

In Search of a King 1-2 SAMUEL

¹³ Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." And Nathan said to David, "The LORD also has taken away your sin; you shall not die.

¹⁴ However, because by this deed you have given occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also that is born to you shall surely die."

2 Samuel 12:7-15

A Severe Mercy

⁷ Nathan then said to David, "You are the man! Thus says the LORD God of Israel, 'It is I who anointed you king over Israel and it is I who delivered you from the hand of Saul. ⁸ I also gave you your master's house and your master's wives into your care, and I gave you the house of Israel and Judah; and if *that had been* too little, I would have added to you many more things like these! ⁹ Why have you despised the word of the LORD by doing evil in His sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword, have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the sons of Ammon. ¹⁰ Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised Me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.'

¹¹ Thus says the LORD, 'Behold, I will raise up evil against you from your own household; I will even take your wives before your eyes and give *them* to your companion, and he will lie with your wives in broad daylight. ¹² Indeed you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel, and under the sun.'" ¹³ Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." And Nathan said to David, "The LORD also has taken away your sin; you shall not die. ¹⁴ However, because by this deed you have given occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also that is born to you shall surely die." ¹⁵ So Nathan went to his house. Then the LORD struck the child that Uriah's wife bore to David, so that he was *very* sick.

(2 Samuel 12:7-15)

A Severe Mercy

➤ Divine Consequences of David's Sin

- the sword shall never depart from his house
- evil will come against David from his own family, including giving his wives to his neighbor
- the child born from "Uriah's wife" will die

A Severe Mercy

➤ How are we to understand these?

1. Consequences
 - sin has devastating, temporal consequences that may last a lifetime
 - the sins of parents have consequences for their children

A Severe Mercy

➤ How are we to understand these?

2. Compensation
 - these consequences are a form of equivalent, judicial recompense for David's crimes

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➤ How are we to understand these?

3. Correction
 - these were not merely "natural" consequences but divinely inflicted chastisements
 - these consequences were a form of fatherly discipline rooted in loyal love (cf. 7:14)

"MY SON, DO NOT REGARD LIGHTLY THE DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD,
NOR FAINT WHEN YOU ARE REPROVED BY HIM;
⁶ FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES,
AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES."

⁷ It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom *his* father does not discipline? ...but He *disciplines us* for *our* good, so that we may share His holiness. ¹¹ All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness. (Hebrews 12:5-6, 10-11)

A Severe Mercy

➤ Two categories of God's discipline:

1. Suffering and trial for spiritual growth but not resulting from any specific sin (cf. 2 Cor. 12:7)
2. Suffering and trial for correction as a result of specific sin (cf. 1 Cor. 11:30-32)