

God's Amazing Grace

Scripture Index.

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We do not have time to go through every referenced scripture or thought here today, but hopefully the references can lead to some personal study at home after the service and some good Bible study in your own times or with the Life Groups later this week.

God's Amazing Grace

Introduction:

Prayer

Welcome – Room, Zoom and Audio

Patience with the preacher: last minute and lot of choice on a scripture to choose but what 2 Sam 12.

Reading Hebrews 4: 12-16 then Psalm 32. [Comment on Psalm 51]

Series that started in January 2022 as 1 Sam and now 2 Sam 12.

Context for today is set from Chapter 11.

We read of the dereliction of duty, lust, adultery, unwanted pregnancy, murder, conspiracy, and cover up By David due to the adulterous sexual affair with Bathsheba, and the murder of Uriah the Hittite. David probably believes he has “got away” with this fall. He had broken at least 4 of the Commandments (Lust-Envy, Adultery, Murder, False Witness and possibly a 5th Stealing.)

This reads like any tabloid front page, or sadly and more commonly elements of this in society and our leaders' lives. Today, 3000 years later, nothing has changed.

Chapter 11: 27 closes with the words ***But the thing David had done displeased the Lord.***

Chapter 12

David's sin is exposed ... how did you react when Molly read v 7 - 9?

- As an illustration I am going to introduce one of our dogs Spruce. At the 1st Christmas he was with us he stole a piece of special chocolate from a plate, and when I came back to the room he was lying on the floor, and I noted the chocolate piece had gone. I asked Who did it? -- You did it! Spruce. He immediately "confessed" and for the next 13 years whenever I asked who did that, he always put his paw up to take responsibility. In reality, he was a very obedient, well-behaved dog. The point here is even though he stole in "secret" we both knew he had taken the choc. I had it in my gift and grace to forgive him as he repented.
- Now imagine a scene at home, work, church where you have done something wrong, and you hope you have "got away with it". The words "Who Did It?" - How do they make you feel? Then when your name is put into the sentence: "You are the man ..." Arthur, Nils, or Woman and you have correctly found out how do you feel.
Now imagine how he felt that day Nathan came to expose his sin. For *David a man after God's own heart* (1 Sam 13:14) as said in scripture.
- The next questions are:
- Where is Christ in this chapter and what is message of God's Love in 2nd Samuel 12? AND
- Is this a significant chapter? ... Some commentators say this is another a top Bible chapter of significance pointing to the way of salvation through God's Love and Grace – Amazing.

We can study this multilayer chapter by using scripture to explain scripture, to unpack the foundation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the diamond gems of truth and love it contains.

Chapter 12 foreshadows Christ's amazing grace to us by dying on the cross and providing a route for salvation" in demonstrating his grace and mercy to David as a picture of the grace that we can receive if we repent and accept Christ. Eph 2: 8-9 -⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Chapter 12 1-15 in Detail. *You are The Man*

One striking statement in these verses is that David despised the Word of The Lord **2 Sam 12:9**. The same man who in the Psalms says he delights in the Word of The Lord.

David was a Man after God's own Heart **1 Sam 13:14**. How had he come to this?

Gross sin, a cover up, and thinking all was quietly swept up out of sight. But read **Psalm 32** – David Acknowledges his plight, how guilty he was in **v 3-4**. He had committed grievous multiple sins, and deserved judgement, by God's Word and standards, of the most sever kind.

His conscience convicted him of his hidden sinful acts.

Application 1: Time does not cleanse the conscience. The only way to clean the conscience is by God's Grace and repentance. It is God's Grace that He convicts us of sin, as the start to accept the need for salvation.

David expresses this in **Psalm 32 and 51**.

David's sin and cover up will be exposed, David will repent and be restored. Compare this to Saul who committed lesser crimes, but had the kingdom taken away from him by God. What is the difference - let's see.

As usual, there are 3 point or themes we will focus on this morning:

1 David is Confronted by The Lord's Servant (Nathan)

2 David is Uncovered by The Lord's Word

3 David is Pardoned by The Lord's Mercy

1 David is Confronted by The Lord's Servant (Nathan).

Nathan had delivered good news to David in **2 Samuel 7** as God's prophet / preacher to deliver the message to David and beyond. This time he had a risky and challenging assignment to speak truth to Power and to uphold a tough message from God. Very different from declaring David as King. The message this time could mean that David may be deposed. Certainly, broken and deserving of the death penalty.

However look at Look at **2 Samuel 7: 14 – 16** ***14 I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the ^[a]blows of the sons of men. ¹⁵ But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I removed from before you. ¹⁶ And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before ^[e]you. Your throne shall be established forever."***

This appears to be prophetic – it is as God is Sovereign.

Application 2 We must remind ourselves that God is in control of all events and in His Sovereignty, we cannot question His will, nor rationalize every single event.

David then went on in **2 Sam 7** to give a great prayer of thanks and gratitude to God as he loved the Lord and wanted to walk with him.

This message in Chapter 12 is very different. – Accurate, Piercing, Sharp, exposing the spirit, soul and intentions of David; condemning in effect.

We should not be surprised if we are confronted about our sin or actions by scripture. Indeed, we must expect it, It is the route to saving grace and a life of sanctification in Him for those that accept the gift of amazing grace.

Nathan, as Gods servant, prophet, teacher, preacher must speak the truth of God's word no matter how pleasant or unpleasant that may be. Note to all preachers, **we must be obedient to the truth of scripture.** Weekly as we expound and explain the scripture, it is a "weighty" responsibility to address the route to saving faith in Christ, and to address the issues of our day. **Ezekiel 33: 7** ***7 "So you, son of man: I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore you shall hear a word from My mouth and warn them for Me***

Application 3 We look to scripture for salvation, instruction and how to live our lives. We cannot alter it, dilute it or ignore it.

However, let's not take pride here. Every preacher, teacher, pastor, elder is a damaged or soiled soul. It is a mystery that any of us are used to spread His word. However, it is a command of God to carry that responsibility, and to do so with humility as a mouthpiece and to always seek to speak His word and bring him the glory and praise due. It is an act of God's Grace and mystery to those that are called to do so.

Jer 1v 9: ***9 Then the Lord put forth His hand and touched my mouth, and the Lord said to me: "Behold, I have put My words in your mouth.***

And to the listener or audience it is a question do hear the Words of God?

Nathan delivers the message with skill. We don't know if this is a parable or true story. He gets to core of with his piercing message before David ever realized it was him who was the target. A master case study in the delivery of a message. It was David that was being slain with these words.

David as king had the right to adjudicate in any case and pronounce sentence. Nathan uses the same words in v 3 ate, drank, and lay with him **See 2 Samuel 11 v 11** Uriah's response to David - ¹¹ *And Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah are dwelling in tents, and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are encamped in the open fields. Shall I then go to my house to eat and drink, and to lie with my wife? As you live, and as your soul lives, I will not do this thing."*

David's conscience was asleep. – be careful if our consciences are not alert, we can miss the message of the Bible. **Wake up and listen to this book the most powerful thing in The World.**

David then reacts with great anger; over the top he pronounces a death sentence on the man who stole the lamb – more than required by Mosaic law **Exo 22:1** which stopped at the 4-fold replacement. He failed to make the connection that he was THAT MAN!

Application 4: It is easy to see the sin of other and not our own ... 1st take the plank out of our own eye before we point to the dust in others' eyes. We do this by the daily and regular washing of our souls and consciences through walking with Christ.

Nathan Indicts David: YOU ARE THE MAN. Confronting David, the most powerful man in the nation and God's chosen King.

We are The Man too. **Rom 3: 23** ²³ *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*

The pages of scripture point to salvation in Christ. His work and our need to salvation. God is a God of infinite Love and Mercy and offers Salvation to all that will receive the promise of God by accepting Christ as Lord and Saviour.

Before dismissing this let's look at Christ's word in **Matt 5: 21-22 & 27-28**. We all sin, there is nothing hidden from God, and we are all naked before Him exposed for truly who and what we are.

Heb 4. 12-13 - ¹² *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.* ¹³ *And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.*

All of us are THAT MAN. The only recourse or response is the one of David: **I have sinned against The Lord.** No excuse or justification, just admission of guilt and remorse. David Confronted and now Convicted.

Nathan The Prophet and Preacher, bearer of hard news. Confronted sin even of the King. A difficult role, but one preachers must not step back from to be faithful to God.

2 David is Uncovered by The Lord's Word

All David's defences are overcome, flattened and non-existent. **V 7b** The Lord God of Israel reminds David of the sheer abundance of God's blessing to him. How can one so blessed fall so low?

David is challenged by Nathan; why did he, David, despise the word of God? Why, Why, Why?

Application 5: Do we ever ask ourselves why we act the ways we do especially when we act against the word of God and Bible? We must stay close to Christ to please him, and protect ourselves from such spectacular failure, through prayer, sound teaching, fellowship, and communion.

Do we look at David's letter to Joab in Chapter 11, and ask if David asked himself why did he do that? Why did he not confess his sin there and then with Bathsheba before it spiralled out of control? Or better still when lust overtook him, why did he not get down and prayed for God's mercy and to stop him from further sin? Instead, he breaks a number of the 10 commandments aimed at relations to others, and in so doing dishonours God.

These disobedient actions have severe consequences.

1. Constant bloodshed will come to the David family – Absalom Amnon and Adonijah.
2. David's wives will be taken from him in an open and humiliating way.
3. The Child of the union with Bathsheba will die.

Application 6: Do not assume that blatant disregard for God's word will not have consequences. Or alternatively recognise that the blatant despising of God's word will have consequences.

This is staggering, David the man after God's own heart brings this on himself by his complete sinful series of actions in one go. Why and How?

At this point we are about to see in scripture **one of the great diamonds of God's Grace to mankind, the conviction of being faced with and confronted by our own sin. That may sound strange, but without that, none of us can realise that we need a saviour. It is by God's amazing Grace that we are confronted and convicted of our own sin.**

In the transition in verse 13 ***13 So David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord." And Nathan said to David, "The Lord also has put away your sin; you shall not die.***

David confesses in totality. Different to Saul in **Samuel 1** who makes excuses and justification for his sin. David accepts guilt on every count and plea.

Then another diamond in scripture, and of all History moments – Nathan says ***The Lord also has put away your sin; you shall not die.*** Complete forgiveness for the act of repentance. **This is the foreshadowing of the amazing grace the Christ showed on The Cross** for each member of humanity. This mirrors Christ's word on the Cross to the thief who asks The Lord to be remembered as he comes into paradise – **Luke 23: 42-43.**

This is the Scandal of Grace, The Scandal of The Cross.

Sinners deserving punishment pardoned by the faith in Christ through His shed blood. **Heb 4: 14-16**
14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

3 David is Pardoned by The Lord's Mercy

An expression of Amazing Grace ... David's sins are put away. It is important that we use scripture to interpret scripture. It is a brief encounter, but we can see in Psalm 32 and 51. To the outside in David's world it looked as if his cover up had worked but we know from the lament and pain in **Psalm 32 and 51** that is not so. **Ps 32 3-5** - ³ *When I kept silent, my bones grew old. Through my groaning all day long.* ⁴ *For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was turned into the drought of summer. Selah* ⁵ *I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.*

Confession and repentance lead to restoration and joy. **Ps 32: 6 - 11**

David deserved death by law, but by Grace he was spared and restored to a relationship with God. God, in doing so was and is faithful to His covenant with David as the root for the Messiah's birth and the route to salvation of mankind.

Application 7: By using David as a spectacular example as a sinful failure God shows us in His Grace, that he is willing to forgive and put away all our sins. If we repent and accept Christ nothing is too great to be forgiven. And if we fall as Christians, he will lift us up and restore us if we confess. This is a beautiful reality of the Love of God. 1 Cor 13 (all chapter)

David's repentance is enabled by the Grace of God, it is a Grace of God. God is at work in our hearts. By nature, we try to self-justify but through His Grace and Mercy, he convicts us of Sin and offers us the route to salvation. We are Confronted – we are convicted – we confess – we receive compassion.

David knows he can go through the ritual, but he brings the most important thing to God – a broken and contrite heart and asks God for Mercy **Ps 51: 16-17** ¹⁶ *For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering.* ¹⁷ *The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart. These, O God, You will not despise.*

David was convinced of his blessing in having his sins put away – forgiven as evidenced in **Ps 32 & 51**. We too must be convinced of God's rich Mercy and Grace. **And do we forgive those who sin amongst us and toward us? God forgives infinitely and so must we.**

The great Question is how can it be that God justifies this much. How is it that Christ died for the ungodly. **Romans 3: 24 – 26** - ²⁴ *being justified [a]freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,* ²⁵ *whom God set forth as a [b]propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed,* ²⁶ *to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.*

Justification by faith – then look at **Romans 4: 5-8** ⁵ *But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness,* ⁶ *just as David also describes the blessedness of the man to whom God imputes righteousness apart from works:* ⁷ *"Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, And whose sins are covered;* ⁸ *Blessed is the man to whom the Lord shall not impute sin."*

God is faithful to David and credits his faith and in the same way as Abraham is credited and justified by Faith. The fallen David, pardoned and restored as an example for us.

Application 8: Religion says that if we keep the rules, rituals, and rights we may do enough for salvation – but this is a lie as all our actions are as filthy rags in God’s sight. The only answer to mankind’s need of salvation is through the blood of Christ on the Cross. Faith in Christ in true Christianity is a place for the murderer, liar, adulterer, the swindler the envious. First to be convicted and repenting of sin, and to be forgiven and justified by Christ.

The Gospel message is not one of condemnation, but one of Amazing Grace to YOU [*The Man*]

It is how we respond to that message and invitation ... like David in **2 Sam 12** or not.

Mercy to not receive the punishment we deserve & Grace to receive the blessing we don’t deserve.

Christ has put away your sins. Because the sinless Saviour died and took on Himself the sins for us that we may live and be freed by and with Him. My sinful soul is counted free for that reason only.

Verses 15 – 31- A brief overview:

Consequences of David Sin.

David's sin is forgiven, but the consequences are severe and will be carried out as outlined by God in His word delivered through Nathan. Marked by bloodshed, family failure, the taking of David's wives (as he took Uriah's wife) but in an open and thoroughly shameful way.

David repentance was full, and his sins were forgiven but the impact remains. Sin is analogous to throwing a large stone in to a pool, the stone can be retrieved but the ripples keep flowing out.

God humbled David with the consequences as a visible warning to him and to all of us again this is by God's Grace lest we forget, actions good and sinful have consequences. The stone of this episode of sin was cast and retrieved but the consequences rippled on for all to see.

We also see David in complete devastation and humility fasting and praying to spare the child's life but to no avail, it was God's will to take the life.

This is similar picture to Christ in the garden of Gethsemane Mar 14: 36 ³⁶ *And He said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will."*

It was not in God's will to spare Christ and in David circumstance it was not in God's will to spare the life of this boy child ... he died within a week of birth.

We must remember that our prayers desired outcomes may not always match God's, He answers prayer and knows that we pray in earnestness; it is ours to accept the Sovereign will of God.

Application 9: We must be aware that sin has consequences that we may not be able to predict the effect on ourselves and others. Walk with open eyes and be alert to Satan's temptation to stop us from making bad choices. Stay close to The Lord, and always seek Him, and especially when we start to slip down that slope or road to sin.

We also see as the servants confirm the death, David acts in an amazing way. He goes to worship; he takes no animal sacrifice but comes to God with a contrite heart **Psalm 51 v 17**.

The Lord gives and the Lord takes away **Job 1: 21**

He also points out a clear doctrinal truth that once a person is dead there is no use in praying for them any longer - yes before but not thereafter, the eternal fate is sealed.

David moves on with life, comforting Bathsheba who has now become one of his wives. Take time to think and wonder about how David handled this situation, does he admit all to Bathsheba? What is her response and role? She too was deserving of the death penalty, but we do know that David was humbled and broken though the words in **Psalms 32 & 51**.

Application 10 – No matter how much good teaching we have listened too and have at our fingertips and how well we have walked and lived with The Lord, never become complacent. The risk is clear, David was a well-placed as anyone in Scripture and failed spectacularly. The only person who has and could not fail was and is Jesus Christ.

Restoration and Blessing for David and Bathsheba

The birth of Solomon, who goes on to be the anointed King of Israel is announced. His name means Peace. Then Nathan comes back with a message from God to name him Jedidiah - Love of The Lord Here we have the son of the adulterous couple with the name: **Peace – Love of the Lord**. Solomon hosen to be king and will feature in the genealogy of Jesus Christ of Nazareth.

We have gone from a treacherous cover up, to the use of two sinners in the route to salvation.

Your sin is never too great for God to forgive - Amen.

The whole event is framed at the start and end by the Ammonite war. David is back to his rightful duties in defeating God's enemies, worshiping and honouring God as he should: restored and forgiven.

What Grace What Mercy What Love

CONCLUSION

Chapter 12 is great foreshadowing of The Cross of Christ and God's Forgiveness.

It is another Gospel chapter that speaks to us about The Lord Jesus Christ in the Old Testament and throughout scripture.

We can read it as a story or a historical account. But that is to miss the Truth. We only understand the full relevance when we see and search for Christ in the scripture and when we do this, we find God's Amazing Grace.

Three key take away applications in conclusion:

1. This is not a story of sin and a cover up. It is an illustration about what happens when we resist or ignore the word of God in favour of moral autonomy, as individuals, churches, society and World at large.

2. 2nd Samuel 12 is a picture of someone (David) who is trapped in a moral catastrophe of his own making and the amazing discovery of God's Grace and Mercy of the conviction of the conscience.

3 It is a picture of God's Mercy and God's of Amazing Grace of salvation through repentance. Rom 6: 22-23 ²² But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit ^[a]to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the ^[b]gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Practice CRP in your Life

C: Confess your Sin and repent

P: Proceed with life on a scriptural basis walking with God

R: Rejoice in the provision of Gods Son Jesus Christ

In closing

Return to the two thieves on the Cross. One asks for remembrance, and one scorns Christ. One is saved and one condemned. If you have faith as weak as a single strand of silk that is enough to for there you will find salvation in Christ. The choice is yours -- **YOU Are that Man or Woman.**