



February 18, 2025

What is God's Response to His Provision

Scripture: 2 Samuel 11:1-5: 12:1-14

Big Idea: How is your Soul?

The Challenge: At its core, sin destroys relationships. It does not a respecter of persons. It does not show favor or partiality. It ruthlessly takes hold of us at our weakest moments, when we are most vulnerable. Its roots only deepen with pride. Yet, we are not called to fight the sin; we are called to surrender with humility. This simple yet incredibly difficult act releases the choking nature of sin from our lives. He transforms our hearts, alters our desires, and restores our relationships.

Pastoral Prayer for this Message: "Lord, help us see sin for what it is. Missing the mark, damaging the relationship with you and others. Open our eyes to the restored relationship that you desire for each of us, and let that invitation draw us into a life that honors you."

Life Group Objectives:

Remember why you exist as a group! Life Groups are to:

1. Reflect on this past week's message and passage, or dig into the series you are going through as a group. We learn and grow together as a church when we all track together on the sermon series.
2. We desire that the Bible play a key role in your time together. Please have people open their Bibles, seek clarity, ask questions, share insights, and allow the Bible to guide them.
3. Pray together and provide encouragement for other group members. How can you build one another up this week?

Questions for Discussion:

1) A Soul Left Unchecked

Anaemic Soul: David had become a bit proud. He was found walking along on his rooftop while he could arguably have been at battle. But he had made his accomplishments, he had achieved success and his soul had turned anaemic. A soul dried up and without life. And it was here where the enemy found a chink in the armour.

1. David's soul could be described as anaemic, dried up. What does a dried up soul look like in your life?
2. What are the dangers that we face in a soul that becomes anaemic?

The Inevitable Temptation: Sin is inevitable. Temptation is inevitable. The enemy has no new tricks. He tempts with Power, Money, or Sex.

What are the ways these play out in our lives or the lives of others?

3. What are the moments that you are most vulnerable to temptation?

4. Sin always happens in isolation. David was on the rooftop by himself. How does isolation play into the challenge of resisting temptation?

2) A Soul Set Free

“You are that man”: We see Pastor/Prophet Nathan boldly confronting David in 2 Sam 12:1-7b. He recounts a story, a parable of injustice, which cuts through a heart ensnared in its own sin. By addressing the sin that had tormented David's soul — the sin he had sought to conceal, the sin that ultimately led to murder.

5. When in your life have you had an experience of someone calling you out (in love) in your sin? Had they not done so, where would you be?
6. Do you have Nathan's in your life? Is it harder to have Nathan's in today's societal fabric? What must we be willing to do? *What is this life group willing to do?*

Psalms 51: This is one of the most heartfelt repentance psalms. An expansion of 2 Sam 12:7b. A road map to having a heart of humility, a journal of his heart to God.

“Have Mercy on Me Oh God”: Verse 1 starts out with a declaration of who God is. Recognition of His glory, His goodness, His mercy.

7. When we find ourselves faced with the consequences of our sin, do we seek immediate relief from the pain and consequences of our sin? Do we ever find ourselves simply crying “Have Mercy on me!”?
8. Do we provide a space for our hearts to be made right before God?

“Against you only have I sinned”: Often, we view sin as actions that go against the will of God. We perceive it as a checkbox we have failed, a goal we have not achieved, a standard we have not met. But what if it was more about a broken relationship birthed out a heart that is deceitfully wicked and can do no good apart from God? (John 15:5)

9. Compare David's response to sin as opposed to Saul's response (1 Sam 15:24-30). What is the difference in response to sin?
10. What is *our* immediate response to sin? Do we view it as transactional or relational? Do we seek to do better, or do we seek repentance?
11. What would it look like to live a life of humility and confront your sins with humility and repentance?
12. Where is the line between abdicating our responsibility for our sin and surrendering to the work of the Holy Spirit to do the transformational work?

“Cleanse me with Hyssop”: It is only after we acknowledge who God is, after we acknowledge our sin and its consequences, that He is able to make us clean. And clean He does! White as snow (Isiah 1:18)

13. Are we able to accept His healing? Do we live in the freedom or do we go back to trying harder?
14. What is the danger after being made clean? How do we remain *in Him*?