

# Lessons From The Life of David

## “Guilt and Grace”

### 2 Samuel 12

It is worth noticing that Nathan didn't come on his own; he was sent by God:

“Then the LORD sent Nathan to David.”

Possibly the most important word in that sentence is the first one, “then.”

God's timing is absolutely incredible.

When was he sent?

Right after the act of adultery? No.

Right after Bathsheba said, “I am pregnant”? No.

Right after he murdered Uriah? No.

Right after he married Uriah's pregnant widow? No.

Right after the birth of the baby? No.

It's believed by some Old Testament scholars that there was at least a twelve-month interval that passed before Nathan paid the visit.

God waited until just the right time.

He let the grinding wheels of sin do their full work and then He stepped in.

Do you ever question the timing of God?

Times when I just don't know why He's so slow to carry out what I think He ought to do.

But every time I have looked back in retrospect, I have seen how beautifully He worked out His plan, how perfectly it had come to pass.

**God not only does the right thing; He does the right thing at the right time.**

**God not only knew the right time, He chose the right person.**

**It was a man who had David's respect. He'd earned it over the years.  
Nathan the prophet needed no introduction. David knew him well.**

**Now put yourself in the sandals of Nathan.**

**Think of the difficult task God had given him.**

**He was to stand before the most powerful man in the nation and tell that man what he had been refusing to tell himself for a year.**

**No one else in the land would tell David the truth.**

**I'm sure there had been some raised eyebrows.**

**There certainly were some whispers.**

**But nobody would be honest and forthright enough to say, "David, you're in sin."**

**So God said to Nathan, "Go to David and tell him." Nathan obeyed immediately.**

**Before he was on his way to the palace, Nathan must have thought through how he would present this matter to David because his opening words were both thoughtful and brilliant. Because of the story-approach he used, David was drawn in and at the same time disarmed of all defenses.**

### **Proverbs 27:6**

**At that point, Nathan's mission is complete. End of confrontation.**

**Nathan stands, turns around, walks to the door, opens it, steps through, closes it—and David is left alone.**

**Perhaps it was that same evening that he wrote **Psalm 51**.**

**What relief forgiveness provided!**

**Illustration: lancing a wound. - my elbow.**

**I believe that relief swept across David as he thought,**

**“Finally, someone knows the truth and the secret is out. Finally, I have the assurance of God’s forgiveness. Finally, it is all out in the open before Him so that the pus can run and the infection actually leave.**

**Spiritually speaking, that’s what David must have felt as the door slammed and he was left alone with his thoughts.**

**To be effective in confrontation we need four things.**

**If not, we can do more damage than good. We need to confront in absolute truth, right timing, wise wording, and fearless courage.**

**Absolute truth.**

**Don’t go on hearsay.**

**Get the facts.**

**It may take time.**

**You may have to investigate.**

**Out of love and concern you will do all that.**

**You won’t investigate and spread the word all around; you’ll just check it out until you have the facts carefully recorded and correctly arranged.**

**Without absolute truth, you’re shooting in the dark.**

**Do not confront if you don’t have the truth.**

**Right timing.**

**Many people are confronted at the wrong time and as a result are driven deeper into their wrong because thoughtless Christians went off in a hurry to do something in the spurt of emotion.**

**Wait until you are confident that it’s God’s timing. You will know.**

**If you are sensitive to the Lord and are walking with Him, He will let you know, “Now is the time.” It’s then you do it. And, like Nathan, do it privately.**

**Wise wording.**

**I’m impressed that Nathan didn’t just go up to David and say, “You are in sin . . . I’m ashamed of you!”**

**No, he went about it in a wise manner.**

**He had planned his approach very carefully.**

There's a proverb that says, "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver. As an earring of gold, and an ornament of fine gold, so is a wise reprove upon an obedient ear" (**Proverbs 25:11–12, KJV**). The right words are crucial. If you don't have your wording worked out, don't go. Wait. Think it through. Be a "wise reprove."

**Fearless courage.**

Nathan, remember, was sent by God, and that's where courage comes from.

You will have nothing to lose if you walk in the strength of the Lord.

Don't fear the loss of a friendship.

God honors the truth.

After all, it is the truth—and only the truth—that sets people free.

If the Lord is really in it, you'll be one of the best friends this person ever had by telling him the truth.

Remember the phrase: "Faithful are the wounds caused by the bruising of one who loves you"? Be certain you're confronting out of love.

One who doesn't love doesn't confront—at least he doesn't confront God's way.

How can we know that repentance is genuine?

Four things in Psalm 51 that help us identify true repentance.

**First, when there is true repentance, there will be open, unguarded admission.**

David says, "I have sinned . . . I have not hidden my sin. Against Thee and Thee only I have sinned and I've done evil." And he spells it out.

When a person holds back the truth or tells you only part of it, he or she is not repentant.

**Second, when there is true repentance, there is a desire to make a complete break from sin.**

Repentance is turning around, on the basis of truth, and going in the opposite direction, making a complete break with what has been.

David's son Solomon said,

**"He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion." - Proverbs 28:13**

Forsaking sin follows confession of sin. Both represent genuine repentance—a desire to make a complete break.

**Third, when there is true repentance, the spirit is broken and humble.**

**David says,**

**“The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise.” - Psalm 51:17**

**Fourth, true repentance is a claiming of God’s forgiveness and reinstatement.**

**Turning around, going in the other direction, is our claim that He has forgiven and has reinstated us. That’s the very first thing Nathan does with his friend, David.**

**“You will not die, but there will be consequences.”**

**All sins are forgivable, when confessed and forsaken, but some sins carry tremendous ramifications . . . the awful, sometimes lingering consequences.**

**David died hating the day he fell into bed with Bathsheba because of the constant conflicts and consequences that resulted.**

**But down inside he knew that the God of Israel had forgiven him and had dealt with him in grace. After all, he was allowed to go on living, wasn’t he?**

**1 John 1:9**