2 Samuel 12:1-13 - Glorious Redemption

The Joy Of the Lord Is Your Strength!

Hardly anything beats a "radiant face"

I want people to experience the significance of Jesus and the Joy of His people.

Introduction: The Smoke Detector

1. A smoke detector going off in the night is irritating, *but it exists to warn of real danger*
2. Silencing the alarm does not put out the fire
3. The smoke detector is not the enemy - the fire is
4. Sometimes the most gracious thing God can do is sound the alarm

Context: Recap of 2 Samuel 11

- David's devastating sin: adultery, deception, murder
- At the end of chapter 11, *it appears David has gotten away with it*
- The final verse changes everything (27: the thing David had done displeased the LORD
- No one can cover sin from God

God Pursues the People He Loves (2 Samuel 12:1a)

1. "The LORD sent Nathan to David" — seven words loaded with grace
2. God made the first move, not David
3. "The most important thing about you is what you think about when you think about God" Tozer
4. The biblical pattern of God pursuing His people
    a. Adam and Eve sin in the garden. They hide. And God comes looking for them.
    b. Jonah runs from God's calling. And God pursues Jonah.
    c. Peter denies Jesus three times. And after the resurrection, Jesus comes looking for Peter.
5. Our sin makes us want *to hide*; God's grace moves *toward us in our hiding*
6. **Key truth:** Conviction is not God pushing you away — conviction is God pulling you home
7. It is so important to distinguish between conviction and condemnation
    a. Conviction brings us in - condemnation sends us out...
    b. Romans 8:1: "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."
    c. Conviction says: *bring it into the light, there is mercy available*
8. Examples of grace disguised as confrontation
    a. A friend who lovingly confronts you
    b. A spouse who says things cannot continue as they are
9. ***God loves you where you are but loves you too much to leave you there***
10. It's ok to not be ok - it's just not ok to stay there...

The Story of the Ewe Lamb (2 Samuel 12:1b–6)

He came to him and said to him, “There were two men in a certain city, the one rich and the other
poor. **2** The rich man had very many flocks and herds, **3** but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe

lamb, which he had bought. And he brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children. It used to eat of his morsel and drink from his cup and lie in his arms,[a] and it was like a daughter to him. **4** Now there came a traveler to the rich man, and he was unwilling to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the guest who had come to him, but he took the poor man's lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him." **5** Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man, and he said to Nathan, "As the Lord lives, the man who has done this deserves to die, **6** and he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity."

1. Nathan tells David a parable
   a. A rich man with many flocks
   b. A poor man with one beloved ewe lamb
   c. The rich man takes the poor man's lamb to feed a guest
2. David's furious response: the man deserves to die and must repay fourfold
3. The irony: **the guiltiest man in the room is the angriest man in the room**
4. What's interesting is - David essentially SHOWS US, US... A king just like us...
5. We are great attorneys for ourselves, and even better prosecutors of others.
6. Our tendency to excuse our own sin while prosecuting others
   a. We know our own circumstances, intentions, and backstory
   b. And sometimes the very thing that makes us angriest about another person is the thing we've refused to confront in ourselves.
7. Jesus's teaching in Matthew 7: the speck and the log
8. The danger of being more bothered by someone else's sin than your own
9. Whose sin are you more bothered by than your own?
10. I'm a big fan of DANGEROUS PRAYERS...
11. It's why David later writes in Psalm 139: "Search me, O God, and know my heart!"
12. That's a dangerous prayer.

"You Are the Man" (2 Samuel 12:7a)

1. "Nathan said to David, 'You are the man!'"
2. Four words - no more story, no more hypotheticals
3. David had just condemned himself without knowing it...
4. WHICH - Nathan saying this finally allowed David to being honest about the truth...
5. *Every one of us needs to have this honest reality check in our lives - that we are the ones who have sinned. We are the ones who need a savior...*
6. Now, moment of honesty - I've been asking you for the past few weeks if YOU have a Nathan in your life - and that's important.
7. BUT - I don't know if we really get the other side of it - that YOU SHOULD be a Nathan as well!
8. Here's what I know: EVERY person in this room has a hard conversation that they've never had the courage to have.
9. Some of the greatest regrets that I have - is knowing a conversation was needed and being fearful.

How to Be a Nathan

1. **Warning: I've watched coaches the past few years really closely - I've actually been one.**

2. **There is a massive difference between a COACH and a CRITIC.**

Go Privately

1. Nathan goes directly to David, not to a crowd
2. Matthew 18: go privately first
3. The goal is restoration, not humiliation
4. It is easier to criticize from a distance than to love up close
5.

Go Humbly

1. Nathan confronts a king at personal risk
2. He delivers the message and leaves
3. Galatians 6:1 says: "Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted."
4. A Nathan is not someone who thinks he is better than you
5. He's somebody who loves you enough to help you get better.

Go Truthfully

1. Nathan uses a story but does not soften the conclusion
2. "You are the man" — direct and clear and truthful...
3. WE ARE SO GOOD AT SAYING 80-90%.... We often hold the last 10%
   a. Love without truth becomes sentiment, *lacking the courage to confront what is right*.
   b. Truth without love becomes harsh and destructive, *wounding rather than healing*.
   c. Truth spoken in love becomes a powerful instrument of grace, bringing healing, restoration, and redemption.
4. Ephesians 4:15: speak the truth in love

Go With Restoration as the Goal

1. Examine your motive: anger, winning, or genuine restoration?
2. Restoration does not always mean returning to the way things were
   a. Trust may need rebuilding
   b. Boundaries may be necessary
   c. Consequences may remain
3. If you are more excited about catching someone in sin than seeing them freed from sin, you are not ready to be their Nathan

Now, super interesting part of the story - GOD SPEAKS!

God's Generosity and David's Ingratitude (2 Samuel 12:7b–9)

Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, ‘I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you out of the hand of Saul. **8** And I gave you your master's house and your master's wives into your arms and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah. And if this were too little, I would add to you as much more. **9** Why have you despised the word of the Lord, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and have taken his wife to be your wife and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites.

1. God begins by recounting what He gave David
   a. Anointed him king

   b. Delivered him from Saul
   c. Gave him a kingdom
   d. Would have given even more
2. The question: "Why have you despised the word of the LORD?"
3. David's issue was not lack - it was losing sight of what he already had
4. How we do the same
   a. Comparing a good marriage to social media
   b. Consumed by someone else's lifestyle
   c. Frustrated that someone else has the platform we want
5. Here's the process:
   a. First, Gratitude replaced by entitlement
   b. Then, Entitlement leads to justifying sin
6. Sin often begins when we believe God has kept something from us rather than given to us
7. The example of Adam and Eve: an entire garden of yes, one tree of no
8. The enemy pushes God's goodness into the background and spotlights what He has forbidden
9. **Gratitude is a weapon in the fight against sin**
10. Practical discipleship questions
   a. **What have I subtly begun believing God *has not* given me?**
   b. What am I tempted to do because I believe God has not given me enough?
11. Faith says: *God, I trust Your goodness even when I do not understand Your direction.*
12. Romans 8:32 reminds us that God did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us.
13. If God has given us His Son, we have every reason to trust His heart.
14. The more clearly we see the goodness of God, the less convincing the lies of sin become.

Consequences and Confession (2 Samuel 12:10–13)

10 Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.’ **11** Thus says the Lord, ‘Behold, I will raise up evil against you out of your own house. And I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun. **12** For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel and before the sun.’” **13** David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the Lord.” And Nathan said to David, “The Lord also has put away your sin; you shall not die.

1. Now, I truly believe this is the most important part of Davids entire story...
2. We see two things:

Forgiveness Does Not Always Erase Earthly Consequences

1. The sword will not depart from David's house
2. Trouble will rise from within his family
3. Forgiveness removes guilt before God but does not automatically reverse every consequence
4. Trust may need rebuilding; legal consequences may remain

David's Confession

1. "I have sinned against the LORD" — no explanation, no blame-shifting
2. Compare to chapter 11: *everything done to cover sin*
3. Psalm 51 reveals the depth of David's repentance: grieved at sinning against a holy God

Four Steps for Genuine Confession

Name It

1. Call your sin what God calls it
2. David does not soften it — he says "I have sinned"
3. You cannot repent of a sin you are still trying to rename
4. Common re-namings: gossip as concern, greed as ambition, lust as appreciation
5. Confession begins when we stop editing the truth

Own It

1. Remove the word "but" from your confession
2. Godly confession has no defense attached
3. Your circumstances may explain your temptation but do not excuse your disobedience
4. Repentance begins where excuses end

Aim It

1. "I have sinned against the LORD"
2. Sin against others is ultimately an offense against a holy God
3. The difference between being sorry you got caught and being sorry you sinned
4. Psalm 51:10: asking God to create a clean heart, not just fix a reputation
    a. Psalm 51:10 says: "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me."
5. Genuine repentance says: "God, change the part of me that led me into this mess"
6. Repentance also leads toward accountability and making things right with those harmed

Receive the Forgiveness of God

1. Nathan's immediate response: "The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die"
2. After everything David had done, mercy was greater than the sin
3. Many people confess but still live as though forgiveness is impossible
4. Your guilt is not your Savior — Jesus is
5. You cannot punish yourself into forgiveness
6. You cannot earn what Jesus has already purchased
7. First John 1:9 says: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
8. Jesus on the cross paid for real sins: real rebellion, real deception, real pride, real guilt
9. Some are exhausted because they are still managing what Jesus invites them to confess

Now - honestly - once you confess and have been forgiven - DON'T GO BACK! BE FREE!

Three reflection questions

1. ***Maybe today you find yourself in a similar situation as King David. Circumstances might be different - but you've got some things to wrestle with...***
    a. *What sin do I need to stop defending and start confessing?*
    b. *Is there someone I need to lovingly confront to help them walk in truth?*
    c. *Am I receiving the forgiveness Jesus offers, or am I still trying to pay for my own sin?*
2. An invitation to stop hiding, tell the truth, ask for help, or place faith in Jesus for the first time
3. The Father is calling you home

PRAYER TEAM

THE GOSPEL: Jesus Christ is the ultimate hope for every person. Though we are all sinful and our sin separates us from God, God made a way for us to be in right relationship with him again. That way is Jesus. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus was the perfect sacrifice for our sins. God promises that all who place their faith in Jesus Christ will be saved. This is the good news of the Bible.

COMMUNION: 1 Corinthians 11

23 For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: On the night when he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took bread, 24 and when he had given thanks, broke it, and said,[b] "This is my body, which is[c] for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

25 In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, and said, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

"May the Lord bless you and protect you;
may the Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
may the Lord look with favor on you[b]
and give you peace."'