



### Applying God's Word

*“Then David arose from the earth and washed and anointed himself and changed his clothes. And he went into the house of the Lord and worshipped. He then went to his own house. And when he asked, they set food before him, and he ate.”* 2 Samuel 12:20

The events described in the passage above took place immediately following the death of the child born of the adultery committed by David and Bathsheba. For seven days David fasted and prostrated himself on the ground before God, begging that the life of the child be spared. God said no. The child died, David rose, cleaned himself up, and marched directly into the house of God to worship. That's incredible, isn't it?

It occurs to me that David could have turned several places besides God to seek comfort. Let's consider where he *could* have turned.

David could have sought comfort in the world. He could have pursued every pleasure and succumbed to every temptation. He could have drowned himself in all that the world had to offer in an effort>

to escape the pain of his child's loss. But the world held little pleasure for David. Too many of his nights had been spent hiding in caves and wondering barren ground for him to love the world. He could never turn to it for comfort.

He could have turned to his fellow man. He could have built his faith upon man's advice and wisdom. But David had been disappointed by men too often to find lasting comfort there. Certainly he lamented on more than one shoulder and felt some respite in so doing. However, there was no lasting comfort there. David needed something more, something *sure*. He couldn't find it in man.

He could have turned inward. He could have decided that from then on he was going to keep his own counsel. But David realized that it was his own fault that all of this had happened in the first place. So how could David find comfort in himself when it was his own selfishness that had led to adultery, dishonesty, conspiracy, murder, and the death of the child? No, David certainly could not retreat inward to find comfort.

For David to find lasting, *true* comfort he had to turn to the Comforter Himself. So too must we. The pleasures of this world are fleeting (Hebrews 11:25). Even the best of people will disappoint us (Acts 15:36-39). Keeping our own counsel is a sure path to spiritual ruin (Jeremiah 10:23). Let us find our comfort where David found his. \*



### There's a lesson here.

*“Jesus saw Nathaniel coming toward him and said of him, ‘Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!’”* John 1:47

Do you care what other people think of you? In an effort to justify their actions, or speech, their public attire, and their frequent in-your-face attitudes, people will often say, “I just don't care what others think.”

Do you value your character? A recent U.S. President did not. His lack of embarrassment, shame, and remorse in the face of his sexual exploits in the White House spoke volumes about how little he valued his reputation.

Perhaps a more important question is does God care what others think of you? Does He want you to have an exemplary character?

Consider the following:

-the apostles instructed that seven men of **good repute** be appointed to attend the Grecian widows (Acts 6:3).

-Widows enrolled to be provided for by the church were to have a **reputation for good works** (1 Tim 5:10). >

-Elders are to be men **well thought of by outsiders** (1 Tim 3:7); **above reproach** (1 Tim 3:1); and **respectable** (1 Tim 3:2).

-David was a man after God’s own heart (Acts 13:22);

-Cornelius was a devout man who feared God (Acts 10:2);

-Tabitha was described as being full of good works and acts of charity (Acts 9:36); and

-Barnabas was given that name by the apostles because it means Son of encouragement (Acts 4:36).

It takes a lot of hard work, courage, steadfastness, patience, faith, love, peace, and a host of other things to get and maintain a good reputation. But while it takes years to build the kind of reputation God desires, it only takes an instant to destroy it.

There’s a lesson here, isn’t there? “A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favor is better than silver or gold.” (Prov. 22:1) \*

--The Elders

**In need of prayers**

**Ethan Daniels** is adjusting to life on earth. Adam and Jenilee are adjusting to life with Ethan!

**Charlene Antle** was scheduled for a PET scan Friday. She will begin her chemo >

treatments next Wednesday. The treatments are scheduled to last 12 weeks.

**Lala Whitson** is suffering severe intestinal problems. She is only 11 months old and is the daughter of former members here at UHeights.

**In need of regular prayers**

**Our members:** Jeff Howerton, Janice Parsons, Glenn Davis, Glenn Kimberlin, Jackie and Hannah Litmer

**Others:** Keia Burton, Edith Tirey, Tom Curtis. Rita Pagan, Linda Hill, Robin Miller, Vina Krassow, Courtney and Aubrey Reeves, John Bennett, Dennis Brennan, Robert and Sarah Brundige, Donald Dawson, Jean Gartland, Wes Kidd, Gail Stein

**Weekly Reading**

<b>Su</b>	2 Sam 23-24, Ps 122, 1 Tim 4-6
<b>M</b>	1 Kgs 1, Ps 123, 2 Tim 1-2
<b>T</b>	1 Kgs 2, Ps 124, 2 Tim 3-4
<b>W</b>	1 Kgs 3-4, Ps 125, Titus 1-3
<b>Th</b>	1 Kgs 5-6, Ps 126, Philemon
<b>F</b>	1 Kgs 7, Ps 127, Heb 1-3
<b>Sa</b>	1 Kgs 8, Ps 128, Heb 4-6

**Today’s sermon topics**

AM Three common mistakes  
 (Matthew 5:13-16)

PM In due season we will reap  
 (Galatians 6:9)

**Times of worship**

**Sunday AM**  
 Bible study 9:45  
 Worship service 10:45

**Sunday PM**  
 Worship service 6

**Wednesday PM**  
 Bible study and worship 7:30

**We also meet on the first and third Friday’s of each month at 7:30 for a singing (first Friday) and devotional (third Friday) service.**