

Those Who Mourn

2 Samuel 12:15–23

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

And the Lord struck the child that Uriah's wife bore to David, and it became sick. David therefore besought God for the child; and David fasted, and went in and lay all night upon the ground. And the elders of his house stood beside him, to raise him from the ground; but he would not, nor did he eat food with them. On the seventh day the child died. And the servants of David feared to tell him that the child was dead; for they said, "Behold, while the child was yet alive, we spoke to him, and he did not listen to us; how then can we say to him the child is dead? He may do himself some harm." But when David saw that his servants were whispering together, David perceived that the child was dead; and David said to his servants, "Is the child dead?" They said, "He is dead." Then David arose from the earth, and washed, and anointed himself, and changed his clothes; and he went into the house of the Lord, and worshiped; he then went to his own house; and when he asked, they set food before him, and he ate. Then his servants said to him, "What is this thing that you have done? You fasted and wept for the child while it was alive; but when the child died, you arose and ate food." He said, "While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept; for I said, 'Who knows whether the Lord will be gracious to me, that the child may live?' But now he is dead; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he will not return to me."

Reflection

We see here that David is back on track. He is concerned, and he has his wits about him. He is a man of decisive, deliberate action. Fasting for his sick child, he is not callous or indifferent. He mourns and puts his trust and hope in the Lord, saying "who knows whether the Lord will be gracious with me?" He knows that he has sinned and that he is responsible for this tragedy. He also knows that the Lord is merciful and that he cannot despair

over his sin.

There is something to be said for the fact that when David is closest to the Lord, he is often mourning. It is not in the comfort of the palace that David finds himself near the Lord. It is when he is engaged in the struggles of the kingdom of God—when he has to face the various sins and mistakes, both his own and those of his subordinates.

Our Lord said, rather curiously, “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.” This is not to say that we should go out and seek tragedy, putting ourselves and our families in dangerous situations so we can experience loss. Rather, it is to say that we should grow in our ability to be attentive to the occurrences beside us so that we learn to experience genuine remorse at the evil and tragedy already present in our lives.

Do you find yourself indifferent to tragedy and evil that does not directly affect you? Are you able to mourn? What can you do to become more attentive to those around you so to be more in tune to the sacred heart of Jesus?

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.

Invite men to join your fraternity for Kings of Summer, Part 2 beginning this Sunday.