II Samuel 22

II Samuel 22:21-29

**2 Samuel 22:21-29 (NIV)**
21 “The LORD has dealt with me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands **he has rewarded me**.
22 For I have kept the ways of the LORD; I have not done evil by turning from my God.
23 All his laws are before me; I have not turned away from his decrees.
24 I have been blameless before him and have kept myself from sin.
25 **The LORD has rewarded me** according to my righteousness, according to my cleanness in his sight.
26  "**To the faithful you show yourself faithful**, to the blameless you show yourself blameless,
27  to the pure you show yourself pure, but to the crooked you show yourself shrewd.
28 **You save the humble**, but your eyes are on the haughty to bring them low.
29 **You are my lamp, O LORD; the LORD turns my darkness into light.**

These are the words of David – Let’s note his position with the Lord. Also turn to I Samuel 16 and review how David was chosen to be anointed – that is called by the Lord:

We learn about the selection of David in I Samuel 16:

**1 Samuel 16:1 (NIV)**
1 The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king."

(Saul committed suicide – I Samuel 31:1-10 bears this out and a replacement would be needed.)

Each of Jesse’s sons were brought to be selected by the Lord. Common sense would mean that the oldest would be the most qualified. But with the Lord our Common sense does not of course measure up to the wisdom of the Lord – the Lord looks on the heart. We learn that Samuel depended on the Lord for direction. Jesse went by the age of his sons. He thought the older the better.

**1 Samuel 16:6-13 (NIV)**
6  When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed stands here before the LORD."
7  But the LORD said to Samuel, "**Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."**
8 Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, "The LORD has not chosen this one either."
9 Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, "Nor has the LORD chosen this one."
10 Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, "The LORD has not chosen these."
11 So he asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?" "There is still the youngest," Jesse answered, "but he is tending the sheep." Samuel said, "Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives."

Jesse had left the youngest out. Common sense said he did not amount to much. Jesse did not know his sons very well and he certainly did not know David.

12 So he sent and had him brought in. He was ruddy, with a fine appearance and handsome features. Then the LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; he is the one."
13  So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the LORD came upon David in power. Samuel then went to Ramah.

It was what was in David’s heart – not that he was handsome or good looking.

The Lord had previously selected David. The Lord wanted Jesse to present all His sons to be selected. Jesse had his own ideas as to who would be best. The Lord directed the path. We can be sure that Jesses other sons had qualifications but it is always what is on the inside which counts.

II Samuel is about David and his reign as king over Israel. II Samuel tells us David’s accomplishments and his moral failures. He was under the Lord and his leadership pointed to the birth of Jesus. David’s failures shows how the Lord loved David and the fact that David was totally forgiven and became a “man after God’s own heart.”

Shows us that we can come to the Lord, confess our sins – and become people after God’s own heart. II Samuel shows us how we are going to face temptations and follow the old nature – from time to time – even daily – and that we would walk in spiritual danger if it were not for the love of the Lord and His mercy in giving us what is needed to bring us through – bring us through to victory.

II Samuel 7:28-29 are the key verses for the book:

**2 Samuel 7:28-29 (NIV)**
28 O Sovereign LORD, you are God! Your words are trustworthy, and you have promised these good things to your servant.
29  Now be pleased to bless the house of your servant, that it may continue forever in your sight; for you, O Sovereign LORD, have spoken, and with your blessing the house of your servant will be blessed forever."

This passage at first it seems that David is bragging about himself. Four times David uses the pronoun I.

**2 Samuel 22:22 (NIV)**
For I have kept the ways of the LORD; I have not done evil by turning from my God.

**2 Samuel 22:23 (NIV)**
All his laws are before me; I have not turned away from his decrees.

**2 Samuel 22:24 (NIV)**
I have been blameless before him and have kept myself from sin.

In reality David is not bragging or boasting about himself. As I see it, he is giving a testimony of the Lord. He has been delivered from sin, and has received righteousness actually of the Lord. Many times David had sought the Lord. He makes the claim in I and II Samuel and in the Psalms that the Lord was and is his fortress, his rock. Psalm 48

21 “The LORD has dealt with me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands he has rewarded me. David’s right standing with the Lord came as a gift from the Lord. He was therefore not bragging.

A person’s righteousness is not that person’s holiness. We cannot make a claim to have anything even good in us. David was like others who then and now believe in the Lord – his righteousness came from the Lord and there is no other source for it – no other source – it is not self-produced – nor is it holiness. It is not holiness because he was a sinner and we are not holy because we are sinners.

David had searched for and found assurance in the Lord. He had searched for and found confidence in the Lord. And the commentaries tell me this all took place before he sinned with Bathsheba and sent her husband into the front lines of battle. He then returned to the Lord and became the man after God’s own heart.

This is incredible. This is unbelievable. You would think that this would totally end all possibilities of being saved.

**Romans 2:1-4 (NASB77)**
1  Therefore you are without excuse, every man *of you* who passes judgment, for in that you judge another, you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things.
2 And we know that the judgment of God rightly falls upon those who practice such things.
3 And do you suppose this, O man, when you pass judgment upon those who practice such things and do the same *yourself,* that you will escape the judgment of God?
4 Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?

Woe to anyone who thinks the Lord will somehow excuse sin. We must be directed as David testifies here – giving our praise and Thanksgiving to the Lord.

22 For I have kept the ways of the LORD; I have not done evil by turning from my God.
23 All his laws are before me; I have not turned away from his decrees.
24 I have been blameless before him and have kept myself from sin.

The Small Catechism in question number 25 asks this question:

Upon what does God really look?

The answer is: Upon the attitude of our hearts toward Him.

**1 Samuel 16:7 (NIV)**
But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

**Proverbs 4:23 (NIV)**
Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.

27 to the pure you show yourself pure, but to the crooked you show yourself shrewd.
28 You save the humble, but your eyes are on the haughty to bring them low.
29 You are my lamp, O LORD; the LORD turns my darkness into light.

25 The LORD has rewarded me according to my righteousness, according to my cleanness in his sight.
26  "To the faithful you show yourself faithful, to the blameless you show yourself blameless,
27  to the pure you show yourself pure, but to the crooked you show yourself shrewd.
28 You save the humble, but your eyes are on the haughty to bring them low.
29 You are my lamp, O LORD; the LORD turns my darkness into light.

The believer the Lord blesses

To the crooked the Lord does not bless –

The Lord is faithful to the believer – we often pray “the Lord be with us” – “The Lord be with them.” Not to be derogatory – but the Lord is always with us – even watching over the unsaved. Do we need to make this prayer? – Not really – the Word of God says the Lord is with all people – saved or unsaved,

The Lord treats them right – a friend of mine and this congregation used to say when asked how things are going said, “Better than I deserve.”

The Lord deals with the faithful a lot differently than those who are crooked.

He saves the humble – that is those who see their sin and deal with it. Things work together for the believer. The evils of this life are harmless to them, they are even helpful to them, and there are those things that continually remind the believer of the Lord. Those who are not humble the Lord will deal with them – in order to bring them to faith in Jesus.

The evils of this life hurt the unbeliever – the wicked – much more. They go from worse to worse. If they are prosperous, the abuse it. They spend, spend, and spend. They think everything is okay. They think the deserve things. They might even pray to the Lord wanting something the Lord is more than likely not going to give them. When they face difficulties, they blame the Lord.

The evils of this life hurt the unsaved much more than the saved. To them everything looks bad. They see the big plank in someone else’s eyes but not the speck in their own. Good becomes bad, bad comes good.

29 You are my lamp, O LORD; the LORD turns my darkness into light.

**Isaiah 55:8-11 (NIV)**
8 “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD.
9 “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.
10 As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,
11 so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

We who know the Lord are not subject to the world’s limitations. We are not subject to the impossibilities of the world. The world – the unsaved are following a darkened system.

Can we then walk in this life doing things like the Lord? I think we can and do. We do not do things the way the world does things. We have been born again and we do things like the Lord because we are part of His family, we are His children.

**Psalm 103:20 (NIV)**
Praise the LORD, you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his word.

**James 1:6-8 (NIV)**
6 But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.
7 That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord;
8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.

We live in an entirely different way than the world. We follow Jesus who lived, suffered, died and lived again – who shed His blood for us. His Kingdom is not of this world.

It is not easy to follow His way. We must keep on hearing the Word of God. This hearing destroys the negativity that is in the world.

His ways are higher than our ways.

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| MATTHEW 20:1-16 |

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|  Jesus tells the parable of the landowner who hires people at various times of the day and then pays everyone the same. Now consider the fact that these workers represent us and the landowner God. From our perspective, there is plenty of injustice, plenty of inexplicable inequity, plenty of infuriating unfairness.But God is that Being who knows everything about everything. Our knowledge is comparatively miniscule in both depth and breadth. What we can see of God's canvas is laughably small. And yet we make bold to declare certain things just or unjust.Recall the story of the gangster who called for a minister as he lay dying on the street in New York. The priest declared him forgiven, and there was a flood of protest: How could this be fair to all of those who had been good and devout Christians all of their lives?My ways are not your ways, says the Lord. Let us have the humility to allow God to distribute his graces as he sees fit. And let us not ask "why" in a spirit of rebellion, but "why" in a spirit of awe and expectation.**Numbers 21:4-9 (NIV)** 4 They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; 5 they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the desert? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!" 6 Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. 7 The people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we spoke against the LORD and against you. Pray that the LORD will take the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed for the people. 8 The LORD said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live." 9 So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, he lived. We see Jesus expanding on this in John 3:14-16:**John 3:14-16 (NIV)** 14  Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, 15  that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. 16 “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. When we are saved we receive a new nature from the Lord. In reality it is God’s nature, which is totally righteous. We are covered over:I am covered over with the robe of righteousness that Jesus gives to me, gives to me. I am covered over with the precious blood of Jesus and He lives in me, lives in me. Oh, what joy it is to know my Heavenly Father loves me so, He gives to me my Jesus – And when He looks at me He sees not what I used to be – but He sees Jesus.! |

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