in the Lord and to despise the Lord? What has God done in the midst of all my suffering?

He is faithful. He has never done anything wrong. We have a mindset that I am either a debtor or that I am a victim. How do I go through life? Do I see myself in debt to the cross? This life is not the last word. The next life is without pain and suffering--He is giving this to us. My response is gratitude. My salvation costs the Lord everything.

4. In our suffering we are quite vulnerable. The enemy and our flesh whisper doubts about God's goodness especially during suffering. We may not abandon the faith but a gap between us and the Lord can develop. A bit of mistrust so we pull back. One helpful step toward closing this gap is to remember all those things you love in life. As you remember these things know that God loves these same things and He gave them to you to enjoy. Enjoy them and enjoy Him in them. Share with the group some of the things in life you love. Consider spending some time praying together thanking God the giver of all good things.

NOTES AND QUOTES

David's punishment is revealed. His ultimate crime is that he despised the Lord. At core his sin and our sin despises God's authority over us.

David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord....Nathan replied,..”Nevertheless, because by this deed you have utterly scorned the LORD, the child who is born to you shall die.” II Samuel 12:13-14

The prophecy from God regarding punishment will now be seen in the remainder of the book of Samuel.

The first punishment is seen within David's own family. Amnon is David's son and Tamar is David's daughter. Amnon rapes her. As soon as he is done with her he has contempt toward her. This contempt is a defense mechanism so he does not have to face his own evil.

David does nothing yet the crime does not go unpunished. David's son, Absalom waits 2 years for revenge. Amnon is murdered at Absalom's directive.

Next we see Absalom betray his own father, David.

Absalom waited at the city gate and talked to disgruntled people and he told them he would give justice. He is undermining his father's rule.

Absalom sleeps with the 10 concubines in broad daylight. So, the son shames his father and all of Israel--another fulfillment of the prophesied punishment.

The drama now shifts to 3 people: David, Joab, and Absalom. David's army prevails and Absalom is caught by his hair in a tree. The army finds him hanging in the tree. They told Joab. Joab goes and kills Absalom.

News comes to David that they won the war and his son is dead.

David grieves deeply. We see a good heart in David as he grieves his son. He loves him in spite of his son's treacherous actions against him. This is like the heart of God. God sees us as His children in spite of our treacherous actions.

The last two characters in the book of II Samuel are God and David.

After David defeats the Philistines he decides to conduct a census. The purpose is to increase the army(power) and to increase taxes(money). In I Chronicles 1 we see that Satan incited David to do this.

The Lord gives David three choices for punishment for this evil: famine for 3 years or enemies besiege you for 3 months or a plague for 3 days. He chooses the plague. 70 thousand men die!

The prophet Gath comes back to David and tells him to offer a sacrifice and the plague will be lifted. David goes to a threshing floor. David insists on buying it rather than receiving it as a gift from the owner.

In II Samuel 24:24 David replies, "...I will not offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God that cost me nothing." This is a powerful statement. It shines a light on all we see through the entire book of Samuel.

Remember the punishment from Nathan. He said, "Your sin has been put away." He is referring to the death of Christ. Through Christ's death on the cross David's shame, Tamar's shame, and our shame have all been taken care off.