**Repentance** **(2 Samuel 12:15b-25)**

When we sin, approaching God with a repentant heart brings us back into a right relationship with Him. Greetings to you as we continue today through the books of the Scriptures and study a passage from 2 Samuel. We are going to speak about our response when God judges us for our sin. Our passages that we just read describes the effects of God’s word of judgment in King David’s life. The passage contains a number of important truths, and in this vein, today we’re going to speak about repentance and its aftereffects. Once again, we want to stress that when we sin, approaching God with repentant heart brings us back into a right relationship with Him. Let us move on, then, to this indispensable truth…

In order to have a right relationship with God, we need to repent wholeheartedly and to ache for the sins we have committed. King David had sinned by committing both adultery and murder, as well as lying and deception. However, since he had not technically done anything wrong, since it was not yet clearly proven as to with whose child Bathsheba was pregnant and despite the fact that people’s suspicions were increasing, God intervened in the situation through his prophet Nathan. Why? Because the people of God needed to know that no one was above or beyond the whole of God’s Law (and the consequences of breaking any part of it).

David, on the other hand, when he heard the Lord’s message through the prophet, did not become haughty. Rather, he felt bad for what he had done, he fasted and deprived himself of food, because he aimed to be in right relationship with God again. In addition, he showed genuine signs of repentance thru that fasting and deprivation from his normally pleasant and comfortable life. David took seriously the word of judgment from the Lord that the child would die; for that reason, he ached for the sin he had committed. It is very important that David had confessed his sin to the Prophet Nathan in the passage before our reading today.

David did all the above because of his intimate relationship with the Lord. He continued to beseech God for the boy’s life, hoping that perhaps the Lord would change His mind or decree. However, when he saw that God’s judgment remained the same and that the child died on the seventh day before becoming a part of God’s people, in other words before receiving the sign of Abraham, namely circumcision, he understood that the child would not be his, but God’s. God re-declared His rule, His justice, His holiness and His identity as Creator once again, both for in David’s eye as well as the eyes of the people. They were watching as to what consequences David’s big sin was going to have on him or them…

Thank God, however, that our passage in question does not stop at that point. David accepted God’s “no” regarding the child’s life. He displayed the hope that he had in God when he said that he would one day see the child again when his life was over. Also, he showed his faith towards God because the first thing he did after God’s judgment was done was to worship at the Temple. David accepted his punishment as a son accepts discipline from his father for his benefit.

We see a new aspect of God open up before us immediately after the above took place. David was comforted and requested food to be put before him. It is written that he later went to his wife, who this time is not referred to as Uriah’s wife anymore, but is remembered by her name, and he comforted her. Because of his repentance, his lust had been transformed into a clean and comforting love. Then, when a child was born, they called him Solomon, which means “His peace”, or “His Restoration”. God did even more for David. He gave his son a new name, Jedidiah, which means, “Beloved of the Lord”. We see thru this how David kept his relationship going with God in his moment of being disciplined, and as a result of the latter how he repented and confessed his sin, accepting the Lord’s word, no matter how bitter or painfully hot it was for him. The good that came of this was that God reassures us by his blessing of speaking thru the prophet about the new child, that His relationship with David had returned to its pure state before the sin.

An important Christian teacher once spoke about repentance in this way:

*“It is not repentance that saves me; repentance is the sign that I realize what God has done in Christ Jesus. The danger is to put the emphasis on the effect instead of on the cause. Is it my obedience that puts me right with God? Never! I am put right with God because prior to all else, Christ died. When I turn to God and by belief accept what God reveals, instantly the stupendous atonement of Jesus Christ rushes me into a right relationship with God. By the miracle of God's grace I stand justified, not because of anything I have done, but because of what Jesus has done. The salvation of God does not stand on human logic; it stands on the sacrificial death of Jesus. Sinful men and women can be changed into new creatures by the marvelous work of God in Christ Jesus, which is prior to all experience.”*

Therefore, today, as we speak about repentance, let us come together and do the same; if we have not given our lives to Jesus Christ, without Whom no one will see heaven after this life, let us today confess our sins and begin having a new life. If you have not taken this step and you would like to do so, I invite you to pray the prayer that I will pray at the very end of this message with your whole heart, and then approach me after the service in order that we might know and rejoice with you for the new beginning (in your life). If you have accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior but you are suffering because of your sin, the Lord is inviting you today to shake off the heaviness of sin off of you by repentance and to confess your sins and be in right relationship with God. Remember how quickly God blessed David after he had repented. God takes your honest repentance very seriously. In order to have a right relationship with God, we need to repent wholeheartedly and to ache for the sins we have committed. When we sin, approaching God with a repentant heart brings us back into a right relationship with Him.

Let’s pray together for a moment. If you wish, repeat this prayer quietly after me: Lord Jesus, I repent of my sins. I confess that I have sinned against you, God the Father and the Holy Spirit. Forgive me. Give me a new life. I accept you as my Lord and. Savior. Fill me with the Holy Spirit; and help me to walk in your paths. I pray in your name. Amen.