

We are in part 4 of our study on David in connection with our verse by verse study through the book of Hebrews. We are studying David to understand why the Holy Spirit included him in the famed Hall of Faith found in **Hebrews 11:32**.

Hebrews 11:32

And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of **David** and Samuel and the prophets.

So far we have covered David's experiences (both what happened as well as how he felt) from the time he was a boy up until the time he became king. So tonight we make a transition to "King" David. I think the first thing that we need to understand is that the times of God's testing and preparation are always measured. They always come to an end; that is when they have accomplished their purposes.

I know that for many of us it feels as if there is no end to these difficult times which God has us in; but I assure you there is. You see, God is not taking us through difficulty because He is some sick sadist that loves to see us squirm and suffer; rather, He has very specific purposes in taking us through the journey that He has us on. And we can all have hope that it will one day end when the suffering has perfected God's character and nature within our being.

By way of encouragement, one of my favorite verses that I hold on to during these difficult times of suffering is **1 Peter 5:10**.

1 Peter 5:10

After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.

The outcome of our suffering is hope and glory. God Himself will perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish us. We will see this in David's life. After close to 15 years of preparation in Pain Central, David was prepared; and now the Lord was going to seal David in the Lord's glory. You see, our suffering is never for naught. Our suffering is never reckless. Our suffering is always measured and the Lord is in control of every moment (see **Jeremiah 13:25; Acts 9:16**).

In Part 2 we closed with **2 Samuel 5:4-5** where, at the young age of 30, David was made king over Judah and 7 years later he was made king over all of Israel. What started with an anointing of oil over his head has culminated in the coronation exactly as it was prophesied by Samuel the prophet.

In this next period of David's life we see him conquer everyone who stands in his way and the blessing of the Lord over his life is amazing. First of all David captures Jerusalem and makes it his home town. Jerusalem was controlled by the Jebusites and it was a well protected city whose walls seemed impenetrable. They taunted David by saying: "even the blind and the lame could keep you out." So David sent his men up through the water tunnel and they were able to easily capture the city.

David made the fortress of Jerusalem his home and called it the City of David. “And David became more and more powerful, because the Lord God Almighty was with him” (**2 Samuel 5:10**).

The next thing you know is that even foreign nations began to recognize the way the Lord had blessed David. King Hiram of Tyre (which is on the North West Coast in Phoenician territory) sent cedar logs, carpenters, and stonemasons to build David a fanciful palace. “And David realized that the Lord had made him king over Israel and had made his kingdom great for the sake of his people Israel” (**2 Samuel 5:11-12**).

Then David married more wives and concubines and had many sons and daughters. It seems no one mentioned a word to David, including God, about **Deuteronomy 17:17** which says that a king of Israel must not take many wives for himself because they will lead him away from the Lord. But what the heck, David was enjoying his life.

Then more and more men joined David’s army. He had some real amazing fighters known simply as the 3 and the thirty. Each of these guys was themselves like a mighty army. Even some of Saul’s relatives joined David all of them expert archers who could shoot a bow or sling stones with both the right and left hand. Some brave and experienced warriors from the tribe of Gad also joined David; they were expert with both shield and spear, as fierce as lions and as swift as deer on the mountains. The weakest among them could take on a hundred regular troops and the strongest could take on a thousand. Day after day more men joined David until he had a great army, like the army of God (**1 Chronicles 12**)!

As a result, David's war efforts were nothing short of epic. The Philistines mobilized all their forces to capture David. When David heard they were coming he retreated into the fortress in the City of David. Then he asked God if he should go out to them and battle them even though they were spread out across this huge valley just southwest of Jerusalem. The Lord replied, "Yes, go ahead. I will certainly give you the victory." So David wiped out the Philistines. He exclaimed: "The Lord had done it!...He burst through my enemies like a raging flood" (**2 Samuel 5:17-21**)!

After a while the Philistines came back and once again spread out across the same valley (these guys were gluttons for punishment). David again turned and immediately asked the Lord what He should do. The Lord replied, "Do not attack them straight on. Instead, circle around behind them and attack them near the balsam trees. When you hear the sound like marching feet in the tops of the balsam trees, attack! That will be the signal that the Lord is moving ahead of you to strike down the Philistines."

How cool is that. The Philistines brought their entire army and David shows up with a bunch of angels who fight ahead of him. So David struck down the Philistines once again (**2 Samuel 5:22-25**) and "David's fame spread everywhere, and the Lord caused all the nations to fear David" (**1 Chronicles 14:17**).

So things are going pretty good for David and he decided to bring the Ark of the Lord to Jerusalem. During Saul's reign the Ark had been captured by the Philistines, which seemed like a good idea at first, but believe me it didn't go so well for them. The Ark was returned to Israel but it stayed at the home of a man named Abinadab for probably 20 years.

David felt the Ark had been neglected too long so he sent a message throughout Israel calling together all the priests and they all agreed to bring the Ark of God back to Jerusalem. So David sent 30,000 special troops to get the Ark and they placed it on a new cart and traveled to the city. David and all the people of Israel were celebrating before the Lord with all their might, singing songs, and playing all kinds of musical instruments. But at one point the oxen stumbled and a man named Uzzah put out his hand to steady the Ark and the Lord instantly struck him dead for touching the Ark.

This freaked David out. He was afraid to bring the Ark into the City of David so he left it at the home of Obed-edom and we are told that David was angry with God for striking Uzzah. See, being angry at God is not a new concept; it is an honest response that most of us are afraid to have. But, as we discussed last week, David is not afraid to express his emotions and hurt to the Lord, even when he is angry at God.

But eventually David had to swallow his pride when he realized that he had never even stopped to ask God how to move it in the proper way; so he realized that this was actually a hard one to tag on God (**1 Chronicles 15:13**).

I am sure some of you are wondering why the Lord struck Uzzah. It is all tied to the fact that the Ark is Holy. The Ark is where God chose to meet His people. It was a big mistake to move the Ark by cart. The priests were supposed to carry the Ark by passing these long rods through rings at the bottom of the Ark and lifting it up on their shoulders; it was never to be touched for it is holy. This is specifically addressed in **Numbers 4:1-20**. In fact, the implements used in the Tabernacle

were so holy that they all had to all be covered when moving for if anyone even looked upon them they would die.

Now during the time of Saul, there was little to no adherence to the Scriptures as Saul thought he could do whatever he wanted whenever he wanted and attention to the spiritual life of the nation was woefully lacking. So David is trying to do a good thing, but as we know, good intentions are for—well let’s just say they don’t mean much. God is holy and if you are going to approach the Lord, there is still the requirement that you listen to what He says.

While the Ark was at the home of Obed-edom the Lord blessed him and his entire household; and David wanted some of that blessing so he once again made arrangements to bring the Ark of the Lord to the City of David. David issued these instructions: “When we transport the Ark of God this time, no one except the Levites may carry it. The Lord has chosen them to carry the Ark of the Lord and to minister before Him forever” (**1 Chronicles 15:2**). It was a tough lesson but he learned.

Then David summoned all the Israelites to Jerusalem to go before the Ark. He arranged for a choir, a bunch of musicians, and priests to blow the silver trumpets as they marched in front of the Ark. Then after every six steps, they would stop and sacrifice an ox and a fattened calf. There were shouts of joy, the blowing of horns and trumpets and the crashing of cymbals, and loud playing on harps and lyres. This was a full-on worship experience.

David was dressed in a priestly tunic and danced before the Lord with all his might. His wife mocked him for behaving so and embarrassing himself; he just told her, “I was dancing before the Lord...So I am willing to act like a fool in order

to show my joy in the Lord. Yes, and I am willing to look even more foolish than this” (*2 Samuel 6:16-23*).

David actually wrote an amazing Psalm just for the occasion. You can read it in *1 Chronicles 16*, *Psalm 105*, and *Psalm 96*. Then David arranged for the Levites to minister regularly before the Ark and the Tabernacle doing all that needed to be done each day. They sacrificed regular burnt offerings to the Lord each morning and evening on the altar obeying everything written in the law of the Lord (*1 Chronicles 16:37-43*). So finally the spiritual life of the nation was returning.

Soon David became bothered by the fact that he was living in a fancy cedar palace but the Ark of the Lord was out in a tent and he wanted to build a temple for the Lord. The prophet of the day, Nathan, told David to go for it, but Nathan did not ask the Lord; he just thought that since the Lord was with David he could do whatever his heart desired (after all that is what Saul did). In the Lord’s response to David, however, we learn 1) some amazing things about David’s journey from Pain Central to glory, and 2) the way that the Lord layers most everything He says. Let’s look at this passage from *1 Chronicles 17*.

1 Chronicles 17:3-15

It came about the same night that the word of God came to Nathan, saying, "Go and tell David My servant, 'Thus says the Lord, "You shall not build a house for Me to dwell in; for I have not dwelt in a house since the day that I brought up Israel to this day, but I have gone from tent to tent and from one dwelling place to another." In all places where I have walked with all Israel, have I spoken a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to

shepherd My people, saying, 'Why have you not built for Me a house of cedar?'"

"Now, therefore, thus shall you say to My servant David, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts, "I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader over My people Israel." I have been with you wherever you have gone, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make you a name like the name of the great ones who are in the earth. "I will appoint a place for My people Israel, and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and not be moved again; and the wicked will not waste them anymore as formerly, even from the day that I commanded judges to be over My people Israel. And I will subdue all your enemies.

Moreover, I tell you that the Lord will build a house for you. "When your days are fulfilled that you must go to be with your fathers, that I will set up one of your descendants after you, who will be of your sons; and I will establish his kingdom." He shall build for Me a house, and I will establish his throne forever. "I will be his father and he shall be My son; and I will not take My lovingkindness away from him, as I took it from him who was before you." But I will settle him in My house and in My kingdom forever, and his throne shall be established forever." According to all these words and according to all this vision, so Nathan spoke to David.

So God was not really interested in a temple for Himself, He had that one under control. But we will get back to the issue of the temple. God essentially tells David that He chose him; cared for him, and was with him everywhere, all the time. It

did not matter if he was ducking spears in the palace, slobbering and acting like a madman in Philistia, or hiding out in some cave, the Lord was always with Him, always protecting him, always providing for David.

You see sometimes when we are going through some tough semesters at Pain Central it seems as if God is not listening to us, not caring for us, has fallen asleep, or taken a vacation. But that is just what it feels like; and our feelings have no bearing on the truth. God was always with David and He is always with us—period! He never leaves us nor forsakes us. Remember, every aspect of David’s suffering was measured out, prescribed, and everything was purposeful.

Do you realize that none of David’s enemies (and there were many) ever prevailed over him? Sure from our perspective it was scary and intense as David was constantly pursued; but the Lord dealt with David’s enemies because David let Him. David was always safe. It just seemed like he was in danger; but that was just what it seemed. The truth is David was always protected by the Lord.

We need to remember this. ***We need to never let ourselves be ruled by what we feel and what we think based on what things “seems” to us.***

Then this last part of the passage is a perfect example of what I call the Lord’s layered way of talking to us. When we read it, we instantly think about Solomon who built an amazing temple unto the Lord. And while that is an accurate view, this passage is really all about Jesus and us. He is the Son and we are the house to which the Lord was referring. We are the temple of God (***1 Corinthians 3:16-20; 2 Corinthians 6:16; Ephesians 2:20-22***) and Jesus has been firmly established on His throne seated at the right hand of the Father and He is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else in this world or in the world to come

(*Ephesians 1:20-23*). Isn't that cool? It all points to Jesus and to us.

So when Nathan delivered this message to David, he just went and sat down before the Lord and prayed. I love the comfortable familiarity he shows as he just sits with the Lord. David said:

1 Chronicles 17:16-19; 23-27

"Who am I, O Lord God, and what is my family, that you have brought me this far? And now, O God, in addition to everything else, you speak of giving your servant a lasting dynasty! You speak as though I were someone very great, O Lord God! "What more can I say to you about the way you have honored me? You know what your servant is really like. For the sake of your servant, O Lord, and according to your will, you have done all these great things and have made them known ...

And now, O Lord, I am your servant; do as you have promised concerning me and my family. May it be a promise that will last forever. And may your name be established and honored forever so that everyone will say, 'The Lord of Heaven's Armies, the God of Israel, is Israel's God!' And may the house of your servant David continue before you forever.

"O my God, I have been bold enough to pray to you because you have revealed to your servant that you will build a house for him—a dynasty of kings! For you are God, O Lord. And you have promised these good things to your servant. And now, it has pleased you to bless the house of your servant, so that it will continue forever before you. For when you grant a blessing, O Lord, it is an eternal blessing!"

So obviously this does not sound like a prayer from a man who is ticked off that he spent 15 years at Pain Central. This is a prayer of a man who knows his God, loves his God, and is awed by his God. I love the statement: "For when you grant a blessing, O Lord, it is an eternal blessing!" That is our God. He can be trusted.

Then over the next number of years, God continued to give David great military victories. He subdued and humbled the Philistines, he conquered the land of Moab, the land of Edom, the land of Ammon, the Amalekites, he destroyed the forces of Hadadezer, king of Zobah, and he killed the Arameans who at different times tried to help both Hadadezer and the Ammonites. The Lord gave David victory wherever he went (**2 Samuel 8:6**). So David became very famous (**2 Samuel 8:13**).

We are told that David reigned over all of Israel and was fair to everyone; he even cared for the last surviving grandson of Saul (Mephibosheth) holding to the promise he had made to his best friend Jonathon. David brought Mephibosheth, who was a cripple, to live at the palace and cared for him throughout his life.

So David's life was filled with goodness and he was willing to spread that goodness along knowing that all that he had received came from the loving hand of the Lord and it was not to be hoarded. After all those years of intense suffering, David is experiencing year after year of God's glory and grace.

Thus, I am fairly sure that David was not really ready for what happened next. Yes, once again, it was time for school. However, this school was a bit different than Pain Central as this was graduate school with an entirely different focus. I think I will call this school CU—Conformation University. It's the school where

people are sent when God wants to do some very precise fine tuning within their souls so that they become conformed into the image of Jesus Christ.

I have to stop and prep you before we dive into this next part of David's life. Most of us have been so trained to view the story of David and Bathsheba through the eyes of sin such that we entirely miss the point of the story, which is what God wanted to accomplish in David's life through his sin. Sure David sinned, we all know that; but the issue of sin, at least in the way we "religiously" view it, is inconsequential to this particular graduate class.

Remember, everything about our lives that does not derive from the divine is sin; so tread carefully with your judgments. God had some key aspects of His own character and nature that He knew would be necessary for David to possess and so this next part of this story—David's graduate school—was about building those attributes into David's soul.

But for you to track with me on this part of the story you have to look past your "religious" tendencies, resist your "religious" inclinations, and you may even have to reject your "religious" upbringing. I say this because religion has tried to shove God into a comfortable box of rules and responsibilities that is reinforced with judgment and condemnation. And, if that is what you tend to do, if that is how you read the Bible, if that is how you think and live your life, you will struggle through this story.

Now, I have to admit, on the face of it, the details of the story seem to support the "religious" perspective as it seems to be filled with a message of sin, condemnation, judgment and death. But trust me; this story is more than layered with meaning.

Remember what we have learned so far. The Lord was in all of David's suffering; it was all measured and purposeful. Therefore, we must not **NOW** think that the affairs (literally) of his life were outside of that same close supervision.

What do we know about David (his student profile)? David was a warrior; a conqueror; it was his nature. There are quite a few stories that we did not cover where someone came to David expecting mercy and he just killed them on the spot, without blinking an eye. You see, David had no qualms with killing his enemy; that is what he knew and that is how God had used him. Remember, he was essentially a judge over Israel. David knew that the Lord was righteous and demanded justice and David had so often been the arm of that justice.

Now I believe I mentioned in the first teaching on David that his kingdom is a Biblical type of the Messiah's kingdom; and we have learned about how picky God is when it comes to His types. So we have to start to think about what was possibly lacking in David's soul that was needed for David's legacy to accurately reflect that of the Messiah.

Here he is this great king who was famed throughout the lands whose kingdom is glorious and the envy of all others. But still something is missing which is why David had to go back to school. Something needed to be conformed into the image of the Messiah. Now, the tricky part is that the story of David and Bathsheba is like the classroom studies which set the stage for David's internship where he practically learns to apply the deeper aspects of God's character and nature. We will cover the internship next week. So on to the drama.

One Spring David decided not to go out to war with his army and for some reason decided to hang back at the palace. Then Late one afternoon David got out

of bed from his nap (I guess kings get to take naps when they are spending a lazy spring only dreaming of their army who is fighting and spilling blood) and he went for a stroll on the roof of the palace. As he looked out over the city he saw Bathsheba who just happened to be bathing out there for everyone to see (go figure). Now Bathsheba was hot and David just had to have her.

He found out that she was the wife of one of his commanders; but he called for her anyways and he slept with her. At least from the story it seems she had no issue with their little afternoon delight, so maybe her bathing on the roof was a little more strategic than we might otherwise think; but who knows. So she ends up getting pregnant and David started to panic.

So David sent word to the front lines to send him Uriah, Bathsheba's husband, under the guise that he wanted to be updated on the war. But really he hoped that Uriah would come home, sleep with his wife, so that the pregnancy could be attributed to Uriah and not David.

So Uriah arrives and chats with David and David tells him to go home and relax and he even sent a gift to Uriah after he had left the Palace. David is really trying to set this thing up nicely; but he was not expecting what happened next.

2 Samuel 11:9-11

But Uriah didn't go home. He slept that night at the palace entrance with the king's palace guard. When David heard that Uriah had not gone home, he summoned him and asked, "What's the matter? Why didn't you go home last night after being away for so long?" Uriah replied, "The Ark and the armies of Israel and Judah are living in tents, and Joab and my master's men are camping

in the open fields. How could I go home to wine and dine and sleep with my wife? I swear that I would never do such a thing."

That must have stung; after all, David was at the palace, taking naps, going on leisurely strolls, and chasing after hot babes when he should have been on the battlefield. I am sure he was absolutely humiliated by Uriah's integrity.

2 Samuel 11:12-13

"Well, stay here today," David told him, "and tomorrow you may return to the army." So Uriah stayed in Jerusalem that day and the next. Then David invited him to dinner and got him drunk. But even then he couldn't get Uriah to go home to his wife. Again he slept at the palace entrance with the king's palace guard.

Ok, that plan was a total bomb. This man had more character than the king. David once again panics for everyone is going to know what he did. So David wrote a letter to Joab, his general, and sent Uriah back to the battle. The letter instructed Joab to station Uriah where the battle is fiercest then pull back so that he will be killed. Job did just that but several other elite soldiers were killed along with Uriah. Do you want to know what David said to the messenger who told him of these events? "Well, tell Joab not to be discouraged. The sword kills one as well as another! Fight harder next time, and conquer the city" (***2 Samuel 11:25***).

That is unbelievable; David lost some of his special forces and he just acts as if they had lost a Friday night football game. “Try harder next time guys.”

Bathsheba mourned her husband’s death and then David brought her to the palace and married her. She gave birth to a son but the Lord was displeased with what David had done. We find out from **Psalm 51** that David was also displeased for the guilt and shame burned within his body.

So the Lord sent Nathan the prophet to confront David. He told David this story about a rich man who had a lot of sheep but when he was throwing a party for a guest he took a sheep from a poor man who only had one lamb and killed it and served it to his guest. This lamb was special to this man; it had grown up with his children, ate from his own plate and drank from his cup. He would even cuddle it in his arms like a baby daughter.

When David heard this story he was furious and said, "As surely as the Lord lives," he vowed, "any man who would do such a thing deserves to die! He must repay four lambs to the poor man for the one he stole and for having no pity" (**2 Samuel 12:5-6**). Mark that comment, “no pity,” we will find that it is an important part of the lesson.

David is not willing to have any pity on this rich man; he just demands his life even though the law does not require death for such a deed. Isn’t it sad that people who have done something bad and have something to hide seem to be the ones who are the harshest in their judgment towards others and are absolutely hypocritical?

I personally have run into this over and over again from those who love their religion but have personally (and usually secretly) failed to live according to their

own religious rules and requirements. They project all their stuff on to me and assume that if they are doing (or have done) “bad” things that I must be as well. It really annoys me when they do that; but oh well that is part of the gig, I guess.

2 Samuel 12:7-12

The Nathan said to David, "You are that man! The Lord, the God of Israel, says: I anointed you king of Israel and saved you from the power of Saul. I gave you your master's house and his wives and the kingdoms of Israel and Judah. And if that had not been enough, I would have given you much, much more. Why, then, have you despised the word of the Lord and done this horrible deed? For you have murdered Uriah the Hittite with the sword of the Ammonites and stolen his wife. From this time on, your family will live by the sword because you have despised me by taking Uriah's wife to be your own.

"This is what the Lord says: Because of what you have done, I will cause your own household to rebel against you. I will give your wives to another man before your very eyes, and he will go to bed with them in public view. You did it secretly, but I will make this happen to you openly in the sight of all Israel."

So David finally confesses his guilt and Nathan tells him that the Lord has forgiven him and he won't die for this sin even though the law requires a life for a life. The Lord had pity on David; mercy even. But the Lord also said that since David gave the enemies of the Lord great opportunity to despise and blaspheme Him that the child must die (***2 Samuel 12:13-14***).

Now the child became very sick and David fasted and prayed the entire time. But when he found out that the child was dead he got up, cleaned up, and went on with life. He said, “Can I bring him back again? I will go to him one day, but he cannot return to me.” There is so much deep truth in that little phrase, but I will leave that to you to sort out since is not really what we are studying; but please go back and study it and let me know what you are able to discover.

Then David went to comfort Bathsheba and slept with her and she again got pregnant and gave birth to a son, and they named the child Solomon. The Lord loved the child and sent word through Nathan the prophet that his name should be Jedidiah—“beloved of the Lord”—because the Lord loved him (**2 Samuel 12:24-25**).

So that is the story. But what did the Lord accomplish in David through this ordeal? What was the real subject matter of this class?

Well, we know that the class focused on pity, mercy, and about not giving another what they truly deserved, even when they deserve death. God did not deal with David according to his sin and that is most definitely how the Messiah has dealt with you and me.

Romans 5:6-11

For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of

God through Him. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

This is a pretty big subject matter; the book was thick. We deserve to die. Every one of us has sinned, by nature and by choice, and has continually rebelled against the holiness of God; yet He still chose to give us pity, mercy. He gives us what we do not deserve (which is the very definition of grace). You might be thinking, “Ok, I get that point. But then why did the kid have to die? How is that fair? He did nothing wrong.”

Well, this gets us back to the issue of typology and how God zealously protects it. First of all, let me just say that this child actually got the better deal. He is with Jesus and did not have to deal with this world of trouble, pain, sin, and sadness; he got to go straight to the eternal reward (how is that for a perspective on life and death).

Remember, we are the only ones who really value and hold to this life of flesh even though Jesus instructed us to live for eternity. He told us that this life is transitory and we are just passing through. Therefore, we are to set our sights on the realities of heaven where Christ sits at the right hand in the place of honor and power...for we died when Christ died and our true life is hidden with Christ in God (***Colossians 3:1-3***).

But in terms of typology, this kid also represents the things that come from our flesh whereas Solomon represents all that comes from God. And as we know our

flesh must die, or more accurately, we must put off what has died, so that we can live in the Spirit (**Romans 6, Colossians 3:5-10**). But most of us don't like the idea of setting aside the desires of our flesh and so like David we try and save, protect, and rescue our flesh; we even mourn its death. We are pretty pathetic. Thank goodness the Lord is so gentle and patient with us for there is nothing good about the flesh—absolutely nothing! Remember, only God is good; we are not!

In addition, the promise of the Messiah, the promise made to David back in **2 Samuel 7** and **1 Chronicles 17** would come through Solomon—Jedidiah— because the Messiah is beloved of the Lord, because the Lord loved Him.

So the final exam for this class was on the lesson of pity, mercy, even in the face of the most heinous of sins and failures. David was a stranger to these character attributes which come from the Messiah; but he got a lesson he would never forget regarding the Lord's unfailing love and great compassion. I encourage you to go and read **Psalms 51** where David talks about all of this. It is beautiful, it is comforting, and it is amazing. You will love it.

Understanding why God takes us through things in our lives is so important to how we handle them. David's life was a reflection of the Messiah. Similarly, our lives are a reflection of the Messiah (we are His ambassadors). Thus, so much of what we go through is about Him fine tuning our lives so we can accurately express the character and nature of our God. If there are things missing, He will work to instill them in our lives. When you can accept this truth you will see how beautiful, comforting and amazing God's unfailing love really is; and you will love it.

Next week, David's internship begins where he learns to apply this lesson and practically practice pity, mercy, unfailing love and great compassion.

Let's Pray.