

David: After God's Heart

The consequences of sin should lead to repentance.



TRANSFORMATION
for Adult LifeGroups

2 SAMUEL 24:10-25 - DISCIPLINED

AUGUST 26, 2018

TODAY'S TEXT

Text: 2 SAMUEL 24:10-25 (NIV), *David was conscience-stricken after he had counted the fighting men, and he said to the Lord, "I have sinned greatly in what I have done. Now, Lord, I beg you, take away the guilt of your servant. I have done a very foolish thing." 11 Before David got up the next morning, the word of the Lord had come to Gad the prophet, David's seer: 12 "Go and tell David, 'This is what the Lord says: I am giving you three options. Choose one of them for me to carry out against you.'" 13 So Gad went to David and said to him, "Shall there come on you three[a] years of famine in your land? Or three months of fleeing from your enemies while they pursue you? Or three days of plague in your land? Now then, think it over and decide how I should answer the one who sent me." 14 David said to Gad, "I am in deep distress. Let us fall into the hands of the Lord, for his mercy is great; but do not let me fall into human hands." 15 So the Lord sent a plague on Israel from that morning until the end of the time designated, and seventy thousand of the people from Dan to Beersheba died. 16 When the angel stretched out his hand to destroy Jerusalem, the Lord relented concerning the disaster and said to the angel who was afflicting the people, "Enough! Withdraw your hand." The angel of the Lord was then at the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite. 17 When David saw the angel who was striking down the people, he said to the Lord, "I have sinned; I, the shepherd,[b] have done wrong. These are but sheep. What have they done? Let your hand fall on me and my family." 18 On that day Gad went to David and said to him, "Go up and build an altar to the Lord on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite." 19 So David went up, as the Lord had commanded through Gad. 20 When Araunah looked and saw the king and his officials coming toward him, he went out and bowed down before the king with his face to the ground. 21 Araunah said, "Why has my lord the king come to his servant?" "To buy your threshing floor," David answered, "so I can build an altar to the Lord, that the plague on the people may be stopped." 22 Araunah said to David, "Let my lord the king take whatever he wishes and offer it up. Here are oxen for the burnt offering, and here are threshing sledges and ox yokes for the wood. 23 Your Majesty, Araunah[c] gives all this to the king." Araunah also said to him, "May the Lord your God accept you." 24 But the king replied to Araunah, "No, I insist on paying you for it. I will not sacrifice to the Lord my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing." So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen and paid fifty shekels[d] of silver for them. 25 David built an altar to the Lord there and sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. Then the Lord answered his prayer in behalf of the land, and the plague on Israel was stopped.*

FIRST THOUGHTS

- What's the first image that comes to mind when you hear discipline? How can we tell if a method of discipline is the right one, and if it has been effective?

UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXT

God's discipline of His people often takes the form of letting us suffer the consequences of choices made. His purpose is to bring about a repentance of heart. At times, we suffer because of our bad choices, at other times others suffer because of our choices. David experienced contrition over his disobedience. He also saw his people suffer because of what he had done. His request that he, rather than his people, might be punished is a revealing aspect of David's heart.

It is noteworthy that the last name mentioned in chapter 23 is Uriah the Hittite. Among Israel's elite warriors, he was also the man whom David sent to an unnecessary death to cover his sin of adultery. Chapter 24 details the second great sin of David's life, also connected to the military. Taking a census was not of itself a sinful act, for God commanded Moses to do this in Numbers 1:1-3. However, doing it improperly could result in a plague (Ex. 30:12). This should have alerted David to act carefully, but he did not.

Even Joab, never known for his keen sensitivity and sense of propriety, warned David about this decision. He affirmed the capability of the Lord to provide Israel with all the troops needed apart from David's intervention. The king ignored Joab's words and the census was conducted anyway. It is debated as to the exact nature of David's transgression. It seems most likely that it was prompted by pride and reflected at least a measure of self-sufficiency. In addition, the process was not done according to the law (Ex. 30:13-16), an error David made once before with the moving of the ark.

This episode has much in common with God's avenging of the massacre of the Gibeonites by Saul (2 Sam. 21:1-14). A common thread between this lesson's text and that event is that David took actions to save the nation and ensured that the proper sacrifice was made to avert judgment. In both cases there was a recognition that prior actions had been wrong and submission to God's will was needed.

EXPLORE THE TEXT

CONFESSION

> Read 2 Samuel 24:10

- ° What emotions might we experience when we recognize we've done wrong?
- ° How can we know if what we're feeling is actually conviction from God?

CONSEQUENCES

> Read 2 Samuel 24:11-15

- ° How did Gad guide David through God's discipline process? What would have made it easier or harder for David to respond to Gad?
- ° David was given three choices for his punishment. What happened as a result of his choice?

COMPASSION

> Read 2 Samuel 24:16-17

- ° What question did David ask in verse 17? How do you suppose God answered?
- ° What compelled David to change his mind about the plague and take responsibility?
- ° How does humility give us the courage to change our behavior? Is humility required for a change in behavior?
- ° What makes a person too stubborn to heed discipline? What makes a person responsive to discipline?

CONTRITION

> Read 2 Samuel 24:18-25

- ° How is doing rightly a repeated action rather than a one time event?

SUMMARIZE AND CHALLENGE

God disciplines His people to move them to repentance.

Where do we find the courage to go all the way from repentance to the goodness on the other side?

Personal Challenge: Identify a reason you have not turned from a wrong you have done. That wrong may have been continuing for years. Perhaps people know or perhaps they don't. Courageously talk with God and with at least one trustworthy person about how to change back to right behavior. Then do so, with the support of people who genuinely care.

UPCOMING LESSONS

No LifeGroups will meet on Sunday, September 2.

Campus wide Night of Worship will be Wednesday, September 5 at the Hodges Campus at 6:30pm.

New series starting September 9/12 - UNSTOPPABLE.

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE

27th - Jeremiah 52; Revelation 1; Psalm 143, 144 | **28th** - Ezekiel 1-3; Revelation 2 | **29th** - Ezekiel 4-7; Revelation 3 | **30th** - Ezekiel 8-11; Revelation 4 | **31st** - Ezekiel 12-14; Revelation 5 | **1st** - Ezekiel 15-16; Psalm 70; Revelation 6 | **2nd** - Ezekiel 17-19; Revelation 7