

## The Book of 2 Samuel

# 12

## Morning Devotions

Select a passage in God's Word. Talk with the Lord as you read the passage, then go back and find one or two verses which the Lord has impressed on your heart and meditate on them.

## Morning Study

This morning we finish reading the book of **2 Samuel**. This last section of the book focuses particularly on David's sin with Bathsheba (in which David broke two of the Ten Commandments – the sixth commandment (“you shall not murder”) and the seventh commandment (“you shall not commit adultery”). The judgment that comes from breaking the Law is severe, yet David experiences God's grace. This is because, as he writes in **Psalm 32:5**:

“Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, ‘I will confess my transgressions to the Lord’ – and you forgave the guilt of my sin.”

**Read Psalm 35**

**Read Psalm 51**

**Read Psalm 103**

**Psalm 51**, particularly, is significant, since it was composed by David following his sin with Bathsheba.

In the last chapter of **2 Samuel**, we find the record of another transgression that David commits, this time on a kingdom level rather than a personal level. It is obvious that God had commanded David not to take a census of the people (perhaps so that David would never fall into the trap of relying on his own natural strength rather than the strength of the Lord), and so this breach of conduct results in sweeping judgment by God. But this story is significant, for the threshing floor that is purchased (at the site where the angel of judgment halts) becomes the future site of the Temple.

**Read 2 Chronicles 3:1**

So let's pull up a comfortable chair and read the second half of **2 Samuel** – **chapters 11-24** – in one sitting.

# Memory Verse

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.

Romans 5:1-2

Here are a few suggestions that may help you to memorize your memory verse:

- Ask the Lord to help you remember his Word (see [John 14:26](#)).
- Use the version of the Bible you are most familiar with. What you normally read in your Bible is what you need to be memorizing.
- Don't just memorize the contents of the verse; memorize its "address" (the verse reference) as well. You can do this by following this pattern: Step 1: **reference**; Step 2: **verse content**; Step 3: **reference**. Then repeat steps 1-3. Note that you are quoting the reference twice as many times as you quote the actual verse content. This gives the verse a clear "reference tag."
- After you have read your memory verse out aloud several times, try going through your memory verse *without* reading your computer screen.
- Look up your memory verse in your Bible. Look at its immediate context and read the verses that come before and after your memory verse.
- Print out your memory verse or jot it down on a piece of paper. Take this paper with you when you go to work or do other daily activities. Meditate on the meaning of the verse throughout the day.
- During your noon appointment with the Lord, take out your memory verse and go over it again. Talk to the Lord about what this verse means to you personally.
- In the evening (at either your evening study or your evening devotions), see if you can quote your memory verse from memory. Then, without looking at the memory verse itself, see if you can find it in your Bible.
- The next day, before you begin committing a new verse to memory, rehearse your previous day's memory verse and see if you can remember it (without cheating!).
- Finally, at the end of the week (possibly on the Sunday), collect all your week's memory verses, rehearse them and see if you can recall them without reading them. Spend a little extra time on any verses you have difficulty recalling.
- Remember: Don't just memorize a verse. Put it into practice ([James 1:22](#)). It is not being able to quote a verse from memory that counts. It is His Word *abiding* in your heart that counts ([John 15:7](#)). When you actually apply a verse consistently to your daily life, that is when you *truly* know that verse!