



HOUSE OF DISTRESS

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Introduction

Some stories you hear as a child never leaves you. One such story is one my father told us about a couple in the community he grew up at. There was a tall, heavy, angry woman who was married to a small, short, quiet man. She would beat him up regularly and the community would laugh at him. One day the commotion started in their yard. She was in pursuit of him and he was running from her, and as usual, the community was watching. She caught up with and started beating him. He fell on his back and she fell on top of him. But she was not moving anymore. It turned out that he had a sharp instrument in his hand and when she fell on him it plunged right into her heart and she died.

This type of drama, intrigue, and distress is evident in so many of our modern homes. In today's message, we examine the life and experience of King David in light of the drama and distress that plagued his life and family.

- What do you do when your family suffers because of your mistakes and wrongdoing?
- Where is God when you suffer from emotional trauma as a consequence of your sins?

The message today is “In dysfunctional homes and Homes of distress” there is still hope in Jesus!



David Rise to Power

No one would know that this humble country boy would become king. As a matter of fact, Israel had just appointed their first King, Saul, and it would be the heir of the Kingdom. However, a simple glance through scriptures indicates that God likes to work with humble people.

“Humble yourself therefore before the mighty hand of God and he will exalt you in due season” (1 Peter 5: 6-8).

David comes to prominence when the Philistines kept on threatening Israel and no one would go to fight Goliath. With unwavering faith in God of about age 15, David went and with only a little sling and five stones in his hand he defeated Goliath. Subsequently, he got a place in the service of the king. He became so well respected and loved due to his success, especially in the battle, that the king himself now wanted to get rid of him. But anointed by God for his position, God protected him and even the King's son Jonathon and daughters were on his side. *If God is for us, my friends! Who can be against us?*

After Saul died David was anointed as King and his reign was one of the greatest, prosperous and successful until he committed adultery and murder.

You know the story very well, how he slept with Bathsheba, Uriah's wife, and then sent him to the front of the battle to be killed.

The Beginning of Sorrow

The price of David's sin of murder and adultery was high. He spent the rest of his life regretting it. In most of the Psalms, we see him in repentance and regret. *Example Psalm 38, (Read Psalm 38:1-3).*



- How many of us have done some things that we regret?

Things that we are ashamed of that negatively affects our lives and our families, things that would destroy us eternally if they would come to light- but for the grace of God!

And all we can do is to say like David “Lord forgive me, Lord rebuke me not in thy wrath, Lord have mercy upon me according to the loving kindness and thy tender mercies.”

For the rest of his life, David was on a mission for the cleansing of his soul (*Psalms 51:1-3, 10, & 11*).

Psalms 38: Matthew Henry’s Commentary

“This is one of the penitential Psalms; it is full of grief and complaint from beginning to end. David’s sins and affliction are the cause of his grief and the matter of his complaints. It should seem he was now sick in pain (emotional), which reminded him of his sins and helped to humble him...he was deserted by friends and persecuted by enemies; so that the Psalm is calculated for the depth of his distress and complication of his calamities.”

David Was In Depression!!

What is depression?

The most common psychological illness characterized by sadness, isolation, crying and a sense of hopelessness. Persons who are depressed often are plagued by suicidal ideation, due to the deep emotional pain. One man who was burned up with hot oil was a child who became clinically depressed as an adult. One day he was asked



which was worse the physical or emotional pain. He responded, “I would rather be burnt with hot oil any day than to die with the pain of depression.”

- Women are twice as likely to be depressed as men.
- The two main causes of depression are family and work concerns.
- If you are depressed don't be afraid to seek professional help.

Let us explore some of the family and social issues that lead to David's distress and depression.

A. Rape and Murder

Just like David's deception in trying to give Uriah an illegitimate child his son, Amnon deceived the King and raped his sister Tamar. Tamar was the daughter of Maachah and David and half-sister to Amnon. David's lack of control over his lust with Bathsheba had set a presidency for Amnon and after Amnon's act, he was unable to properly pacify the matter (*2 Samuel 13:1-14*).

Absalom sought revenge for the wrong done to his sister (*2 Sam 13: 23-39*). Absalom concealed his hate for 2 years and then with a sinister plan to kill his eldest brother Amnon who was the heir of the kingdom. He invited them to a special fiesta (David did not go). Absalom gave Amnon lots of wine and when he was drunk, he instructed his servants to kill him and ran away to his grandfather Geshur.

But remember the prophecy of Nathan to David after he killed Uriah “The sword shall not depart from thy house because thou hast despised me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah,” (*2 Sam 12:10*).



B. Drawn out of the Kingdom

In *2 Samuel 14: 24-33*, David allowed Absalom to return home, forgave him and gave him all the rights to the life of a prince as before. Once restored, Absalom began developing a careful plan to overthrow his father. He became very active in the kingdom giving judgment to those who had grievances (this made him popular) and in the passage for today, we find him winning the hearts of the people and David being driven out of his kingdom (*2 Sam 15:14-30*).

If you are not strong enough to be in charge of your own homes, as parents, sometimes your children will drive you out!

Absalom became so vile he even slept with his father's concubines (*2 Sam 20-23*). He did not stop until he was killed and even so, David wept for him.

TEXT 2 SAMUEL 16:5-12

A. 2 Samuel 16:5-8

David, cursed by one of Saul's servants who was stirred up against David by his son Absalom; his audacity to curse the king so fearless and disrespectful, for a King referring to David as an idolater.

B. 2 Samuel 16:9

Abishai said let me kill this "dead dog". This shows that someone was still loyal to David. David could have permitted him to kill the man which had cursed him but he did not (*2 Samuel 16:10-12*).

David felt like he deserved to suffer because of his failure. Sometimes we do deserve our suffering!



But God never intended on keeping us in suffering without grace if we repent. Some of us have a persecution syndrome even when God releases us. We feel that we should still suffer. It is time to get up and received healing and deliverance in Jesus' name!!!

CONCLUSION

David was distressed and depressed, but he was never bitter. That is why he was called a man after God's own heart. David is not the best example of a good father, Abraham was. However, with his dysfunctional family, David learned to be humble and trusting and therefore God honored that in labelling him amidst his sin's a man after God's own heart.

7 REASON DAVID WAS CALLED A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

1. Humble – *Psalms 62: 9*
2. Respectful – *Psalms 31:9*
3. Loving – *Psalms 18: 1*
4. Devoted – *Psalms 4:7*
5. Obedient – *Psalms 119:34*
6. Faithful – *Psalms 23:6*
7. Forgiving and Repentant – *Psalms 25:11*

David soiled as king when he cheated on and killed as a father but all his life, he attempted to cleanse his soul. Contrary to what some Adventists might teach, what God requires is not sinless perfection but humility, commitment and repentance like David and He will heal our hearts and our homes and thus give us hope.



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After crying out to God in pain and grief for help and hope, David was able to find that hope in Psalms 86: 12-17 (READ)

Ellen G. White says:

“Great had been David’s fall but deep was his repentance, ardent was his love and strong his faith. He had been forgiven much so loved much...His life record declares that sin can bring only shame and woe, but that God’s love and mercy can reach the deepest depths” (Patriarchs and Prophets page 754)

There is healing for dysfunctional families. Like David will you, those who need it, receive it today?