

David
Part 19
“David Repents and is Restored”

2 Samuel 12 NIV

1 The Lord sent Nathan to David. When he came to him, he said, “There were two men in a certain town, one rich and the other poor.

2 The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cattle, **3** but the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb he had bought. He raised it, and it grew up with him and his children. It shared his food, drank from his cup and even slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him.

4 “Now a traveler came to the rich man, but the rich man refrained from taking one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare a meal for the traveler who had come to him. Instead, he took the ewe lamb that belonged to the poor man and prepared it for the one who had come to him.”

Vs. 1 “The Lord sent Nathan to David.”

- We know from the last verse of Chapter 11 that “the thing David had done displeased the Lord.”
- Now Chapter 12 makes it obvious that David didn’t listen to the conviction of the Holy Spirit or to his own conscience, so God sent Nathan to speak to him.
- It’s a sign of God’s mercy that he sent Nathan to speak to David when David wouldn’t listen to anything else.
- God’s pursuing mercy is never something to take for granted. When someone is avoiding God they should never assume God will continue pursuing forever.

Genesis 6:3 NKJV “My Spirit shall not strive with man forever”

- In Verses 1b-4 Nathan approaches David with care and great thought. I believe the Lord put these words in Nathan and that is important because what Nathan did was very dangerous. Heads have rolled for less, when it comes to approaching kings.
- Nathan was the right one for the job:
 1. Nathan was a friend that David could trust.
- Nathan tells a story and paints a word picture for David to follow and relate to.
- It wasn't a story of a sailor.
- It wasn't a story of a farmer.
- It was a story of a man who was poor and only had one female lamb.
- This is important because David was a shepherd at heart and could relate to the humble condition of the man.
- David as a shepherd, knew how important it was to care for and protect innocent sheep.
- When David heard this story it brought out the passion in David that was needed ultimately in him dealing with himself and his own sin.
- In the story Nathan doesn't say the rich man abused, borrowed or trespassed against the poor man's lamb. The offense in the story is that the rich man stole the lamb. The sin Nathan describes is theft.

Vs. 4b "he took the ewe lamb that belonged to the poor man..."

- This tells us something about how God looks at the Marriage Covenant between a Husband and Wife.
- Bathsheba belonged to Uriah and David stole her away.

The Bible speaks to this in the New Testament:

Ephesians 5:23

For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church...

1 Corinthians 7 NIV

3 Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband. **4** The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband *does*. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife *does*.

- The word used here is authority over, which tells us the wife belongs to the husband and the husband belongs to the wife.
- You will notice, even though Uriah is dead and Bathsheba and David has brought her into his home, Scripture continues to refer to her as “the wife of Uriah”

Vs. 5-6

5 David burned with anger against the man and said to Nathan, “As surely as the Lord lives, the man who did this must die! **6** He must pay for that lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and had no pity.”

- The story Nathan shared awakened a righteous indignation inside of David.
- David in a sense writes his own sentence. He condemns his own conduct and that is what is needed for true repentance.
- David even recites the law when he says “He must pay for the lamb four times over. This is exactly what the law required for a lamb in Exodus 22:1
- The conviction David has ignored in his own heart, is now reawakened.

- David condemns the action of the man in the story and that's the heart David needs towards his own sin.
- David doesn't need to just feel bad, he needs to feel the full weight of what he has done for proper repentance to take place.
- David doesn't need to make excuses
- David doesn't need to wash over the situation and make himself feel better. David needs to repent
- The best thing David can do is condemn this thing inside of himself to ultimately be set free from it.
- To often Christians pardon the conviction of the Holy Spirit with saying like: Well I'm not perfect or God knows my heart or well we're all just sinners saved by Grace. The problem with this kind of thinking is it excuses the very thing Christ condemned in the flesh.
- it keeps us from the altar where God alters our hearts.
- It keeps us from falling on our knees, owning the wrong we have done before God, and feeling the weight of our own sin.

Romans 8:3

For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh,

The Bible doesn't say that Christ condemned world, but that he condemned sin..

The Holy Spirit has the ability to condemn sin in us while drawing us to life...

It's like a Doctor that see's cancer growing inside a person's body, that doctor will go after that cancer inside of the person and condemn it for the purpose of saving the person's life...

In the same way when God deals with sin in our lives he does so with seriousness because sin is serious and must be dealt with like a spiritual cancer.

- This must have brought relief to Nathan to see David respond this way, because the next thing out of Nathan's mouth was this...

Vs. 7-12

7 Then Nathan said to David, "You are the man! This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. **8** I gave your master's house to you, and your master's wives into your arms. I gave you all Israel and Judah. And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more. **9** Why did you despise the word of the Lord by doing what is evil in his eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. **10** Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.'

11 "This is what the Lord says: 'Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity on you. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will sleep with your wives in broad daylight. **12** You did it in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel.'"

There is so much to share in this part:

For starters

Vs. 7 Then Nathan said to David, “You are the man!”

- Nathan the prophet who David would consider a friend is the one to say these words.
- Not just anyone could have been so bold to the king. There was probably a file somewhere in the castle of “off with his head records” that every king kept. Fortunately Nathan wasn’t named in that file.
- Perhaps what made Nathan suited for the job was **First off:** Nathan modeled repentance in his own life. Much like what Jesus shared in **Matthew 7:3-5** “first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.”
- Remember in 2 Samuel 7 when David had in his heart to build a Temple for the Lord. When he shared that with Nathan he first responded in Vs. 3 “Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it, for the Lord is with you.”
- Then Vs. 4 “But that night the word of the Lord came to Nathan.”
- Nathan humble himself and admit what he initially said was wrong and in haste without regard to the Lord.
- **Second off:** Nathan didn’t just operate in a critical spirit. Nathan also at times brought life giving encouragement to David as we will see later in this chapter.
- It’s like when a person claims to operate in the gift of discerning spirits, yet all they ever discern is the bad and not the good. A person like that you should know doesn’t have the genuine gift of discerning spirit but rather the gift of negativity.

- Now that God has David's attention, in Verses 7-10 he reminds David that he has been with him and has brought him to the place he is at, now the Lord warns David of the consequences of his actions.

The Consequences of David's Sin:

Vs. 10

Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.'

- God promised that from that day forward David would know violence and bloodshed among his own family members.
- David demanded fourfold restitution for the man in Nathan's parable. That's exactly what God required; four-fold restitution for Uriah from the four sons of David: Bathsheba's child, Amnon, Absalom, and Adonijah.

Vs. 11

"This is what the Lord says: 'Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity on you.

- We will see in this chapter that God will forgive David but that doesn't excuse him from the consequences.
- Even as David has sown a servant heart, he has reaped incredible servants.
- Even as David has sown Grace, he has received Grace from God.
- Now David has sown calamity to the house of Uriah and he will reap calamity in his own house.

Vs. 11b,12

Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will sleep with your wives in broad daylight. You

did it in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel.’”

- David will see this come to pass with his own son Absalom.

2 Samuel 16

So they pitched a tent for Absalom on the top of the house, and Absalom went in to his father's concubines in the sight of all Israel.

Hope comes from Repentance

Vs. 13-23

13 Then David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the Lord.”

Nathan replied, “The Lord has taken away your sin. You are not going to die. **14** But because by doing this you have shown utter contempt for the Lord, the son born to you will die.”

15 After Nathan had gone home, the Lord struck the child that Uriah’s wife had borne to David, and he became ill. **16** David pleaded with God for the child. He fasted and spent the nights lying in sackcloth on the ground. **17** The elders of his household stood beside him to get him up from the ground, but he refused, and he would not eat any food with them.

18 On the seventh day the child died. David’s attendants were afraid to tell him that the child was dead, for they thought, “While the child was still living, he wouldn’t listen to us when we spoke to him. How can we now tell him the child is dead? He may do something desperate.”

19 David noticed that his attendants were whispering among themselves, and he realized the child was dead. “Is the child dead?” he asked.

“Yes,” they replied, “he is dead.”

20 Then David got up from the ground. After he had washed, put on lotions and changed his clothes, he went into the house of the Lord and worshiped. Then he went to his own house, and at his request they served him food, and he ate.

21 His attendants asked him, “Why are you acting this way? While the child was alive, you fasted and wept, but now that the child is dead, you get up and eat!”

22 He answered, “While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept. I thought, ‘Who knows? The Lord may be gracious to me and let the child live.’ **23** But now that he is dead, why should I go on fasting? Can I bring him back again? I will go to him, but he will not return to me.”

- Once David got word that his son was dead, he seems to be at peace.
- David knows the child is with God, when he says “Can I bring him back again? I will go to him, but he will not return to me.”
- David understands there were consequences for his actions and he isn’t bitter or mad at God. David after all this is over even got up “went into the house of the Lord and worshiped.”
- David must have felt relief in some way. The weight and burden that David speaks of in Psalm 32 has now lifted.
- From this season of David’s life he writes the familiar words of Psalm 51

Psalm 51:1-17 NIV

1

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion
blot out my transgressions.

2

Wash away all my iniquity
and cleanse me from my sin.

3

For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is always before me.

4

Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are right in your verdict
and justified when you judge.

5

Surely I was sinful at birth,
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

6

Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb;
you taught me wisdom in that secret place.

7

Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

8

Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones you have crushed rejoice.

9

Hide your face from my sins
and blot out all my iniquity.

10

Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

11

Do not cast me from your presence
or take your Holy Spirit from me.

12

Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

13

Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
so that sinners will turn back to you.

14

Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God,
you who are God my Savior,
and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.

15

Open my lips, Lord,
and my mouth will declare your praise.

16

You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;
you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.

17

My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart
you, God, will not despise.

Vs. 24,25

24 Then David comforted his wife Bathsheba, and he went to her and made love to her. She gave birth to a son, and they named him Solomon. The Lord loved him; **25** and because the Lord loved him, he sent word through Nathan the prophet to name him Jedidiah.

- David has found forgiveness with God.
- His heart is restored and this dark season has come to a close.
- The full consequence has not yet been full met but a right spirit is restored to David and he begins to walk in the Spirit and Blessing of God again.
- Up till this point Bathsheba has been referred to as “The wife of Uriah”, now she is referred to as David’s wife.

Closing:

Romans 3:10

As it is written:

“There is no one righteous, not even one;

Romans 3:23

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in [a] Christ Jesus our Lord.

1 John 1:8,9

8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. **9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.