

## E2E- Part 79

### 2 Samuel 15:13-18, 24-37

Mark Kring, Senior Pastor

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1. When we confess our sins to God, He forgives us eternally. Sin rarely goes without consequence; rather, God shows His outrage against it, leaving us with a bitter taste for sin and its consequences.
2. David learns a bit too late that his son Absalom has revolted against him. David and his household, except for ten concubines, flee to the wilderness before Absalom arrives.
3. David is not unfamiliar with the wilderness; he was on the run from King Saul for nearly 15 years. His surrender shows that he trusts God with the outcome.
4. David is confident that he is eternally forgiven, yet he is keenly aware of the consequences of his sin. He seeks God's purposes and His mercy.
5. Zadok and the Levites brought the Ark of the Covenant during the escape, but David commands its return. He understands from experience that God's presence isn't limited to an Ark. David demonstrates humility and provides another example of why he is known as a "man after God's own heart."
6. Zadok, the priest, will not only return the Ark, but he will also act as an inside spy for David by secretly providing information and relaying it to him.
7. David is betrayed by Ahithophel, his former advisor and friend. King David's humility is on display as he walks barefoot, wears torn clothes, and weeps.
8. As David and his entourage escape the city, vanishing over the Mount of Olives, Absalom's forces seize control of Jerusalem.
9. There are two "fruits" of sin that God uses to move us closer to Jesus.
  - a. We become reconciled to whatever consequence we face earthside, knowing we are eternally forgiven.
  - b. Our consequence becomes a source of sanctification as we recognize the cost of sin.

## QUOTES

*“Sin, though forgiven, rarely passes unpunished in this present world: on the contrary, God marks his indignation against it here, in order to embitter it the more to the offender who has committed it, and to endear to him the more that mercy which has been exercised towards him.”* **Charles Simeon - 1836**

*“Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown.”*  
**William Shakespeare - 1596**

## TODAY'S WORSHIP

This is Our God  
Banner  
Holy Forever

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

“If God forgives me for my sin (Romans 8:1), why are there still consequences?”

- Discuss how you would or could respond to this question if someone were to ask it to you.
- We tend to think of consequences as a negative result. In what way can they have a positive effect on our lives?

Regarding David’s decision to have the Ark be returned to Jerusalem instead of bringing it with him, Mark said “To expect the Ark to bring help if the actions are against God is the height of immaturity.”

- How could you reword this statement to reflect how we can tend to think in this same immature way?
- What are some specific ways that we have or could act out this belief?
- What could this reveal about what our true desires are?

“Does God’s discipline upon us mean he doesn’t care about us?”

- What does God’s Word have to say about this? Find and read at least three clear passages.
- What is his purpose for disciplining us?
- What is the difference between discipline and punishment? Does God punish us?