

Connect Group Discussion Guide – 6/2/2024

Kingdom Stories Week 1 – 2 Samuel 12

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQvR0S5fB8AzraGYts4eQfg> (Posted on Monday)

Audio Only: On Spotify or Apple Podcasts: Connection Point Podcast

Highlights

- A parable is similar to the word Proverbs in Hebrew
 - A story that helps us grow spiritually.
- David lived about 1000 years before Jesus
 - Anointed by Samuel as a teenager to be Israel's next king, faced Goliath, chased by Saul, bypassed opportunity to kill Saul
 - Loved the Lord, embarrassed his wife with "undignified" worship
 - He was on fire for the Lord until he met Bathsheba
- **2 Sam 11:1** there was a season for wars!
 - Kings went out to battle
 - David stayed in Jerusalem – he was not supposed to be home
 - **Read 2 Sam 11** for the complete account of David and Bathsheba
- After he slept with her, she had his son, and David killed her husband, **David had no remorse**
- How can someone who was so spiritually strong become so weak?
 - **Have you at some point in your spiritual journey? What was it like?**
- **2 Sam 12:1** Nathan is a prophet and first encounters David in 2 Sam 7
 - This time instead of prophesying about David's son building a temple and Jesus coming from his line, he's telling him a story – a parable.
- **2 Sam 12:1-3** The lamb is part of the family
- **2 Sam 12:4** What kind of awful person takes something that doesn't belong to him and kill it?
- **2 Sam 12:5-6** David is angry, but he doesn't see himself in Bathsheba and Uriah's situation.
 - Somehow taking a lamb is horrible, but a man's wife is okay.
- **Parables uncover the kingdom and character of God in a way we struggle to see naturally, highlighting our need to live differently.**
- **2 Sam 12:7** God is saying, "haven't I taken care of you, provided for you and I would have done even more if you had just talked with me instead of taking on your own."
- **2 Sam 12:9-10** David is thinking, I never despised *You*, God. *I* didn't kill Uriah.
 - David is trying to talk himself out of this situation.
 - **Our actions toward others are seen as actions toward God Himself.**
 - We must love everyone on this earth.
 - Love means "I see you" and "you are made in the image of God."
 - Love does not mean agree with.
 - The way you love others says a lot about the way you love God.
- **2 Sam 12:13-14** There is forgiveness in the moment we acknowledge our sin.
 - Forgiveness does not erase consequences (the baby will die).
- David fasted and prayed, "Lord, please change your mind." See **2 Sam 12:15-23**.
- **2 Sam 12:20** When the baby died, David worshipped.
 - In the midst of his pain, David was able to see God for who He is.
- **2 Sam 12:29** If David had gone to Rabbah in the first place, none of this would have happened.
 - The parable allowed David to see his actions clearly and respond appropriately.

How does this apply to us today?

1. God takes it personally when we treat people poorly. It's a reflection of who He is.
2. God's forgiveness does not erase human consequences.
3. We can worship the Lord in the midst of terrible circumstances.
 - a. **Do you worship God when you're in the valley?** This is when you grow the most spiritually.
4. Heartfelt repentance and worship should lead us to live differently.
 - a. We repent, then worship, and then we change.
 - b. Worship is a way of living, not something we do. It comes from deep in our soul.

Car conversation.

1. How did Nathan's parable help David see he needed God's forgiveness?
2. David's actions were not directed to God, so why is God trying to get David's attention?

We actually can see how David responded to all this in one of his Psalm's **Psalm 51**. He finally acknowledges that he knows this is about God, and not himself.

The Bottom Line

Allow repentance and worship to lead you to live differently.