

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1) 01 June	Psalm 001	God's Wisdom
2) 08 June	Psalm 119	God's Truth
3) 15 June	Psalm 019	God's Glory
4) 22 June	Psalm 096	God's Reign
5) 29 June	Psalm 132	God's Promise
6) 06 July	Psalm 110	God's Messiah
7) 13 July	Psalm 018	God's Deliverance
8) 20 July	Psalm 105	God's Faithfulness
9) 27 July	Psalm 038	God's Conviction
10) 03 Aug	Psalm 032	God's Forgiveness
11) 10 Aug	Psalm 023	God's Care
12) 17 Aug	Psalm 139	God's Greatness
13) 24 Aug	Psalm 005	God's Righteousness
14) 31 Aug	Psalm 042	God's Presence

INTRODUCTION

- Psalm 038 is one of total despair. Where is God at times like this?
- Even though David was considered a man after God's own heart, there are a few considerations:
 - Is it due to happenstance?
 - Is it due to self-affliction or sins of ignorance?
 - Is it due to God's pruning or discipline or a combination of all?
- Recall David's sin with Bathsheba. He not only committed adultery with Uriah's wife, but he cheated on his other wives, he had Uriah, a faithful servant, deliberately killed, and numerous others died along with Uriah. 2Sam 11:17
- What would a typical church do to a Pastor, an Elder, a Deacon, or a Sunday School teacher caught up with such flagrant sin? Would sincere repentance fix things and allow that individual to remain in their church position with or without consequences?

Passage	Comments
Psalm 38:1-2	1 A Psalm of David, for a memorial. O LORD, rebuke me not in Your wrath, and chasten me not in Your burning anger. 2 For Your arrows have sunk deep into me, And Your hand has pressed down on me.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What kind of arrows sunk into David's soul? Possibly of despair and/or retribution. Recall David did not lose his own life, but he lost 4 sons following his tryst with Bathsheba
38:3-8	3 There is no soundness in my flesh because of Your indignation; There is no health in my bones because of my sin. 4 For my iniquities are gone over my head; As a heavy burden they weigh too much for me. 5 My wounds grow foul [and] fester Because of my folly. 6 I am bent over and greatly bowed down; I go mourning all day long. 7 For my loins are filled with burning, and there is no soundness in my flesh. 8 I am benumbed and badly crushed; I groan because of the agitation of my heart.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sin causes bodily, mental, and emotional anguish – and they do not get better with time until sin is biblically dealt with & resolved Consider the following passages on sin affecting one's health: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prov 3:7-8 Fear the LORD and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your body and refreshment to your bones. Prov 4:20-22 My son, attend to my words...For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh. Prov 14:30 A tranquil heart is life to the body, but envy rots the bones. Prov 17:22 A joyful heart is good medicine, but a broken spirit dries up the bones. Ecc 7:7 For oppression makes a wise man mad Isaiah 38:16 [Only God can] restore me to health & let me live!

Passage	Comments
38:9-10	9 Lord, all my desire is before You; And my sighing is not hidden from You. 10 My heart throbs, my strength fails me; & the light of my eyes, even that has gone from me.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finally, David saw the need to repent – but it took time
38:11	11 My loved ones and my friends stand aloof from my plague; and my kinsmen stand afar off.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No one, not even family, wants to be around someone who lost their testimony due to intentional sin
38:12	12 Those who seek my life lay snares [for me:] and those who seek to injure me have threatened destruction, and they devise treachery all day long.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only Satan and one's enemies will continue the onslaught and Kick 'em while they are down
38:13-17	13 But I, like a deaf man, do not hear; And [I am] like a mute man who does not open his mouth. 14 Yes, I am like a man who does not hear, and in whose mouth are no arguments. 15 For I hope in You, O LORD; You will answer, O Lord my God. 16 For I said, "May they not rejoice over me, [Who,] when my foot slips, would magnify themselves against me." 17 For I am ready to fall, and my sorrow is continually before me.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A good course of action when the enemy is attacking due to one's failure is to put on Big Boy pants and humbly take the beating We will have to let God fight our battles in such situations
38:18-20	18 For I confess my iniquity; I am full of anxiety because of my sin. 19 But my enemies are vigorous [and] strong, and many are those who hate me wrongfully. 20 And those who repay evil for good, they oppose me, because I follow what is good.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Even after a sinner gets back on the right track, it will take time to recover one's testimony and to quell the darts of one's enemies
38:21-22	21 Do not forsake me, O LORD; O my God, do not be far from me! 22 Make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation!
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I lift my eyes to the hills—where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth. Ps 121:1

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS / CONSIDERATIONS

- If our despair is due to self-affliction, to minimize damage, seek God's and man's forgiveness and restoration earlier than later
- Do not be like David and wait till God has to act
- God may be merciful and forgiving, but He must protect His holy name from being trampled before unbelievers because of our sins

