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## Daily Rice 2024 February 23

YouTube Prayer Link

God does not regard sin as innocence

The Judgment of the Leader

Second Samuel chapter 12 tells the story of how the prophet Nathan confronted Bathsheba and Uriah over David's sin. Nathan came to David and told him a parable about a rich man who took a poor man's only lamb and caused great harm to the poor. David was outraged by the injustice in the story and said that the rich should be. Nathan goes on to reveal that David was the rich man in the parable, who married Uriah's wife, Bathsheba, and killed him. Nathan told David that God was angry with him for what he had done and that there were consequences for his actions. The gravity of David's sin and its impact on his family was that God announced that the child born of his affair with Bathsheba would die. David repented of his sins and confessed his mistakes, and Nathan told him that God had forgiven him, but that there would still be consequences for his actions. This chapter emphasizes the importance of confessing sins and repenting of one's own sins, as well as the power of prophetic voices in holding leaders accountable to God's justice and righteous standards.

God does not regard sin as innocence

As Christians, we believe that God is righteous and that He does not take guilt for innocence. God's Bible teaches us that sin is contrary to His holiness and that He cannot tolerate sin. However, Christianity also teaches us that God is merciful and forgiving, and that He is willing to accept repentant people and forgive their sins. So, while God does not acquit sin, He makes it possible for sinners to be forgiven and reborn in His mercy through Christ's path of redemption

and repentance. In prayer, we can ask God for forgiveness and seek His help to change our lives and make us more in line with His will.

When God's justice comes, no one can resist it. The Bible says that God is all-powerful and that His power is above all else. His righteousness is not limited in any way, nor is it subject to human will. In the Bible, we see many examples of when God acts, whether it's dealing with sin or saving His people, His plan is always done, and no one can stand in the way of His will.

When God's justice comes, it will reveal all hidden truths and reveal the judgment of justice. At that time, humanity will face the severity of His judgment and will not be able to escape His judgment. However, for those who trust in God and obey His will, His righteousness will be their refuge and comfort.

Therefore, when we face God's justice, we should be humble and obedient and trust in His grace and mercy. At the same time, we should glorify God's name by pursuing righteousness in our daily lives and acting in accordance with God's moral standards, and by preparing ourselves for His righteous coming.

The death of Absalom, the son of King David, and the death of Adonijah, the son of Beersheba, are seen in the Bible as part of God's judgment. Absalom betrayed his father, David, plotted to usurp the throne, only to be defeated and killed in battle. Adonijah also tried to establish himself as king, disobeying God's successor to the throne of David, and was ultimately defeated and died.

Both of these events demonstrate God's justice and judgment. God judges not only the sins of individuals, but also the sins of nations. Although King David was a king pleasing to God, his family was also punished by God for their sins. These judgments are a reminder that God will not tolerate unrighteousness, and that both royalty and ordinary people must be obedient to God's will and act in accordance with God's moral standards.

These stories also show God's mercy and forgiveness. King David's tears and mourning for King David's sons despite their sins showed the father's love and mercy for his son. After these punishments, God also gave David and the people of Israel the opportunity to repent and rebuild their relationship with God.

Exodus 23:7 says, "You shall not condemn the innocent without cause, for I will not acquit the guilty." This passage underscores God's importance of justice, and that He does not arbitrarily treat innocent people as guilty, nor does He pervert right and wrong for personal gain or other purposes.

Here are a few verses in the Bible about God's judgment:

1. Psalm 9:7: "But the Lord sits down to reign forever; He has prepared his throne for judgment. "
2. Psalm 96:13: "The sea, the earth, and those who dwell in it before him shall rejoice." "
3. Isaiah 3:13: "The Lord stands to judge; He stood to judge the people. "
4. Isaiah 30:18: "The Lord is still waiting to be gracious to you; He arises again to have mercy on you. for the LORD is a God of justice; Blessed are all who wait for him. "

5. Isaiah 33:22: "For the Lord is our judge; Jehovah is our Judge of Law; The LORD is our King; He will save us. "

These verses show God's role as the judge, that He is just, and that He judges all actions based on His holiness and justice.

## We pray

Dear God

We humbly come to God and thank Him for His love and mercy. Lord, we know that You are slow and not to be slow, that Your wisdom is higher than our wisdom, and Your thoughts are higher than our thoughts. Help us understand Your plan and understand Your will. May we learn to obey Your guidance and walk according to Your heart every day in our lives. Give us humility so that we are not complacent or arrogant, but always rely on Your grace and strength. Lord, may Your love and mercy fill our lives and lead us on the path of righteousness. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray, amen.

## 2 Samuel chapter 12

2Sa. 12:1 The LORD sent Nathan to David. When he came to him, he said, "There were two men in a certain town, one rich and the other poor.

2Sa. 12:2 The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cattle,

2Sa. 12:3 but the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb that he had bought. He raised it, and it grew up with him and his children. It shared his food, drank from his cup and even slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him.

2Sa. 12:4 "Now a traveller came to the rich man, but the rich man refrained from taking one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare a meal for the traveller who had come to him. Instead, he took the ewe lamb that belonged to the poor man and prepared it for the one who had come to him."

2Sa. 12:5 David burned with anger against the man and said to Nathan, "As surely as the LORD lives, the man who did this deserves to die!

2Sa. 12:6 He must pay for that lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and had no pity."

2Sa. 12:7 Then Nathan said to David, "You are the man! This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul.

2Sa. 12:8 I gave your master's house to you, and your master's wives into your arms. I gave you the house of Israel and Judah. And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more.

2Sa. 12:9 Why did you despise the word of the LORD by doing what is evil in his eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites.

2Sa. 12:10 Now, therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah

the Hittite to be your own.’

2Sa. 12:11 “This is what the LORD says: ‘Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity upon you. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will lie with your wives in broad daylight.

2Sa. 12:12 You did it in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel.’”

2Sa. 12:13 Then David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the LORD.” Nathan replied, “The LORD has taken away your sin. You are not going to die.

2Sa. 12:14 But because by doing this you have made the enemies of the LORD show utter contempt, [Masoretic Text; an ancient Hebrew scribal tradition this you have shown utter contempt for the LORD] the son born to you will die.”

2Sa. 12:15 After Nathan had gone home, the LORD struck the child that Uriah’s wife had borne to David, and he became ill.

2Sa. 12:16 David pleaded with God for the child. He fasted and went into his house and spent the nights lying on the ground.

2Sa. 12:17 The elders of his household stood beside him to get him up from the ground, but he refused, and he would not eat any food with them.

2Sa. 12:18 On the seventh day the child died. David’s servants were afraid to tell him that the child was dead, for they thought, “While the child was still living, we spoke to David but he would not listen to us. How can we tell him the child is dead?

He may do something desperate.”

2Sa. 12:19 David noticed that his servants were whispering among themselves and he realised that the child was dead. “Is the child dead?” he asked. “Yes,” they replied, “he is dead.” 2Sa.

12:20 Then David got up from the ground. After he had washed,

put on lotions and changed his clothes, he went into the house of the LORD and worshipped. Then he went to his own house, and at his request they served him food, and he ate.

2Sa. 12:21 His servants asked him, “Why are you acting in this way? While the child was alive, you fasted and wept, but now that the child is dead, you get up and eat!”

2Sa. 12:22 He answered, “While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept. I thought, ‘Who knows? The LORD may be gracious

to me and let the child live.’

2Sa. 12:23 But now that he is dead, why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I will go to him, but he will not return to me.” 2Sa. 12:24 Then David comforted his wife Bathsheba, and he went to her and lay with her. She gave birth to a son, and they named him Solomon. The LORD loved him;

2Sa. 12:25 and because the LORD loved him, he sent word through Nathan the prophet to name him Jedidiah. [Jedidiah means loved by the LORD.]

2Sa. 12:26 Meanwhile Joab fought against Rabbah of the Ammonites and captured the royal citadel.

2Sa. 12:27 Joab then sent messengers to David, saying, “I have fought against Rabbah and taken its water supply.

2Sa. 12:28 Now muster the rest of the troops and besiege the city and capture it. Otherwise I shall take the city, and it will be named after me.”

2Sa. 12:29 So David mustered the entire army and went to Rabbah, and attacked and captured it.

2Sa. 12:30 He took the crown from the head of their king — [Or of Milcom (that is, Molech)] its weight was a talent [That is, about 75 pounds (about 34 kilograms)] of gold, and it was set with precious stones — and it was placed on David’s head. He took a great quantity of plunder from the city

2Sa. 12:31 and brought out the people who were there, consigning them to labour with saws and with iron picks and axes, and he made them work at brickmaking. [The meaning of the

Hebrew for this clause is uncertain.] He did this to all the Ammonite towns. Then David and his entire army returned to Jerusalem.

Chapter 12 of the book of 2 Samuel tells the story of how the prophet Nathan confronts David about his sin with Bathsheba and Uriah. Nathan comes to David and tells him a parable about a rich man who takes a poor man's only lamb, causing the poor man great harm. David is outraged at the injustice in the story and says that the rich man deserves to die. Nathan then reveals that David is the rich man in the parable and that he has taken Bathsheba, Uriah's wife, and killed him. Nathan tells David that God is angry with him for what he has done and that there will be consequences for his actions. David repents of his sin and acknowledges his wrongdoing, and Nathan tells him that God has forgiven him but that there will still be consequences for his actions. The chapter emphasizes the importance of confessing and repenting of one's sins and the power of the prophetic voice in holding leaders accountable to God's standards of justice and righteousness.

Chapter 12 of the book of 2 Samuel describes the consequences of David's sin with Bathsheba and the rebuke he receives from the prophet Nathan. Here are some important verses from this chapter:

1. "The Lord sent Nathan to David. When he came to him, he said, 'There were two men in a certain town, one rich and the other poor.'" (2 Samuel 12:1) - This verse introduces Nathan, a prophet sent by God to rebuke David for his sin.
2. "David burned with anger against the man and said to Nathan, 'As surely as the Lord lives, the man who did this must die!'" (2 Samuel 12:5) - This verse shows David's reaction to Nathan's story about the rich man who stole a poor man's lamb, highlighting David's sense of justice and moral outrage.
3. "Then Nathan said to David, 'You are the man!'" (2 Samuel 12:7) - This verse reveals Nathan's true purpose in coming to David, as he confronts him about his sin with Bathsheba and the murder of Uriah.
4. "Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own." (2 Samuel 12:10) - This verse shows the consequences of David's sin, as God declares that his household will be plagued with violence and unrest.
5. "Then David said to Nathan, 'I have sinned against the Lord.'" (2 Samuel 12:13) - This verse shows David's response to Nathan's rebuke, as he confesses his sin and acknowledges his wrongdoing before God.
6. "But because by doing this you have shown utter contempt for the Lord, the son born to you will die." (2 Samuel 12:14) - This verse shows the severity of David's sin and its impact on his family, as God declares that the child born from his affair with Bathsheba will die.
7. "David pleaded with God for the child. He fasted and spent the nights lying in sackcloth on the ground." (2 Samuel 12:16) - This verse shows David's remorse over his sin and his desperate attempt to seek God's mercy and save the life of his child.
8. "Then David got up from the ground. After he had washed, put on lotions and changed his clothes, he went into the house of the Lord and worshiped." (2 Samuel 12:20) - This verse shows David's response to the death of his child, as he turns to God in worship and acceptance of His will.

Overall, chapter 12 of 2 Samuel shows the consequences of David's sin with Bathsheba and the rebuke he receives from Nathan. The chapter emphasizes the importance of confession, repentance, and seeking God's forgiveness in the face of sin and wrongdoing.

In 2 Samuel Chapter 12, we witness the confrontation of David by the prophet Nathan after his sinful actions with Bathsheba and Uriah. Here are some key reflections from the chapter:

**Nathan's Parable:** Nathan comes to David and presents a parable about a rich man who unjustly takes a poor man's only beloved lamb, which parallels David's sin with Bathsheba. The parable serves as a powerful means of conviction and opens David's eyes to the gravity of his actions. It highlights the importance of confrontational truth-telling in holding individuals accountable for their sins.

**David's Recognition of Guilt:** When David realizes that the parable is directed at him, he confesses his sin, acknowledging his guilt before God and Nathan. This moment reveals David's willingness to confront his wrongdoing and take responsibility for the consequences of his actions. It serves as a reminder of the importance of genuine repentance and the need to acknowledge our sins before God.

**Consequences of David's Sin:** Although David's sins are forgiven, Nathan declares that there will still be consequences. The child conceived through David and Bathsheba's affair will die. This highlights the principle that even when forgiveness is granted, there may still be earthly consequences for our actions. It serves as a reminder that sin has lasting effects and can bring about pain and suffering in our lives and the lives of others.

**God's Mercy and Grace:** Despite David's sin, God's mercy and grace are evident in this chapter. Nathan assures David that his sin is forgiven, and God will not take his life. It reveals the compassionate nature of God and His willingness to extend forgiveness to those who genuinely repent. It offers hope that even in the face of our failings, God's mercy is available to us.

**Learning from Mistakes:** Chapter 12 provides an opportunity for reflection on the consequences of sin and the importance of learning from our mistakes. It teaches us about the potential ramifications of our actions and the need for accountability and repentance. It also underscores the transformative power of God's forgiveness and the opportunity for growth and restoration in our relationship with Him.

Overall, 2 Samuel Chapter 12 offers reflections on the power of confrontation, David's recognition of guilt, the consequences of sin, God's mercy and grace, and the opportunity for learning and growth. It serves as a reminder of the importance of accountability, repentance, and the redemptive work of God in our lives.