Daily Devotion #121

Forgiven

*Psalm 103:12 – “As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.”*

There are many people who cannot forgive themselves for what they have done. As they look back on their lives they are continually haunted by the past. Things that they did or said come back over and over to their minds, affecting everything they do. They just can’t seem to let go.

It is true that what we do often causes great hurt, not only to ourselves, but also to others. I don’t know what the situation was, but I just heard the other day of another person who took their own life. My guess is there were things in their past they could not get over or perhaps they were simply unable to reason with the fact that they made some mistake and could not get past it mentally and emotionally. Whatever the case, they found it best to end their life.

Those kinds of stories are tragic and so unnecessary because God is the God of forgiveness and restoration. King David, once King of Israel, is a good example. If you know the story, David was a man who followed God. He was anointed by Samuel the prophet to be the king of Israel. But David had a problem, He had an infectious desire to pursue women.

One day, he was overlooking his kingdom and saw a woman bathing. He quickly called the woman to come to him. And even though she, Bathsheba, was married, that didn’t stop David from committing adultery with her. From that encounter, a child was born. All this was unknown to her husband, Uriah, a faithful follower of his king. To hide the sin and allow David to marry Bathsheba, David had Uriah moved to the front of a battle so he would be killed.

David’s sin was not found out until Nathan the prophet came to him, to tell him God knew all that David had done. Heartbroken, David confessed his sin. From that brokenness, David wrote this Psalm for today. He wrote it because he had experienced God’s amazing forgiveness. God didn’t just let things go, however, and the child that was born out of this adulterous affair eventually died. But God forgave David.

As David looked back and saw his great sins committed against God and other people, we see his deep understanding of how God is able to restore even the worst of people who have sinned. To quote the verse, “He, God, removes the sin as far as the east is from the west.” There is no boundary that connects the east to the west. There is no joining line where the two come together. So, when God forgives, He places the person so far from the sin that there is no joining of the two anymore. In God’s mind, it’s over, and it’s done.

Aren’t you thankful for a God who forgives like that? Isn’t it the most wonderful thing to know that the God who created you and loves you is willing to forgive any sin you may have in your past or your present? There are some very wicked people in this world, maybe even more than David. He was an adulterer, a liar, a murderer, a deceiver. But God forgave him because David accepted his sin and confessed it and turned from it, and God can forgive the most wicked person alive who accepts responsibility for their sin, confesses it, and repents from it. He can also forgive those who don’t seem so wicked but are sinners just the same.

Whatever you have done or are facing in your life that is sin, God will forgive you. No matter how long you have been under the burden of that memory or bondage or whatever you want to call it, God has the ability and the willingness to forgive you. All He wants is for you to accept what you have done or said and confess it. Jesus paid the price of everything you have done. You can be free forever. Won’t you ask God to forgive you today? He will.