

## **Lessons Learned in the Valley – Part 2** **2 Samuel 12:13-25**

### **Introduction:**

1. After the king of Israel (David) had committed adultery with Bathsheba, he hid his sin for over a year, hoping that God would forget it.
2. As we have seen, God didn't forget it, but rather sent the prophet (Nathan) to rebuke David for his sin. What was David's response? vs. 13
3. David acknowledged his sin and God forgave him, but David was about to enter one of the lowest valleys of his life.
4. Nobody enjoys the valleys of life, but life is not a continuous mountaintop experience - not even for the believer. A Christian has his share of struggles, heartaches, and valleys just like everybody else. We are not immune to the valleys, nor are we immune to the feelings and emotions that come with the valleys (despair, discouragement, loneliness, fear, depression).
5. But, those of you who have been through valleys could probably attest to one thing - the most powerful lessons you have learned in life have been taught to you through the valleys of life. This is true of King David and the valley he went through.
6. You may be in a valley right now, and you feel like things are about as low as they can get. Let's look at David and the lessons he learned while in the valley, and allow these things to help us and encourage us today.

### **First lesson learned – there are consequences when I disobey God.**

### **Second lesson learned – closeness to God can come through the valleys.**

### **Third lesson learned – God may deliver you through the valley rather than out of the valley.**

1. David is fasting, praying, and beseeching God, but notice verse 18. David prayed and besought God for seven days, but yet the child died.
2. When we are in the valley, naturally, we want God to reach down and lift us right out of the valley, and set us on the mountain. We want God to answer our prayers in a way that will eliminate any pain, suffering, and heartache.
3. Here is the problem – we don't always know what is best, and we don't always know the best thing to pray for. Romans 8:26
4. We say, "God, get me **out** of the valley." God says, "No, I'll give you my strength and grace to walk **through** the valley (2 Corinthians 12:8-10)." This brings us to our next point.

### **Fourth lesson learned – God gives His grace to endure the valleys of life.**

1. After David discovered that the baby had died (vs. 18-19), notice David's response (vs. 20). His servants couldn't figure this out. vs. 21

2. Did God answer his prayer the way David desired? No, but God gave David the grace to bear it. David didn't get bitter at God (vs. 20). He went into the house of the Lord and worshiped.
  - Instead of focusing on what he lost, he focused on the promises of God. vs. 22-23
3. God provided David the grace to make it through this deep valley in his life. 1 Corinthians 10:13 has been greatly misunderstood, but has direct application to what we are considering right now.
  - Some use this verse to teach that God puts the believer through adverse circumstances intentionally to strengthen you and temper you like steel put through the fire.
  - They teach that God does this to prepare you or enable you to do something great later. They say, "When you are right at the breaking point, God will step in and deliver you."
  - This all sounds very intriguing, but it is not what Paul is teaching in this verse.
4. Notice, the adversity or temptation in this verse is "*common to man*." He isn't discussing things that are unique only to believers, but these adversities are common to saved and unsaved alike. They aren't some special, unique "testings" from the hand of God.
5. But, we see what **is unique** to the believer - God is faithful, and God makes the believer able to handle these things without breaking apart under the load.
6. God provides a way of escape. But, what is this way of escape? Here's what you commonly hear: "When you are right at the breaking point, God will swoop in and deliver you if you just trust Him (pray through, name and claim it, etc)."
7. There is an obvious problem with this kind of thinking. At the end of the verse Paul says, "...*that ye may be able to bear it*." The adversity doesn't go away. God enables you to **bear it**. He does this through His Word, and all the marvelous resources He's given you in Christ. 2 Corinthians 9:8
8. If adversity or sin swallows us up and destroys us, we cannot point an accusing finger at God and say, "God, you put too much on me." God has provided the way of escape that we might be able to bear it (endure it).
  - The way of escape is not God removing the circumstance so that you don't have to face it anymore, but the deliverance is God empowering you so you can go through the circumstance victoriously. 2 Timothy 3:11
  - By applying His Word and His grace to the situation, you are able to bear up under it, and it doesn't destroy you.

#### **Fifth lesson learned – God is the God of all comfort in the valleys.**

1. After their baby died, David comforted Bathsheba (vs. 24). David had experienced God's comfort when he worshiped in the house of God, so therefore he could comfort his wife.
2. What did God do? God sent them comfort by giving them another son – Solomon.
3. As we said earlier, God may not just reach down and snatch us out of the valley. It is during these times we can truly grow in our faith. But God **will** provide His

incredible comfort in the midst of the valley. In fact, did you know that God is called the God of all comfort? 2 Corinthians 1:3-5

- We have the Comforter Himself (the Holy Spirit) living inside of us. The Holy Spirit indwells us and is there for us 24/7. John 14:16, 26
- We also have the comfort of the Scriptures. The Holy Spirit takes the Word of God and comforts us, and gives us what we need.

**In Conclusion:**

1. Are you going through a valley right now? Don't allow your valley to make you bitter. Use the valley to make you better.
2. There are some wonderful lessons that we can learn while in the valley. Many times, we can't seem to learn these lessons any other way.
3. I don't believe that God manipulated circumstances to put you in the valley. I don't believe that God is trying to make your life miserable. I believe valley times are a normal and natural part of this life we live in.
4. Everybody has trials, saved and unsaved alike. But, the believer has the Lord with him through every valley of life. The believer has the Comforter to strengthen and sustain him through every moment.