



Name:
Year:

Monday (Read 2 Samuel 12: 1- 15)
 God, through His love for David, sent Nathan to him to wake up his conscience secretly by telling him a story of a rich man who took the lamb of his poor neighbour.
 It is here that David writes the most famous Psalm of repentance- Psalm 51. Next time you read it focus on your big sins and ask God for forgiveness.
 Here we see how loving God is. While David is unaware of his sin, God does not leave him in this state but rather sends Nathan to open his eyes, repent and return back to God. Likewise when we sin, God in His never ending love for us and His enduring mercy for us always wants us to repent and confess our sins. He calls all sinners back to repentance- Is your heart inclined to hear His voice?

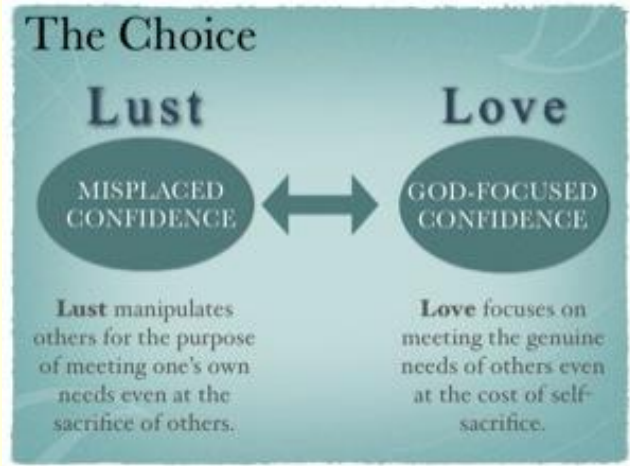


"The Lord looks for a reason for your salvation, yes even one tear you shed"
St John Chrysostom

Tuesday (Read 2 Samuel 12: 15- 31)
 The child got very sick so David begged God for forgiveness. He pleaded with God for the child, fasted and went in and lay all night on the ground.
 On the seventh day, the child died. When David realized what happened, that the child died, he arose from the ground, washed and anointed himself, and changed his clothes, and he went into the house of the Lord and worshipped. Then he went into his own house, and requested to eat.
 How marvellous was David's complete delivery to the will of God. He, at first, humiliated himself before God, seeking mercy; Yet, once the child died, he submitted to God's will.
 David comforted Bethsheba; He did not send her away, on account that she has been the cause of his grief and troubles. She bore him another son, and he called his name 'Solomon'. Nathan gave Solomon the name "Jedidih" meaning "Loved by the Lord" to indicate that God had forgiven David.

Did you know....
 In the ancient times, you can tell a lot about people by the way they dressed. The style, colour or design of Tamar's robe indicated that she was the daughter of the king as well as a virgin. After the horrible act. She tore her robe and put ashes on her head to show her grief..

Wednesday (Read 2 Samuel 13: 1-22)
 David's son Amnon fell, with all his freedom, in lust for his half- sister, on his father's side. He was so obsessed by his love for her, to become sick; And when he got what he wanted from her, he humiliated her, then he hated her exceedingly, and sent her away.
 This episode of Amnon and Tamar remains along the generations, a live portrait of how love differs from lust. Lust is retiring into one's shell around his ego, seeking the fulfilment of his own self or dignity and dealing with others as tools for his own fulfilment. Love grows every day, and makes the heart more spacious for all; while lust destroys man, narrows his heart, and will soon turn into hate.



Thursday (Read 2 Samuel 13: 23-39)

Absalom waited patiently two years without taking any action, to let Amnon and David assume that he forgot about the whole matter. And when it was the time for sheep sheering, a time for joy, Absalom planned to carry out the murder of his brother Amnon.

Absalom fled to his maternal grandfather, 'Tamai' the son of Ammihud, the king of Geshor.

Again we see the beauty of King David's heart for longed to see Absalom, whom he loved very much.



Let your heart therefore be **loyal to** the LORD our **God**, to walk in His statutes and keep His commandments, as at this day." (1 Kings 8:61)

A Succession of Misfortunes.

"This is the first introduction of divine punishment; the first but not the only one. A long series of great tribulations followed, and an almost unending succession of misfortunes scarcely left his house. Tamar was corrupted by the madness of Amnon, and Amnon was slain by Absalom. A grave crime was committed by one brother, but it was avenged more grievously by the other. In this way David, the father, was punished for the crimes of both. Two sons sinned, but three suffered for the crime of two; Tamar lost her virginity, and the loss of Absalom was mourned in Amnon. Indeed, you cannot tell for which of these two sons the loving father mourned more grievously: for him who was slain in this world by his brother's hand [Amnon] or for him who perished in the next because of killing by his own hand [Absalom]"

Salvian the Presbyter

Friday (Read 2 Samuel 14: 1-24)

Joab wished to be the intercessor to reconcile David with Absalom; for the following reasons:

- a. He knew for sure that David loves Absalom very much, longs to bring him back to Jerusalem
- b. He knew that sooner or later the two of them would definitely be reconciled; So by achieving that role, he would gain favour with both parties
- c. The return of Absalom, the murderer of his brother, after David pardons him, would alleviate David's bad feelings toward Joab, because his crime against Abner.

That is why he planned for that woman to play the role of a mourning and very sad widow; She came to David, as though mourning for the dead. Here, David doubted that Joab's hand must be with that woman in all this; and asking her, she, in humility and wisdom, told him the truth, lest the king's anger would arise against Joab.

The king ordered the return of Absalom to his house, but with a condition that he should not show his face to the king.

Saturday (Read 2 Samuel 14: 25-33)

Absalom, although he dwelt two full years in Jerusalem, he did not see the king's face; Yet, in those years, he did not learn how to acquire pardon through humility, but remained violent in his depths.

It seems that Joab refrained from coming to Absalom, lest he might arouse David's anger. When Absalom sent twice to Joab to reconcile him with the king, but with no response, Absalom commanded his servants to set Joab's field on fire. When Joab arose and came to Absalom's house to complain, the latter asked him to intercede on his behalf with the king, to look into his case; and either to pardon him, or execute him. Absalom was aware of the weakness of his father toward him: He would never execute him; and would fear, if he condemns him, that his son may defame him because of his crime against Uriah the Hittite.

When Joab went to the king and told him the words of Absalom, he called his son, and proclaimed his pardon by kissing him.

Absalom managed to return to the royal palace, probably to plan for taking away the throne from his father.