

II Samuel 12:15-31

Lesson #14, A Stunning Transformation

“Although David’s sin was a serious offence to God, and although he had continued long with a hardened and unrepentant spirit, a direct confrontation by God’s word elicited a confession and an act of humiliation before God and men.” . . . “The son of Jesse, so used to praying and praising his God, had long ignored speaking to Him about Bathsheba, her son, or his own grievous transgression. Failure to account for our sins before God can cut off a lifeline of prayer.

Suddenly the old springs of prayer in David’s heart were reopened. His approach to God was humble, as indicated by David’s prostrate position and by his fasting.”¹

15 So Nathan went to his house. Then the Lord struck the child ^a that Uriah’s widow bore to David, so that he was very sick. 16 David therefore inquired of God for the child; and David fasted and went and lay all night on the ground. 17 The elders of his household stood beside him in order to raise him up from the ground, but he was unwilling and would not eat food with them. 18 Then it happened on the seventh day that the child died. And the servants of David were afraid to tell him that the child was dead, for they said, “Behold, while the child was still alive, we spoke to him and he did not listen to our voice. How then can we tell him that the child is dead, since he might do himself harm!” 19 But when David saw that his servants were whispering together, David perceived that the child was dead; so David said to his servants, “Is the child dead?” And they said, “He is dead.” 20 So David arose from the ground, washed, anointed himself, and changed his clothes; and he came into the house of the Lord and worshiped. Then he came to his own house, and when he requested, they set food before him and he ate.

^a II Sam 12:14

[1.] v:15, What was the gender of Bathsheba’s baby?

[2.] v:15b, Who are some of the casualties of “our” own sin?

[3.] v:16, What was David doing when he inquired of God? (II Sam 5:19 & 23)

[4.] Referring to question [3.] how long did David do this?

[5.] v:18, Why were the servants afraid to tell David of the child’s death?

[6.] v:20, write down what David did upon hearing of the death of the child?

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21 Then his servants said to him, "What is this thing that you have done? While the child was alive, you fasted and wept; but when the child died, you arose and ate food." 22 He said, "While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept; for I said, 'Who knows, the Lord may be gracious to me, that the child may live.' 23 "But now he has died; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I will go to him, but he will not return to me."

24 Then David comforted his wife Bathsheba, and went in to her and lay with her; and she gave birth to a son, and he named him Solomon. Now the Lord loved him 25 and sent word through Nathan the prophet, and he named him Jedidiah for the Lord's sake.

[7.] v:22, What was David's reply to his servant's questions, v:21?

[8.] How does your answer to question [7.], show that David knew the Lord hears prayers?

[9.] v:24, Who gave Solomon his name?

[10.] v:25, Who chose the name Jedidiah?

[11.] v:24-25, Look up the meanings of the following names.

Solomon

Jedidiah

And once again the scene changes. We go from David's house back to the siege of Rabbah where we see that Joab finally had success!

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26 Now Joab fought against Rabbah of the sons of Ammon and captured the royal city. 27 Joab sent messengers to David and said, "I have fought against Rabbah, I have even captured the city of waters.

[12] v:27, write down Joab's message to David.

OK, This seems like a good time to saunter down a little rabbit trail! I know you are dying to know why Joab used the term, the city of waters, . . . right?

step #1, With whom was Joab at war?

step#2, When the children of Israel were approaching the promised land, (Deut 2:19) what was God's orders to them?

step #3, Looking at Gen 13:10, describe why this place was chosen?

So now you can decide if, what you discovered was the reason Joab used the term, the city of waters.

28 "Now therefore, gather the rest of the people together and camp against the city and capture it, or I will capture the city myself and it will be named after me." 29 So David gathered all the people and went to Rabbah, fought against it and captured it.

[13.] The apparent contradiction of v:26-27 with v:28 could be explained by:

a) Joab really gave up and wanted David to finish the Job.

b) It was a question of, who was going to get the credit for the victory.

[14.] v:28, What did Joab say that might have given David incentive to move quickly on Rabbah?

30 Then he took the crown of their king from his head; and its weight was a talent of gold, and in it was a precious stone; and it was placed on David's head. And he brought out the spoil of the city in great amounts.

[15.] v:30, What did David get for his effort?

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31 He also brought out the people who were in it, and set them under saws, sharp iron instruments, and iron axes, and made them pass through the brickkiln. And thus he did to all the cities of the sons of Ammon. Then David and all the people returned to Jerusalem.

[16.] v:31, What else did David get from the conquered city?

[17.] Summarizing v:30-31, Describe how David would be expanding the empire?