

“The Backwash of Sin!”

I. INTRO:

- A. **Story:** The parable of the 2 boats in the harbor. It’s midnight. The harbor is quiet, except for the boats creaking decks & the water slapping up against the wooden & fiberglass hulls. Within minutes, though, the storm clouds begin to roll through the sky. Thunder rumbles; rain pelts. The tranquil little harbor is *tossed by a whirlwind*.¹
1. **One boat**, was tied loosely to its moorings, snaps the rope & is carried out by the violent currents only to *crash upon the rocks*.
 2. **But another boat**, secured by its nautical ropes to the 4 cleats on the dock, is able to ride out the storm. **And**, it is ready to sail when the sun comes out in the morning.
 - a) Our last chapter dealt with David right in the midst of a **whirlwind**, reaping the results of sin. Let’s see how he weathered the storm. Whether he **sank** or **survived**, & why.
 - b) We’ll see when the **waves** of sin’s consequences begin to slosh the decks of our lives. Our only hope for survival is to **anchor** ourselves to the Lord.
 - (1) Hos.8:7 **They sow the wind, And reap the whirlwind.**
 - (2) Hos.8:7 (msg) **Planting wind-seeds, they’ll harvest tornadoes.**
 - (3) **Be sure that when you drop the seeds of the wind in the ground, you will reap the harvest of sin’s whirlwind.**
- B. There are *2 kinds of suffering* in the midst of the **whirlwind**:
1. The kind of suffering we **deserve**, because we are the ones that disobeyed.
 2. The kind of suffering we **don’t deserve**, but **experience** in the backwash of someone else’s transgression.
 - a) **This of course is the most tragic...**when an *innocent bystander* gets caught in your backwash. **And they** have to **pay the consequence** along with you.
 - b) When a parent willfully & irresponsibly acts against God’s written Word, not only does the parent suffer, but the family suffers as well.
- C. **OUTLINE:** Confessing The Sowing; Responding to The Reaping; & Moving On.

II. CONFESSING THE SOWING! (13)

- A. **I have sinned against the Lord** - the simple confession from David’s heart & forgiveness granted
1. At once, God graciously **released him** from the death penalty the Law demanded.
 2. Now David stood **clean** before the Lord, forgiven & restored.

¹ Taken & adapted from Charles Swindoll intro pg.152 David.

3. He had **escaped** the penal judgment; **however**, he **hadn't** escaped God's paternal discipline. [consequence: if I sin, & in the process I break my arm, I can find forgiveness for my sin, but I still have to deal w/a broken bone!]

a) God's chastisement was meant to **correct** David, not **punish** him.

b) It was designed to show him **how serious sin is** to a holy God, & to **protect him** from **future moral failure**. [**Discipline** is always **forward-looking!**]

(1) Chrysostom wrote, "God imposes a penalty upon us, **not to punish us for past sins, but to correct us against future one's.**"

B. **I feel I need to say:** If you've been through the trauma of the loss of a child, this situation in no way has anything to do with *your child's death* (i.e. because of something you've done).

1. **Sometimes there is no explanation.** SIDS(Sudden Infant Death Syndrome) is the #1 cause of death among children from 1 week to 5 years of age.

a) Often, parents blame **themselves**, the **babysitter**, **other children in the family**, when even **the doctor** does not know who or what is to blame.

2. Carl Jung said,(when a young person dies) "is a period placed before the end of the sentence".

III. **RESPONDING TO THE REAPING! (14-25)**

A. Job 1:20,21 Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and **worshipped**. And he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord **gave**, and the Lord has **taken away**; **blessed** be the name of the Lord.

1. The first thing to be **taken away**, or the first **gust of the whirlwind** would be the death of David's infant son. (promised in vs.14)

2. Job.4:8 (*Eliphaz*) **My experience shows that those who plant trouble and cultivate evil, will harvest the same.**

3. **Now here**, David had a choice **how to react**. Like the boat that was loosed from its moorings, his life could have ended up broken on the rocks of bitterness. **But instead** he dropped **Four Anchors of Faith** that helped him ride out the storm.

a) He Prayed; He Faced the Consequences Realistically;
He Claimed God's Truths; He went on, refusing to give up.

B. **[1] HE PRAYED!** (15b-17)

C. God's discipline was **painful**; **but** rather than running **from** God, David ran **to** Him.

1. In his prayers, he quieted himself before the Lord, pleading for the life of his son.

2. An innocent child was suffering because of him.

3. Often, *the innocent ones* suffer the most for **our selfish choices**.

D. What had this baby done to deserve death? **Nothing!** It's not fair.

1. **And** it wasn't fair that **Uriah** had to die; **&** it wasn't fair **the other soldiers** had to die; **And** it wasn't fair **innocent Jesus** had to die for **your sins!**

a) There are **no easy answers** to settle our **minds**, but there are plenty of **dependable promises** to heal our **hearts**, **&** faith is nurtured on **promises**, not **explanations!**²

E. **[2] HE FACED THE CONSEQUENCES REALISTICALLY!** (18-20)

F. After 7 days, the infant died. They were afraid he might *take his own life*(18).

1. Yet David's response was surprisingly **calm**. (19,20)
2. **In Scripture, washing oneself/changing clothes symbolizes making a new beginning.**
 - a) Because of God's grace & mercy, we can always make *a new beginning*.
3. Instead of blaming himself more he **put himself back together** & went to **worship God**.
4. The baby was dead, & he **couldn't change that**. He **could, however, accept what he had received from God's hand & humbly bow** before Him, **knowing** that God was both merciful & just.

G. **[3] HE CLAIMED GOD'S TRUTHS!** (21-23)

H. He had secured his hope in the **sovereignty** of God. (22,23)

1. He believed God was in control not only of **his** destiny **but also his son's**.
2. His son was gone, but one day he would see him again.

a) **Where was David going?** Ps.23:6 **and I will live in the house of the Lord forever.**

- I. **Only those who have bent over their dying child can understand something of David's anguish.**
 1. Yet such may be comforted by the certainty that the Good Shepherd has gathered the lambs to His arms, & that parents shall go to them.
(i.e. **They will recognize & be recognized**) [F.B.Meyer; Joshua-2 Kings; pg.131]
 2. One mother of a child who died said, "I thank God for loaning us the little fellow for a few years, & for the knowledge that we will see him again when we are united w/ Christ after death. What a joyous reunion. What a wonderful Savior, to provide the gift of eternal life!"
 3. **When babies die, to they automatically go to heaven?**
 - a) Deut.1:39 **Moreover your little ones and your children, who you say will be victims, who today have **no knowledge of good and evil**, they shall go in there(into the land); to them I will give it, and they shall possess it.**
 - (1) We are all **sinners by birth/conception**(i.e. original sin); **but** there seems to be a distinction between **sinner by birth**(not responsible for sin past on to them) **&** **sinner by practice**(now responsible to God & others for knowledgable actions)
 - b) Also, there is a big difference between how David mourns for **Absalom**, verses this child.

² Warren Wiersbe; Be Restored; pg.74.

- J. **[4] HE WENT ON, REFUSING TO GIVE UP!** (24,25)
- K. Here is 9 months compressed into 2 verses.
- L. Bathsheba is finally called *David's wife* here. Maybe inferring her *new beginning* also!
- M. **After** the **funeral** & **after mourning his loss** w/his wife, David found *the grace to live again!*
1. It takes **grace** to endure the whirlwind, **but** it also takes **God's grace** to *move on* once the storm has calmed.
- N. Remember what Moses taught why we go through wilderness wanderings.
1. Deut.8:2a,3a **Remember how the Lord your God led you through the wilderness for these forty years, humbling you and testing you to prove your character... Yes, he humbled you by letting you go hungry...**
- O. Are you riding out the stormy consequences of **your sin**?
1. Violent waves crashing over you & the strain on your ropes are pulled so taut.
 2. Everything you hold dear is slipping from your hands, the trust of your family, your reputation, your self-respect.
 3. You've **confessed** your sin, **but** there are still **consequences** to endure.
 4. **What do you do?**
- P. Or, maybe you're riding out **someone else's storm**?
1. A **son, daughter, spouse, or friend** has sowed the wind, & now you are suffering the consequences.
 2. They may not comprehend what their sin is doing to you, **or worse**, they don't even care. But you're drowning in the wake of their sinful lifestyle. **What do you do?**
- Q. **In both situations**, David's responses to God's discipline provide some guidelines:
- R. **Pray**; **Faced the Consequences Realistically**; **Claim God's Truths**; **Move on & refuse to give up!**
1. **Pray**: Have you been pushing God away? Running **from** Him instead of **to** Him?
 - a) If so, take the time now to **draw near to Him**, even if its to express your **doubts & confusion**.
 2. **Faced the Consequences Realistically**: When nothing can be changed, it's time to let go. **Are you still beating yourself up over past mistakes?**
 3. **Claim God's Truths**: Anchor yourself to God's truths, such as **God's sovereignty**, the **hope of heaven**, & **God's love for you** even during times of discipline.
 - a) **What truths do you need to hang on to?**
 4. **Move on & refuse to give up**: Sometimes we can focus so much on **what we've lost** **that** we forget about **what we have**.
 - a) **Bitterness & regret over yesterday's pain can rob us of today's joy!**
 - b) **What has God given you today, to take part in or to love?**

- S. Whether you're riding out **your own storm** or **someone else's**, **remember** that God is not *punishing* you. **He wants to correct you, not condemn you; to strengthen you, not sink you.**
1. Don't be afraid to **anchor yourself** to Him!

IV. **MOVING ON! (26-31)**

- A. **There is still kingdom work to do!** Including helping Joab finish the siege of Rabbah.
- B. (26,27) **The siege had taken 2 years** [1st the royal palace; then the water supply; now the final assault]
 1. It was *the city of waters*, as the Jabbok flowed around the lower town.
- C. (29) Joab told David, "**get down here quick so you can take the credit for the victory.**"
 1. Whatever Joab's faults, at least he wanted to bring honor to his king.
- D. (30) **A talent of gold** - 50-75 pound crown.
- E. (31) The Ammonite slaves became the *labor pool* for Israelite public building projects.