

Trials of a King

Day One – Repentance

Today's reading: Page 161 through break on page 165

This reading covers: 2 Samuel 11-12; Psalm 51

Summary: David repents after realizing the depth of his sin (Psalm 51).

Consider this:

Does sin always bring negative consequences? What were some of the consequences of David's sins? What is your definition of repentance? One definition might be the turning away from sin and toward God. David's psalm reveals some of the emotions his repentance brought: guilt, regret and contrition, as well as a sense of cleansing and restoration. David writes, "Against you, you only, have I sinned." Despite how our sin affects others, why is sin first and foremost an offense against God? God used the prophet Nathan to confront David about his sin. What should our role be regarding accountability with fellow Christians?

For further reading: Isaiah 59:1-3; Acts 2:38; Romans 6:23; Galatians 6:1-3; 1 John 1:9-10

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, I come before you acknowledging those things I have done that separate me from you. I am sorry. Through the death and resurrection of your son on my behalf, I ask for forgiveness. In his name I pray, Amen.

Day Two – Forgiveness

Today's reading: Break on page 165 through break on page 169

This reading covers: Psalm 32; 2 Samuel 18

Summary: David expresses gratitude for God's forgiveness (Psalm 32).

Consider this:

David writes, "When I kept silent, my bones wasted away...your hand was heavy on me; my strength was sapped...." David's words about guilt ring true, don't they? We've all felt shame and remorse due to our sinful actions. How does the assurance of God's forgiveness free us and bring peace? Have you ever been negligent in expressing your thankfulness to God for his gifts of salvation and forgiveness? How should knowing that God forgives you affect your relationships with those who have wronged you?

For further reading: Psalm 103; Matthew 18:21-35

Prayer:

Father God, how amazing is your love for me that you remember my sins no more. In Christ's blood, I'm forgiven. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Amen.

Day Three – Trust

Today's reading: Break on page 169 through end of chapter

This reading covers: 1 Chronicles 22, 29; Psalm 23

Summary: David communicates his trust in God (Psalm 23).

Consider this:

Do you sense that as David's life was coming to an end, he felt closer to God than he ever had? One way he showed his joy and trust in God was with generous giving. Do you have a generous heart when it comes to giving back to God? Do you think the words of Psalm 23 are meant to be a comfort only in times of danger or sorrow? How do the words reinforce your certainty of God's protection and provision every day?

For further reading: Proverbs 3:5-6; Philippians 4:6-7; 1 Timothy 6:17-19

Prayer:

God, thank you so much for the generous way in which you care for me. Like David, I trust you as my protector, shepherd and the provider of all my needs. Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.