**God Forgives His Children**

Scripture: 2 Samuel 11-12; Psalm 51

***Memory verse: Psalm 23:2-3a***

*He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quite waters, he restores my soul.*

After Saul died, David became a king of Israel. He was a good king as he is humble before God and ask God to help him lead the people of Israel and make them a strong nation. He obeyed and served God and so did his people (Israelites) David is someone after God’s own heart, he is so closed to God because he has an intimate relationship with God.

One spring day, when David’s army went out to war, David stayed home. Although as a King, he should lead his soldiers in battle instead he stayed in the palace or stay behind in Jerusalem. One day as David sat on his palace roof, he saw a lovely woman. This lovely woman called Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah (One of David’s strongest and bravest Soldiers)

Even though David knew the fact that this woman belongs to someone else, but he keeps thinking about Bathsheba and he doesn’t want to think about Uriah, he wants to have her to be his wife. Since then, he became very selfish and did evil thing in God’s eyes. David sinned by taking Bathsheba as if she were his own wife. It was very very bad and not only that he though a wicked and cruel way to get rid of Uriah so he could have Bathsheba. David sent a not to Joab (the leader of his army) Joab, put Uriah in the front line of the battle where the fighting is fierce. While there, he is sure to be killed. Joab did as he was ordered by King and the next battle Uriah was struck down and died. When David heard the news about Uriah, he was glad. Now Bathsheba would belong to him alone.

God wasn’t pleased with what David had done, and He sent a prophet to talk with David. This prophet called Nathan and Nathan told David about the Illustration like this: Once there were 2 men. One is rich and had many sheep and cattle and the other one is poor and had only 1 lamb. The poor man loved his lamb like a child, he took it inside fed it from his own plate and held it in his arms when it was tired and sleepy. But one day a terrible thing happened. Some people came to visit the rich man. He didn’t want to give up one his own sheep, but instead he took the poor man’s lamb, roasted it and fed it to this guest. David was very angry when he heard Nathan’s story: The rich man should be punished for what he did to the poor man! He cried loudly. But you are just like the man in the story” Nathan told David. God made you a king and a wonderful palace, with fine clothing, richness and many other things. But you are not satisfied, you are sinned against God by killing Uriah and taking his wife. You will be punished for your wrong doings.

Suddenly, David realized his wrongdoing, The God of holy spirit spoken with him directly through Nathan and he knew that he had disobeyed God and he felt very sorry for his sins. He was asking God to forgive him – what does it mean by forgive: it is not holding as sin against that person anymore. When David turned back to God, God quickly forgave him and made his heart glad again.

When a sheep is lost, the shepherd will find the lost sheep and brings it back to the flock. It is the same as the Lord called Nathan to speak with David. God wanted his disobedient sheep to return and back home. Our Good shepherd Jesus Christ did the same thing for us. When we disobey, God calls us to repent from our sin. We then admit we have done a wrong thing and repent from our sins. Ask God to help and forgive us, help us to stop doing our sin. Then God will forgive us and take away our sin. Aren’t we blessed that we have Jesus Christ as our only saviour and a good shepherd.