

A New Season 4

Introduction

- Look at King David in the prime of his reign.
- I heard a message on this many years ago by a prophet. I have never forgotten it. It inspired the basis of this message.

Ecc 10:8 (NIV) Whoever digs a pit may fall into it; whoever breaks through a wall may be bitten by a snake.

- At this juncture in David's life, he made certain errors that changed the season for him, and had a negative impact on his family and the generations to come. We see from this point in his life that things started to decline for him.
- What can we learn and implement as we come into a new season of fruitfulness? Far easier to learn from others' mistakes than to make them ourselves in ignorance and live with the consequences.

2 Samuel 11:1-5

It happened in the spring of the year, at the time when kings go out to battle, that David sent Joab and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the people of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem. [2] Then it happened one evening that David arose from his bed and walked on the roof of the king's house. And from the roof he saw a woman bathing, and the woman was very beautiful to behold. [3] So David sent and inquired about the woman. And someone said, "Is this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" [4] Then David sent messengers, and took her; and she came to him, and he lay with her, for she was cleansed from her impurity; and she returned to her house. [5] And the woman conceived; so she sent and told David, and said, "I am with child."

And we know that David sent for Uriah and enquired concerning the war and then instructed him to go home. Of course, he was hoping that Uriah would go home so that he would have marital relations with his wife so that her pregnancy from him

could be effectively covered up. We know, however, that Uriah did not go to his house. When David summoned Uriah to enquire why, this was Uriah's response:

[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." 2Sa 11:1-11 (NKJV)

And so we know that David effectively had Uriah killed. He committed adultery, and then murder. And because of this, the Lord spoke this through Nathan the prophet:

*2Sa 12:7-12 (NKJV) " Thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. [8] I gave you your master's house and your master's wives into your keeping, and gave you the house of Israel and Judah. And if that had been too little, I also would have given you much more! [9] Why have you despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in His sight? You have killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword; you have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the people of Ammon. [10] Now therefore, **the sword shall never depart from your house**, because you have despised Me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.' [11] 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 neighbour, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun.** [12] For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel, before the sun.'* "

This punishment follows the crime by suggesting that David's power will be usurped, and his wives will be taken from him (see Absalom's taking of David's wives in 2Sa 16:21-22). His violence and sexual misconduct will be matched by the violence and sexual misconduct of his household. These were consequences of his sin. The Lord forgave him, he remained king. But there were consequences.

It is important for us as believers to remember that forgiveness of sin does not mean a wiping away of consequences. Let's rather build proactively in our season of fruitfulness than deal with certain challenges and consequences in a reactionary manner.

Maintaining focus in our season of fruitfulness.

1. Purpose

*2Sa 11:1-11 (NKJV) It happened in the spring of the year, **at the time when kings go out to battle**, that David sent Joab and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the people of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But **David remained at Jerusalem**.*

- Was David a king?
- What was it time for?

He stepped out of his purpose.

Psa 139:16 (NKJV) Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them.

Eph 2:10 (NKJV) For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Jer 1:4-5 (NKJV) Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying: [5] "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations."

- Who has God called you to be or made you to be?

Rom 12:3-8 (NKJV) For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. [4] For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, [5] so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. [6] Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; [7] or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; [8] he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

Has he called you as an encourager?

As a giver?

As a pillar?

As a prayer warrior?

As a worshipper?

As a mother or a father?

What grace has he put up on your life, especially in this season? Are you walking in that? Are you managing the different graces and hats and callings you have to wear?

- To whom has God called you?

Rom 15:16 (NKJV) that I might be a minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering of the Gentiles might be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

I love Paul's clarity.

Gal 1:15-16 (NKJV) But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, [16] to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood,...

2Co 10:12-13 (NKJV) For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise. [13] We, however, will not boast beyond measure, but within the limits of the sphere which God appointed us—a sphere which especially includes you.

- To what sphere has God called you? Are you preparing for that? Are you stepping out in that?
- What is God's purpose for you right now?

Mar 1:35-38 (NKJV) Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed. [36] And Simon and those who were with Him searched for Him. [37] When they found Him, they said to Him, "Everyone is looking for You." [38] But He said to them, "Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also, because for this purpose I have come forth."

- What season is it?

Ecc. 3:1 NKJV "To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven"

- What is it time for?

1 Chron. 12:32 NKJV "of the sons of Issachar who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do, their chiefs were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their command..." (context was war)

- Are you doing what you should be doing in this season?

If you do not plough the field and sow seed in spring time, there will be no harvest to harvest come summer and harvest time. What you choose to do and not do, matters. I say choose, because some people procrastinate and put off making the decision to do, and are deceived into thinking that they are not being disobedient, merely taking their time. But not making a decision when it is time to do so has the same consequences as choosing to not do what you should, or choosing disobedience.

2. People

*2Sa 11:1-11 (NKJV) It happened in the spring of the year, at the time when kings go out to battle, that **David sent Joab and his servants with him**, and all Israel; and they destroyed the people of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem.*

Second mistake: He sent his people out of his life and away from his private life.

- Do you have God-fearing people around you who really know you?
- Do you have God-fearing people around you who know what is going on in your life?
- What parts of your life from are you hiding from your God-fearing friends? Why?
- What do you need to repent of and do differently in this regard?
- Who are those people God has placed around you that you can invite in, or let in to your life?
- Do you avoid relationship with others in church community?
- Do you reveal different parts of your story to different people as a form of self-protection... so no one ever really knows you and your story?

*1Jn 1:5-7 (NKJV) This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. [6] If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. [7] But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have **fellowship with one another**, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.*

*Rom 12:4-5 (NKJV) [4] For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, [5] so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually **members of one another**.*

*Heb 10:24-25 (NKJV) And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, [25] **not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together**, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.*

- When we do not join with brothers in sisters in gathering, we effectively send these people out of our lives, and remove ourselves from fellowship.

3. Presence

*[10] So when they told David, saying, "Uriah did not go down to his house," David said to Uriah, "Did you not come from a journey? Why did you not go down to your house?" [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."

Third mistake: He sent the ark and the presence of God out of his presence.

- Do you spend time in the Bible every day?
- Do you spend time in prayer every day?
- Do you spend time with others who will encourage your relationship with God?
- Are you growing spiritually and making sure you are getting yourself discipled/growing? You are responsible for this. You can't one day say to God, but my pastor didn't do it.
- Greatness is hidden in daily routine. Does your daily routine include enough of the spiritual disciplines that if nothing changed in your daily routine, it would still facilitate the greatness you imagine for yourself?
- Would you feel comfortable if someone you admire spiritually saw exactly your daily routine and level of prayer and devotion to the Lord?
- Are you cultivating growth in personal prayer, fasting, worship and relationship with the Lord?
- Some people think that relationship with the Lord is only vertical, but He requires us to be connected to a local church. Are you active in a local church, not forsaking the gathering of the believers?

Joh 15:1-4 (NKJV) "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. [2] Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. [4] Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

Joh 15:16a (NKJV) You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain,...

- **The word is needed for fruitfulness**

*"Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; But **his delight is in the law of***

*the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its **fruit in its season**, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper." (Ps. 1:1-3, NKJV)*

- **The word is needed to sustain us through difficult times.**

*Because your words are my deepest delight,
I didn't give up when all else was lost.
I can never forget the profound revelations you've taught me,
for they have kept me alive more than once. (Ps. 119:92-93TPT)*

- **We are entering a season where the Spirit is saying to us "to arise and eat for the journey ahead is long."**

The context of this scripture is that Elijah had confronted the prophets of Baal and won. Jezebel then threatened Elijah and he ran in fear from her. This is where we find him:

*"But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he prayed that he might die, and said, "It is enough! Now, LORD, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers!" Then as he lay and slept under a broom tree, suddenly an angel touched him, and said to him, "Arise and eat." Then he looked, and there by his head was a cake baked on coals, and a jar of water. So, he ate and drank, and lay down again. And the angel of the LORD came back the second time, and touched him, and said, "**Arise and eat, because the journey is too great for you.**" So, he arose, and ate and drank; and he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights as far as Horeb, the mountain of God." (1Ki 19:4-8, NKJV)*

What is your bible reading strategy? When will you eat? What reading or study program will you use?

This happening the life of King David marked the beginning of his downfall. And in fact it resulted in innumerable consequences for his family and descendants after him.

Yes, there is grace to forgive sins. God forgave David when he repented. God even caused his son Solomon from Bathsheba to take the throne after him. However, there were catastrophic consequences that still resulted from this sin.

God outlined these consequences through the prophet Nathan to David.

We need to remain focused in our new season and run with endurance the race set before us. We need to keep the main thing the main thing, and remember our humanity and need for God, even in the summer, the fruitfulness, the busyness, the prosperity and so forth.

One last scripture to encourage us before I close:

Mat 11:28-30 (MSG) "Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. [29] Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. [30] Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly."

It's easy to grow weary and get burned out when we do a whole lot for Him. We need to walk with Him in His rhythms of grace and we will run our races with endurance.

4. Conclusion

Purpose

People

Presence

What commitment are you wanting to make today to bring change in any of these areas?