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Chapter 12

²⁴ Then David comforted Bathsheba his wife, and went in to her and lay with her. So she bore a son, and he called his name Solomon. Now the Lord loved him, ²⁵ and He sent *word* by the hand of Nathan the prophet: So he called his name Jedidiah, because of the Lord.

- Before repentance and after repentance are two completely different looks
 - Living in sin you have fear, anger, anxiety, enmity with men, fear and isolation from God
 - When one returns to God, everything in his life returns to normal
- Solomon means "Salam" - "Man of peace"
 - After repentance comes peace
 - So someone who has the fear, anxiety, enmity, etc. it's a symptom of lacking repentance
 - When repentance is true and full, there is peace
- Repentance has fruit
 - St John the Baptist told the people: "Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance" (Matthew 3:8)
 - Don't just say "I repented" - it's not a word, it's not just saying "I'm wrong" - it needs to bear fruit
 - The fruit of David's repentance here is Solomon
 - Some people when they repent they say "from now on my life is for God; I will pray a lot and do lots of good deeds and try to please God" and this is fruitful and pleasing to God. Some people when they repent just say "I'm just gonna stop doing this one thing" and they become like the fig tree without fruit
 - The heavens rejoice for one sinner that repents - but it has to be a true repentance.
 - Zaccheaus bore fruit of repentance when he said in front of everyone that he returns all that he took and restores fourfold
- The Lord loved Solomon
 - Just as the Lord sent Nathan to rebuke David, He also sent him to congratulate and bless David at the birth of Solomon
 - Jedidiah - "Yad yadiah" - the beloved of God
 - Solomon is the son that David focused on the most
 - The Lord loved Solomon because he was born out of a repentant heart and in a state of repentance

²⁶ Now Joab fought against Rabbah of the people of Ammon, and took the royal city. ²⁷ And Joab sent messengers to David, and said, "I have fought against Rabbah, and I have taken the city's water *supply*. ²⁸ Now therefore, gather the rest of the people together and encamp against the city and take it, lest I take the city and it be called after my name." ²⁹ So David gathered all the people together and went to Rabbah, fought against it, and took it. ³⁰ Then he took their king's crown from his head. Its weight was a talent of gold, with precious stones. And it was set on David's head. Also he brought out the spoil of the city in great abundance. ³¹ And he brought out the people who were in it, and put *them to work* with saws and iron picks and iron axes, and made them cross over to the brick works. So he did to all the cities of the people of Ammon. Then David and all the people returned to Jerusalem.

- Repentance = Victory
 - When King David was living in the sin of adultery and murder, they lost the battle.
 - After his repentance, they conquered and won the battle
 - The war was a reminder for King David about his sin; the Lord took this away after David's repentance
 - Repentance is strength
 - No one can conquer Satan without living a life of repentance
 - The one who pleads with God "have mercy on me for I am a sinner" is the strongest
 - The one who thinks he needs no repentance is weak
- Joab did something good
 - Though he did all the work while David did nothing, he did not go and take the glory for himself or take the king's crown. But he sent for David to come and take the credit
 - David surely went there embarrassed and with regret - if he had joined the battle in the first place, none of what he went through would have happened
- David takes the crown
- David puts the people of that land to work so that they don't revolt against him
- This ends a chapter in King David's life
 - A chapter where he sinned gravely, was rebuked, confessed, repented in tears for a very long time, witnessed part of his punishment (the death of his child), and then witnessed some of the reward of his repentance (Solomon, defeating the Ammonites)
 - But we can't forget what Nathan told him: "Thus says the Lord: 'Behold, I will raise up adversity against you from your own house; and I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of his sun.'" and "Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised Me"
 - His mistake is erased from heaven, but the discipline on earth is just beginning
 - The sin was very bad. So even in light of his repentance, there are still consequences.

Chapter 13

¹ After this Absalom the son of David had a lovely sister, whose name *was* Tamar; and Amnon the son of David loved her. ² Amnon was so distressed over his sister Tamar that he became sick; for she *was* a virgin. And it was improper for Amnon to do anything to her. ³ But Amnon had a friend whose name *was* Jonadab the son of Shimeah, David's brother. Now Jonadab *was* a very crafty man. ⁴ And he said to him, "Why *are* you, the king's son, becoming thinner day after day? Will you not tell me?"

Amnon said to him, "I love Tamar, my brother Absalom's sister."

⁵ So Jonadab said to him, "Lie down on your bed and pretend to be ill. And when your father comes to see you, say to him, 'Please let my sister Tamar come and give me food, and prepare the food in my sight, that I may see *it* and eat it from her hand.' " ⁶ Then Amnon lay down and pretended to be ill; and when the king came to see him, Amnon said to the king, "Please let Tamar my sister come and make a couple of cakes for me in my sight, that I may eat from her hand."

⁷ And David sent home to Tamar, saying, "Now go to your brother Amnon's house, and prepare food for him." ⁸ So Tamar went to her brother Amnon's house; and he was lying down. Then she took flour and kneaded *it*, made cakes in his sight, and baked the cakes. ⁹ And she took the pan and placed *them* out before him, but he refused to eat. Then Amnon said, "Have everyone go out from me." And they all went out from him. ¹⁰ Then Amnon said to Tamar, "Bring the food into the bedroom, that I may eat from your hand." And Tamar took the cakes which she had made, and brought *them* to Amnon her brother in the bedroom. ¹¹ Now when she had brought *them* to him to eat, he took hold of her and said to her, "Come, lie with me, my sister."

¹² But she answered him, "No, my brother, do not force me, for no such thing should be done in Israel. Do not do this disgraceful thing! ¹³ And I, where could I take my shame? And as for you, you would be like one of the fools in Israel. Now therefore, please speak to the king; for he will not withhold me from you." ¹⁴ However, he would not heed her voice; and being stronger than she, he forced her and lay with her.

¹⁵ Then Amnon hated her exceedingly, so that the hatred with which he hated her *was* greater than the love with which he had loved her. And Amnon said to her, "Arise, be gone!"

¹⁶ So she said to him, "No, indeed! This evil of sending me away *is* worse than the other that you did to me."

But he would not listen to her. ¹⁷ Then he called his servant who attended him, and said, "Here! Put this *woman* out, away from me, and bolt the door behind her." ¹⁸ Now she had on a robe of many colors, for the king's virgin daughters wore such apparel. And his servant put her out and bolted the door behind her.

¹⁹ Then Tamar put ashes on her head, and tore her robe of many colors that *was* on her, and laid her hand on her head and went away crying bitterly. ²⁰ And Absalom her brother said to her, "Has Amnon your brother been with you? But now hold your peace, my sister. He *is* your brother; do not take this thing to heart." So Tamar remained desolate in her brother Absalom's house.

²¹ But when King David heard of all these things, he was very angry. ²² And Absalom spoke to his brother Amnon neither good nor bad. For Absalom hated Amnon, because he had forced his sister Tamar.

²³ And it came to pass, after two full years, that Absalom had sheepshearers in Baal Hazor, which is near Ephraim; so Absalom invited all the king's sons. ²⁴ Then Absalom came to the king and said, "Kindly note, your servant has sheepshearers; please, let the king and his servants go with your servant."

²⁵ But the king said to Absalom, "No, my son, let us not all go now, lest we be a burden to you." Then he urged him, but he would not go; and he blessed him.

²⁶ Then Absalom said, "If not, please let my brother Amnon go with us."

And the king said to him, "Why should he go with you?" ²⁷ But Absalom urged him; so he let Amnon and all the king's sons go with him.

²⁸ Now Absalom had commanded his servants, saying, "Watch now, when Amnon's heart is merry with wine, and when I say to you, 'Strike Amnon!' then kill him. Do not be afraid. Have I not commanded you? Be courageous and valiant." ²⁹ So the servants of Absalom did to Amnon as Absalom had commanded. Then all the king's sons arose, and each one got on his mule and fled.

³⁰ And it came to pass, while they were on the way, that news came to David, saying, "Absalom has killed all the king's sons, and not one of them is left!" ³¹ So the king arose and tore his garments and lay on the ground, and all his servants stood by with their clothes torn. ³² Then Jonadab the son of Shimeah, David's brother, answered and said, "Let not my lord suppose they have killed all the young men, the king's sons, for only Amnon is dead. For by the command of Absalom this has been determined from the day that he forced his sister Tamar. ³³ Now therefore, let not my lord the king take the thing to his heart, to think that all the king's sons are dead. For only Amnon is dead."

³⁴ Then Absalom fled. And the young man who was keeping watch lifted his eyes and looked, and there, many people were coming from the road on the hillside behind him. ³⁵ And Jonadab said to the king, "Look, the king's sons are coming; as your servant said, so it is." ³⁶ So it was, as soon as he had finished speaking, that the king's sons indeed came, and they lifted up their voice and wept. Also the king and all his servants wept very bitterly.

³⁷ But Absalom fled and went to Talmai the son of Ammihud, king of Geshur. And *David* mourned for his son every day. ³⁸ So Absalom fled and went to Geshur, and was there three years. ³⁹ And King David longed to go to Absalom. For he had been comforted concerning Amnon, because he was dead.