

Devotional from Pastor Ho
October 1, 2020

2 Samuel 12:13, *“He said, “While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept, for I said, ‘Who knows whether the LORD will be gracious to me, that the child may live?’””*

Having considered the indictment against David as well as David’s confession, both in the aftermath of David’s sins of adultery and murder (2 Sam 11), in this third instalment we shall consider David’s “reconciliation” with the Lord, particularly after the death of the child born to him as a result of the adultery.

When indicted, David responded with confession, so Nathan the prophet told him, “The Lord also has put away your sin; you shall not die. Nevertheless, ...the child who is born to you shall die” (2 Sam 12:13b-14). When the child was born, the Lord afflicted him and he became sick. David sought God on behalf of the child; he fasted and went in (presumably the house of the Lord, see v.20) and lay all night on the ground. When the child died on the seventh day, his servants dared not tell him, fearing he might do himself harm. When he eventually knew it, he arose, washed, anointed himself, changed his clothes, worshiped in the house of the Lord, and ate. His servants couldn’t wrap their minds around this. When they asked, he gave them the above explanation.

We could glean three important spiritual lessons from this incident. First, we see God’s sovereignty. No human acts, pious or otherwise, can change nor thwart God’s will. David’s response is worship him. Second, even though God had told him the child would die, David was persistent in fasting and prayer. As long as there was still a glimmer of hope, he would not forego any opportunity to hold on to God’s mercy. Third, David’s confession brought him forgiveness; he did not die, but in God’s righteousness his son had to die. When we confess our sins and repent, “God also has put away [our] sin,” so we do not die, but in God’s righteousness, his Son, who is also David’s greater Son, had to die. In this incident, we see the intersection between the righteousness and the mercy of God. In God’s righteousness, the child “Uriah’s wife” bore to David died; in God’s mercy, [David’s] wife bore him Solomon, whom the Lord loved, both women refer to Bathsheba. The take-away for us is to be persistent in our prayer always, “who knows whether the Lord will be gracious to us,” and show us his mercy.

Prayer: Lord, thank you for showing us the dark side of David’s life, but also his reconciliation with you by seeking your grace. In Christ we pray! Amen.

何牧師的靈修

2020年10月1日

撒母耳記下 12 篇 22 節：“大衛說：孩子還活著，我禁食哭泣；因為我想，或者耶和華憐恤我，使孩子不死也未可知。”

我們思考了對大衛的控訴和大衛的認罪，就是大衛犯了謀殺和淫亂罪之後(撒母耳記下 11 章)，在第三部分我們將思考大衛與主的“和好”，特別是在大衛因淫亂所得的孩子死後。

被控訴時，大衛以認罪回應，所以先知拿單告訴他，“耶和華已經除掉你的罪，你必不至於死。只是... 你所得的孩子必定要死”（撒母耳記下 12:13 下-14）。孩子出生時，主擊打他，使他得重病。大衛替這孩子懇求神，而且禁食，進入內室（想必是耶和華的殿，參第 20 節），終夜躺在地上。當孩子在第七日死時，他的臣僕不敢告訴他，擔心他會傷害自己。當他最終知道時，就起來，沐浴，抹膏，換了衣裳，進耶和華的殿敬拜，用餐。他的臣僕無法理解這事。當他們詢問時，他給了他們以上的解釋。

我們可以從這事件中汲取三個重要的屬靈功課。首先，我們看到神的主權。無論人如何虔誠與否的行為都無法改變或阻撓神的旨意。大衛的回應就是敬拜神。其次，雖然神告訴他孩子會死，大衛仍然堅持禁食和禱告。只要還有一絲希望，他就不會放棄任何抓住神憐憫的機會。其三，大衛的認罪使他得到寬恕。他沒有死，但在神的公義中他的兒子必需死。當我們認罪並悔改時，“神已經除掉【我們】的罪，”所以我們不用死，但在神的公義中神的兒子，也是大衛更偉大的兒子，不得不死。在這事件中，我們看到神的公義與憐憫之間的交集。在神的公義中，“烏利亞的妻子”給大衛所生的孩子死了；在神的憐憫中，(大衛的)妻生了所羅門，耶和華喜愛他，這兩者都是指拔示巴。我們所受的功課是，要常常恒切的禱告，“或者耶和華憐恤我們，”向我們顯示他的憐憫。

禱告：主啊，感謝你向我們展示了大衛生命中的陰暗面，也展示了他通過尋求你的恩典與你和好。我們奉基督禱告！阿門。

何牧师的灵修

2020年10月1日

撒母耳记下 12 篇 22 节：“大卫说：孩子还活着，我禁食哭泣；因为我想，或者耶和华怜恤我，使孩子不死也未可知。”

我们思考了对大卫的控诉和大卫的认罪，就是大卫犯了谋杀和淫乱罪之后(撒母耳记下 11 章)，在第三部分我们将思考大卫与主的“和好”，特别是在大卫因淫乱所得的孩子死后。

被控诉时，大卫以认罪回应，所以先知拿单告诉他，“耶和华已经除掉你的罪，你必不至于死。只是... 你所得的孩子必定要死”（撒母耳记下 12:13 下-14）。孩子出生时，主击打他，使他得重病。大卫替这孩子恳求神，而且禁食，进入内室（想必是耶和华的殿，参第 20 节），终夜躺在地上。当孩子在第七日死时，他的臣仆不敢告诉他，担心他会伤害自己。当他最终知道时，就起来，沐浴，抹膏，换了衣裳，进耶和华的殿敬拜，用餐。他的臣仆无法理解这事。当他们询问时，他给了他们以上的解释。

我们可以从这事件中汲取三个重要的属灵功课。首先，我们看到神的主权。无论人如何虔诚与否的行为都无法改变或阻挠神的旨意。大卫的回应就是敬拜神。其次，虽然神告诉他孩子会死，大卫仍然坚持禁食和祷告。只要还有一丝希望，他就不会放弃任何抓住神怜悯的机会。其三，大卫的认罪使他得到宽恕。他没有死，但在神的公义中他的儿子必需死。当我们认罪并悔改时，“神已经除掉【我们】的罪，”所以我们不用死，但在神的公义中神的儿子，也是大卫更伟大的儿子，不得不死。在这事件中，我们看到神的公义与怜悯之间的交集。在神的公义中，“乌利亚的妻子”给大卫所生的孩子死了；在神的怜悯中，(大卫的)妻生了所罗门，耶和华喜爱他，这两者都是指拔示巴。我们所受的功课是，要常常恒切的祷告，“或者耶和华怜恤我们，”向我们显示他的怜悯。

祷告：主啊，感谢你向我们展示了大卫生命中的阴暗面，也展示了他通过寻求你的恩典与你和好。我们奉基督祷告！阿门。