

Build Your House 2 Samuel 12:24-25

Cast off all sluggishness today to follow the Lord's royal way.

How is the Lord calling you to enter into spiritual battle right now?

You are in the royal palace in Jerusalem. David succumbs to temptation when he allows his desires to take him away from his present responsibilities. He has taken for granted what he has and lost sight of the glory of God.

Pray that the Lord draws you out of sloth to embrace the kingly mission he has given you. Pray for the grace of freedom and humility for all Exodus Men, just as they are praying for you.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Lord and Master of my life, spare me from the spirit of indifference, despair, lust for power, and idle chatter. Instead, bestow on me, your servant, the spirit of integrity, humility, patience, and love. Yes, O Lord and King, let me see my own sins and not judge my brothers and sisters; for you are blessed forever and ever. Amen.

A Reading from the Second Book of Samuel

Then David comforted his wife, Bathsheba, and went in to her, and lay with her; and she bore a son, and he called his name Solomon. And the Lord loved him, and sent a message by Nathan the prophet; so he called his name Jedidiah, because of the Lord.

Reflection

We do not get the impression until this moment that David had any true love and concern for Bathsheba. When he first saw her from his balcony, he summoned her to his bed like a servant, did not console her after he learned of her pregnancy, did not have any interest in the child, had her husband killed, and married her afterwards. But now, something has changed. He has mourned the death of his child. He comforts his wife and remains with her. And, we read, the Lord loved him.

Yesterday, we discussed the importance of being engaged with the world to the point that you can mourn tragedy and evil. At the beginning of Second Samuel, we saw that David did this quite frequently. Yet, somewhere along the line, he became detached. After confessing his sin, he is once again sensitive.

We sometimes think that real men are coolly indifferent and rather stoic toward the world around them. This is not so. David was a great, fearsome warrior. But, just so, he was unafraid of genuinely caring. The most powerful person in the universe expressed his power by dying on the cross. Sacrifice is where real strength lies.

As we suggested earlier, what God wanted from David was for him to build his own household and care for his family. After confessing his sin, David

has gotten the message. He is growing as a husband and father. He is taking steps in the right direction.

It is a sign to us, then, that if we are to be successful in avoiding the quicksand of sloth, we need to care for our families. For those of us who have a wife and children, we need to spend time with them and lead them as a father. For those of us who are single or who are discerning a vocation, we can care for our spiritual family, the Church. Right now, you are in a fraternity. How can you make sacrifices to support your brothers? How can you become more engaged with those whom God has given you? How can you build your household so that you may worship God truly?

Now place yourself before God, and converse with him.

Week 6 Action Items

Pray for your fraternity.

Keep up regular exercise.

Reflect on your vacation plan.

Kings of Summer, Part 2 begins tomorrow. Invite men to join your fraternity.