

DAVID: A MAN OF PASSION AND DESTINY

STUDY NINETEEN

Riding Out the Storm

2 Samuel 12:15–25

In our study in the life of David, we have come to this impasse. Some of the most difficult experiences for the child of God to endure come in the backwash of sin. David teaches us an unforgettable lesson: we are to take God seriously.

—Pastor Charles R. Swindoll

WHEN God sent Hosea to extend His judgment to a sinful Israel, the prophet proclaimed: “They have planted the wind and will harvest the whirlwind” (Hosea 8:7).

Hundreds of years earlier, rather than resting securely in the shelter of God’s wings, King David chased the winds of his own wicked desires. He took Bathsheba from her husband Uriah and then killed him. David schemed and deceived and thought that he had hidden his sin—that the winds had died down.

Yet a whirlwind awaited David.

This *Searching the Scriptures* study follows David into the storm borne from his own sinful choices. Did David get lost in the tempest of sin’s consequences, or did he remain buoyant in God through faith? David’s example reveals how followers of Jesus today can ride out the storm of sin’s aftereffects.



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1

Riding Out the Storm

2 Samuel 12:15–25



PREPARE YOUR HEART

As you prepare your heart to receive the stabilizing truth of God's Word, pray *Psalms 51:16–17*, the very words David said to prepare his heart for the whirlwind of consequences that awaited him.

*You do not desire a sacrifice, or I would offer one.
You do not want a burnt offering.
The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit.
You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God.*



TURN TO THE SCRIPTURES

Upon the prophet Nathan's courageous confrontation of David, the humbled king replied, "I have sinned against the LORD" (2 Samuel 12:13).

Nathan extended forgiveness to David on God's behalf, but he acknowledged that David would harvest a whirlwind because he planted the winds of sin. The winds of this storm of consequences started to blow in 2 Samuel 12:15–25. The first gust to strike David was the death of his and Bathsheba's newborn child.

We reap what we sow, forgiveness notwithstanding. But even in forgiveness, there is not the immediate erasing of the consequences. In God's own way and for God's own purpose, He will take you through a period of time where there will be the whirlwind, sometimes more painful than others. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll



Observation: David's Reaping of the Whirlwind

To lay the foundation of sound Bible study, one must always begin with observation of a passage. As you read, focus only on what the text says, and carefully observe both David's words and his actions.¹



Riding Out the Storm

2 Samuel 12:15–25

According to 2 Samuel 12:16, how did David initially respond when he discovered that his and Bathsheba's child was ill as Nathan had predicted in 12:14?

As David began to endure the consequences of his actions, he didn't run *from* God. He ran *to* Him. Yet God still allowed David's child to die. What did David's advisers say in 12:18 when they discovered that the child had passed? What do you think they expected David to do?

Ultimately, David defied the expectations of his advisers. According to 12:20–21, what did David *actually* do when he discovered that his child was dead?



Riding Out the Storm

2 Samuel 12:15–25

David's advisers scratched their heads at their king's actions. When the child was ill, David fasted, and once the child had passed, David started eating again. According to 2 Samuel 12:22–23, how did David explain his own change in behavior?

We may be sure that when we drop the seeds of the wind, we will reap the harvest of a whirlwind. But grace is our help during the whirlwind to hold us together, to keep us strong, to stabilize us. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll

According to 12:24, what did David do after meeting with his advisers?

Because of David's sin, he faced God's discipline in one of the most difficult ways imaginable—through the loss of his own child. Rather than shaking his fist at the sky, David accepted God's consequence with humility. David may have sinned, but he still was a man after God's own heart, and he recognized that God was in control—even in the storm.



Interpretation: Weathering the Storm

The interpretation phase of Pastor Chuck Swindoll's *Searching the Scriptures* Bible study method builds upon the foundation of observation to determine timeless principles that remain true for followers of Jesus Christ even today. For each of the following verses, develop a timeless truth about facing the storm of consequences due to sinful choices.



Riding Out the Storm

2 Samuel 12:15–25

Key Verse: “David begged God to spare the child. He went without food and lay all night on the bare ground” (2 Samuel 12:16).

Key Verse: “But why should I fast when he is dead? Can I bring him back again? I will go to him one day, but he cannot return to me” (12:23).

Key Verse: “Then David comforted Bathsheba, his wife, and slept with her. She became pregnant and gave birth to a son, and David named him Solomon” (12:24).

David, in riding out the storm, gives us some beautiful guidelines. He prayed. He faced the consequences realistically. He turned it all over to the Lord completely as he claimed the scriptural truth concerning death. And then, refusing to give up, he moved on.

—Pastor Chuck Swindoll



Riding Out the Storm

2 Samuel 12:15–25



Correlation: Israel's Storm

When Hosea said, “They have planted the wind and will harvest the whirlwind” (*Hosea 8:7*), he didn’t simply offer some wise advice. Instead, he spoke to the people of Israel the very words of God, warning them that they would face consequences for drifting from God and His ways.

According to *Hosea 8:1*, what whirlwind were the people of Israel about to harvest?

In *8:1–14*, God explained what winds Israel planted that led to this consequence. Read these verses, and write down the sinful actions that stand out to you. What was Israel’s fundamental problem before God?

Thankfully, Hosea’s book doesn’t end there. Instead, the prophet shows a balance between judgment and hope, reflecting both God’s justice and His mercy. Read *11:8–11*. What hope do these words offer to God’s people who have sinned and bear the weight of sin’s consequences?



Riding Out the Storm

2 Samuel 12:15–25

“How can I give you up?” What powerful words from the loving Father! Yes, God is *just*, and He will not look away as His children disobey Him. But He also is *merciful*. He loves His children, and He wants them to flourish despite their sin.

Like a loving earthly father, God allows His children to face the consequences of their actions as an act of discipline so they can learn and grow and lean into His strong embrace. *Are you facing such discipline right now?* Remember, God’s grace and guidance helps you ride out the storm.



Application: Riding Out Today’s Storms

From this account of David’s sin and its aftereffects, Pastor Chuck makes four observations about weathering sin’s consequences:

- It is a *lonely* experience.
- It is a *learning* experience.
- It is a *temporary* experience.
- It is a *humbling* experience.

Think back to a time when you planted the wind of sin and harvested a whirlwind of consequences. How did your experience reflect Pastor Chuck’s four observations above? What did God teach you through that experience?



Riding Out the Storm

2 Samuel 12:15–25

Perhaps you currently feel lost in a tempest of consequences. You may feel very lonely right now, but take heart—this season is only temporary! How can you follow David’s example and ride out this storm in a way that trusts and honors God and leads to your own personal, spiritual growth?

Harvesting the whirlwind often reveals just how foolish planting the wind is. Sadly, no one can go back in time and undo sinful choices. The good news, however, is that God will keep His children afloat through the storm if they hold fast to Christ, the sure and steady anchor. “And the calm will be the better for the storms that we endure.”²



A FINAL PRAYER

Father, I confess I have sinned against You countless times throughout my life, and I have harvested the consequences of these sinful choices. I pray, as I face these consequences, You will show me grace to carry me through the storm. Use these times to shape me to look more like Jesus when I emerge from the tempest. In Jesus’ merciful name, amen.

ENDNOTES

1. To learn about Pastor Chuck Swindoll’s *Searching the Scriptures* method of Bible study, go to the web page, “[How to Study the Bible for Yourself](#).”
2. Matt Boswell and Matt Papa, “Christ, the Sure and Steady Anchor,” [hymnary.org](#). © 2015 Messenger Hymns (BMI) / Getty Music Publishing (BMI) / Getty Music Hymns and Songs (ASCAP) / Love Your Enemies Publishing (ASCAP) / Getty Hymns and Songs (ASCAP) (all admin. by Music Services).

