



“REASONS TO REJOICE”

*“Your Words were found, and I ate them,
and Your Word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart.” Jeremiah 15:16*

I and II SAMUEL Lesson 19

We ended our lesson last week with the powerful story of David and Bathsheba. Then along came the prophet Nathan, who God used to confront David with his sin. Although David’s sin screams from the pages, the sound of God’s amazing grace is louder. It is bad when a Christian sins, but when there is true repentance, God not only forgives them, He allows them to be used for His service once more.

This week we’ll be taking a closer look at chapter 12, noticing details that maybe we didn’t before. I pray that this chapter would make a dramatic impact on our lives as we see a perfect illustration of Moses’ words in Numbers 32:23, “You have sinned against the Lord, and be sure your sin will find you out.”

First Day

- 1. Read chapter 12:1-14 again. Do you see any new facts jump out at you?*
- 2. It is thought that about one year passed before God sent Nathan to confront David. Why do you think God waited so long?*
- 3. Why do you think Nathan used the analogy of a poor shepherd? Why would this make such a strong impact on David?*

David spent a year in his sin. Last week we read Psalm 51, which gave us a good picture of how David felt during that time. I believe he was overwhelmed with guilt, knowing that he had broken his fellowship with the Lord. When confronted, David immediately repented, accepting the responsibility for his actions. He pronounces his own judgement in verses 5 and 6. David had broken three of the Ten Commandments—“you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife,” “you shall not commit adultery,” and “you shall not murder” (Exodus 20:13-14, 17). Some believe the death of Bathsheba’s baby and David’s sons (which we will read about later), Amnon, Absalom, and Adonijah, are the fulfillment of the four-fold restitution required in the Law (Exodus 22:1). The violence David used against Uriah would be used against his own family. He tried to keep his affair with Bathsheba quiet, and soon another man would take his wives in public. Yes, you will always reap what you sow.

4. *When David admitted his guilt, how quick was Nathan to say that “the Lord would let him live”?*

5. *After we repent from our sin, how quickly does God forgive us? (Sometimes we carry our guilt around forever, feeling as though God will never be able to forgive us.) Are you carrying around guilt from past sins? What encouragement does this story give you? What promise is found in 1 John 1:9?*

6. *Read II Samuel 12:13-25. Explain David’s actions. How did his actions confuse his servants?*

7. *How did God chastise David? Did he receive it?*

8. *If this baby would have lived, how could it have given the enemies of God “an occasion to blaspheme” (vs 14)?*

9. *What encouragement is given in this section to parents who've had their babies die?*

10. *God gives David and Bathsheba another child. What was his name? What lesson is found in that?*

This chapter reminds us of a few things. First, we see that we are not supposed to pray for the dead. David immediately stopped praying specifically for the baby when the Lord took him home. Also, we find comfort and assurance for parents who have lost children in death. David reminds us that those children are in the arms of the Father. Vance Havner said, "When you know where something is, you haven't lost it."

11. *How did God turn a curse into a blessing by fulfilling a promise given to David? (Read 1 Chronicles 22:9)*

12. *How is this chapter a warning to all Christians?*

*We'll end here for today. I find it so encouraging that we are not disqualified from serving God once we repent from our sin. If that were so, no one would be able to be in service for the Lord. Praise the Lord for His pardon and mercy. Those are two awesome **"Reasons to Rejoice"**!*

Memory Verse of the Week: *"Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but grievous; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it." Hebrews 12:11*

Second Day

What's your memory verse? Is the fruit of righteousness present in your life?

In verses 24-25, the name Solomon means "peaceable," and Jedidiah means "beloved of the Lord." Isn't that interesting?

1. *Read II Samuel 12:26-31. List the facts you find. Also read I Chronicles 20:1-3 for additional information.*

2. *Describe Joab's loyalty to David.*

3. *What did they do with the inhabitants of Ammon?*

This chapter begins in tragedy and ends in victory for David and the people of Israel. We now enter some heart breaking chapters that record the ugly consequence of David's sins. There are three tragic events we will read about. The Holy Spirit does not hesitate to show us both the victories and the mistakes of the men and women of God in Scripture. I think the consequences of David's sin may perhaps bring him greater sorrow than if he had died himself.

4. *Read II Samuel 13:1-22. In your own words, describe what happened.*

It is significant that although the story is about Amnon and Tamar, Absalom is mentioned in the very first verse. As we later continue reading the chapter, we'll see why.

5. *Who was Amnon's mother? Who was Absalom's mom? Read II Samuel 3:1-5.*

Marriage between half brothers and sisters was forbidden in the Law (Leviticus 18:9, 11; 20:17; Dt. 27:22), but this law may not have been operating at this time. We do know that rape was strictly forbidden by God in Deuteronomy 22:28-29.

6. *What counsel did his friend/cousin give him?*
7. *Do you think he really loved her? What would be a better word for it?*
8. *How did he make sure there were no witnesses?*
9. *By throwing her out, what was Amnon trying to make it look like?*
10. *What should have been his penalty? Read Leviticus 18:9 and 29.*
11. *What does Tamar suggest, in II Samuel 13:13?*
12. *Why did Amnon hate her after he raped her?*

Amnon destroyed her chances of marriage forever. She was no longer a virgin, and Tamar mourned and wept bitterly. Verse 19 tells us that she "laid her hand on her head," which is a sign of mourning (Jeremiah 2:37). She was physically wounded and publicly humiliated, her future was ruined.

13. *What counsel does her brother Absalom give?*

Amnon was “drawn away by his own desires and enticed.” (James 1:14) That desire gave birth to sin, which literally brought forth death. Lust is a temptation we all deal with. We can lust after people, possessions, success, or money. Lust is lust, no matter what you want to call it.

14. *Define the word “lust.” Is it possible to lust after “good” things? Like what?*

15. *Read the following verses on lust. What do they say about lust?*

A. Proverbs 11:6

B. Galatians 5:16

C. Romans 13:14

D. 1 Peter 2:11-12

E. 1 Timothy 6:9-11

16. *Are you struggling with the sin of “lust”? Is there something that has caught your eye so much that you continue to be drawn to it? Repent today and ask the Lord for forgiveness. **Flee!***

See you tomorrow, ladies. Be careful what you’re looking at and what you’re thinking about!

Third Day

What’s your memory verse?

1. *Let’s begin by reading II Samuel 13:21-39. List the facts you find. What’s the main point of this section?*

2. *How did David react when he heard what happened to his daughter? What are your thoughts on that?*

3. *Why do you think he didn't do anything? How do you think David's "lack of action" made Tamar feel?*

4. *What can happen when a parent doesn't discipline a child the way he should? (Why is discipline so important?)*

5. *Have you been taking the discipline part of training your child seriously? Do you just get angry, like David, or do you take action?*

6. *How could David's reaction to the sin of his son have been detrimental to his whole kingdom?*

Absalom plotted his sin just as Amnon plotted his. The bitterness he felt toward Amnon festered for two years until he got his chance to take revenge. Maybe he was waiting for his dad to do something. Why didn't David do anything? Maybe it was because Amnon was his first born, which made him the heir to his throne. (Was that one of Absalom's motives?)

Maybe David felt like a hypocrite because of his own sin of adultery. We don't know for sure, but we do know that, unfortunately, David lacked parenting skills.

- 7. Jonadab was Amnon's bad counselor. What part does he play in this section?*

- 8. How did David respond when he heard that his sons were dead? When he heard it was only Amnon?*

- 9. Where did Absalom go? Did David miss him?*

David had lost Bathsheba's baby, he lost his son Amnon, and now David mourns for Absalom, who runs away to his grandfather's house in Geshur. (His mom was a foreigner, whom, by the way, David should not have married). In our next chapter we'll see the strange way that he deals with the sin of this son.

David obviously neglected his home. Many Christians neglect their homes for the sake of "ministry." We are called to train up our kids in the way they should go (Proverbs 22:6), and that takes time.

- 10. How much time are you spending with your kids? What's the difference between just spending time with them and training them? Is it possible to do one without the other?*

- 11. How should we balance home and ministry? How do you?*

I pray that, as moms, (if you are one), we never neglect our kids for the sake of ministry, careers, or personal goals. Our goal is to raise kids that love the Lord with all their heart and want to serve Him forever! That's pretty serious, isn't it? If you have a child you trained in the Lord but has walked away, take heart! Keep praying for the prodigal to come home!

Fourth Day

Practice your memory verse.

1. *Read II Samuel 14:1-24. What is the main point of this section? What new characters are introduced? List any interesting facts you find.*

2. *Describe Joab's plan to get Absalom home. How was the woman disguised?*

3. *What do you think Joab's motives were?*

4. *How does David respond to this woman's imaginary story? (Did he fall for the trick?)*

Tekoa is in southern Judah, six miles from Bethlehem. It seems strange that this woman would have access to the king, but we must remember that when the king was acting as judge, he was accessible to all his subjects.

5. *How do you think David guessed that Joab put her up to it?*

David was tricked into allowing Absalom to come back, but he does put certain restrictions on the homecoming.

- 6. What were the conditions of Absalom's return? Why do you think David did this?*

- 7. David's parenting skills are in question again. What do you think David "should" have done?*

- 8. When our children sin, what should we do? Is it right to disown them, or "put them out," so to speak? Why or why not?*

- 9. Why isn't "ignoring" our kids an acceptable way to train them? What are the dangers of that?*

Just "being angry" at our children doesn't teach them anything. We must do whatever it takes to help them understand that they need to confess their sin and to ask for forgiveness from not only the one they offended, but from God Himself.

- 10. When we get angry at our kids, what should we do? How do we train them without lashing out in anger?*

Charles Swindoll said, “David may have given Absalom the finest house to live in, money to spend, and servants to meet his needs, but he didn’t give him the one thing his son needed the most: a relationship with his father.” Make sure you aren’t following David’s example in the area of raising kids!

Fifth Day

Write your verse by memory. Can you also rewrite it in your own words?

- 1. Let’s finish up by reading II Samuel 14:25-33. How is Absalom described?*

It’s interesting that we’re given so much detail on Absalom’s hair. (I wish my hair looked like his!) We’ll find out why in chapter 18. Notice that the woman from Tekoa mentions his hair in verse 11.

- 2. How many children did he have? Why do you think he named his daughter Tamar?*

- 3. How long was Absalom in Jerusalem before he saw his dad?*

Absalom probably got very frustrated that he couldn’t see his father. Absalom was as deceitful and cunning as he was good looking.

- 4. How did Absalom convince the king to see him?*

*It seems like David and his son were restored, but we'll see later that even though Absalom appeared to want a reunion with his dad, he really wanted to divide the kingdom. (We need to watch out for this guy!) **Let's take a minute and ask ourselves a few questions to conclude our lesson.***

5. Do you think the consequences of sin have changed over the years? In what ways?

6. Have you ever heard people (or yourself) use any of these excuses for sin? Write your thoughts on each.

1. "If I play it smart, I can have the best of both worlds."

2. "If I keep my sin a secret, no one will get hurt?"

3. "Even if I get caught, I can always ask for forgiveness."

7. Describe true repentance.

8. How can you guard yourself against sin?

9. In what ways can I be a better parent?

God bless you as you serve the Lord this week!