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Judgment, grace, and a hollow victory

- Judgment 12:15b-23
  - This falls under the category of punitive judgment. This contrasts with redemptive judgment which has the purpose of bringing a person to repentance.
  - David had already confessed his sin leading to repentance.
  - Justice would not allow this sin to go unpunished.

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Judgment, grace, and a hollow victory

- Judgment 12:15b-23
  - This falls under the category of punitive judgment. This contrasts with redemptive judgment which has the purpose of bringing a person to repentance.
  - This judgment would be a stark lesson to David and all who knew about David's sin concerning the devastating nature of rebellious sin.

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Judgment, grace, and a hollow victory

- Judgment 12:15b-23
  - David's actions:
    - Prayed for the child's healing.
      - In doing so David prayed outside of the expressed will of God.

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Judgment, grace, and a hollow victory

- Judgment 12:15b-23
  - David's actions:
    - Denied himself every desire and comfort for the duration of the child's illness.
      - Fasted
      - Lay all night on the ground

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Judgment, grace, and a hollow victory

- Judgment 12:15b-23
  - David's actions:
    - Returned to normal activities at the death of the child.
      - Arose from the ground
      - Washed, anointed himself, and changed clothes
      - Went to the house of the LORD and worshiped
      - Ate food

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Judgment, grace, and a hollow victory

- Judgment 12:15b-23
  - David's actions:
    - Explained his actions after the child's death
      - Returned to normal activity because the child's death ended any hope that God would grant his prayers for healing.
      - Expressed his hope that God would have healed the child.
      - Expressed his confidence in a reunification with the child.

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Judgment, grace, and a hollow victory

- Grace 12:24-25
  - The loss of a child in any time and under any circumstances is devastating. David comforted his wife, Bathsheba in her grief.
  - In the course of time they conceived another child.

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Judgment, grace, and a hollow victory

- Grace 12:24-25
  - Nathan who had delivered the news of judgment now delivers the news that this child is one the LORD loves.
    - Solomon-Peace, prosperity, success
    - Jedidiah-Loved by the LORD

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Judgment, grace, and a hollow victory

- Hollow victory 12:26-31
  - The events of this passage do not necessarily follow chronologically what has just gone before it. It certainly would be before the birth of Solomon.
  - This campaign began in 2 Samuel 10 when David's delegation to Hanun, the son of the late king of the Ammonites, were disgraced by this new king.
  - The Ammonites had retreated into their city, Rabbah, when they were being defeated by the Israelites under the command of Joab.

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Judgment, grace, and a hollow victory

- Hollow victory 12:26-31
  - It was during the renewed campaign against this city that the incident of David and Bathsheba took place.
  - This passage most likely took place before God confronted David through Nathan the prophet and the death of the child.
  - Joab sent word that the fall of the city was immanent and called David to come and take the credit for the victory.
  - In doing so David would have to go to the place where he had sent Uriah to his death.

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Judgment, grace, and a hollow victory

- Hollow victory 12:26-31
  - David sealed the victory by taking the crown of the king of the Ammonites.
  - The city was plundered and the people were brought under subjection.

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Lessons

- An isolated aspect of God’s character will never override the whole council of God.
  - *“He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?” (Romans 8:32, ESV)*
- Justice and fairness are not the same thing.
  - Romans 3:23-26

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13

Lessons

- There are times when our most intense grief precedes the point of the loss.
- Never allow others to prescribe your grief journey as long as your actions are in alignment with God’s instruction.

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Lessons

- Life goes on in the midst of unconfessed sin but the joy is missing.
  - *“Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.” (Psalm 51:12, ESV)*
- God deals graciously with us according to His steadfast love and abundant mercy.

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