

Chapel

2 Samuel 12:15-24

1/17/78

I love that hymn we sang very much, but every time I've turned to it lately I've been much disappointed. The important line in the whole hymn is the answer to the question, What did He do? The answer is, He died for you. But that doesn't seem to come out. It seems to say, What did He do? Where is He now? and the other is kind of lost. Whether a little extra time could be inserted in that place, or whether half of you could sing the lower cleff at that point, or what, but I always hate to not have "He died for you" come out strongly, because that seems is the big thing in this wonderful hymn.

This morning I want to speak to you about one of the great books of the Bible, but a book which I believe does not get the attention from Christians it should. I myself have found wonderful lessons from the Word of God in Samuel. ~~It is not a book that has a great deal of explanation, of discussion, of presentation of truth in didactic form but it is a book of history in which you can see God's hand in every chapter and you can find lessons that are plain for every one of us.~~ I'm going to read 10 vv. from 2 Sam. 12. The ch. begins with Nathan coming to David and rebuking him for his sin. David, the man after God's own heart fell into this terrible sin and was rebuked by Nathan for it. There are great lessons for us in a study of David's experience there, but that's not what I want to speak of this morning.

We'll start reading at v. 13. (Reading text . . .) David was sorely disappointed. Nathan told him the child would die, but David had seen God's mercy to him on many occasions, and he said, Oh if I only just pray and pray and pray and fast and do everything I can to please the Lord, maybe the Lord will be merciful to me and let this child live. But the child died. David's people were so surprised because he had been so utterly distraught when the child was so sick got up and went about his business and ate his meals when the child was dead. Very unusual behaviour! Yet a behaviour that has a lesson in it for all of us. The past is past, as David said. When things have gone wrong and they are finished, God does ~~not want us to be sorrowing over the past. He wants us to step forward.~~ If we have grievously sinned, he wants us to repent, but he does not want us after He has forgiven us to keep grieving over our past sins. He wants us to go forward in serving him. He does not want us to spend time in crying over spilt milk, He wants us to move forward and accomplish for Him. He wants us to realize that God will is always best.

You know when things go wrong we tend to plame others. It's a human tendency when things go wrong to blame others. We find it in little children. It's his fault, it's her fault. They did it. We've got to have someone to blame. But God says, Vengeance is mine, I will repay. It is not our job to seek out other people's faults and to find == to punish them for it; God will take care of that. God wants us to realize that His will is best in all things. It's very interesting to recall in Gen.3 when God rebuked Adam and Eve for their sin, he rebuked Adam, and Adam said, The woman thou gavest me, she did it. Then he rebuked Eve and she