

After God's Own Heart

Inviting Accountability
2 Samuel 12:1-13

We've reached the final message of our series in 1 & 2 Samuel. We've been:

- *Persisting in Pursuit*
- *Resisting Superstition*
- *Embracing the Difference*
- *Emphasizing the Unseen*
- *Accepting God's "No"*
- *Discerning God's Voice*
- *Returning to Repentance*
- *Daring to Trust in God*
- *Trusting God's Sovereignty*

This week: *Inviting Accountability*

Main Idea: People After God's Own Heart will Invite Accountability from Faithful Friends

"And the LORD sent Nathan to David. He came to him and said to him, 'There were two men in a certain city, the one rich and the other poor. The rich man had very many flocks and herds, 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, and it was like a daughter to him. 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.' 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, and he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity.' Nathan said to David, 'You are the man! Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you out of the hand of Saul. 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. 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. 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.'" 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. For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel and before the sun.'" 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.'" 2 Samuel 12:1-13

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Three Benefits of Accountability from 2 Samuel 12:1-13

1. A Faithful Friend is Sent by God to Show the Obvious Truth (1-6)

"And the LORD sent Nathan to David." 2 Samuel 12:1a

"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing." James 1:22-25

"Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ" Ephesians 4:15

"And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account." Hebrews 4:13

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2. A Faithful Friend is Bold Enough to Speak the Hard Truth (7-10)

"Nathan said to David, 'You are the man! Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you out of the hand of Saul. 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. 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. 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.'" 2 Samuel 12:7-10

"A king's wrath is like the growling of a lion, but his favor is like dew on the grass." Proverbs 19:12

"Better is open rebuke than hidden love. Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy." Proverbs 27:5-6

Who is that person for you? Who speaks hard truths in your life?
Hard truths keep us from having a hard heart.

“What was it about Bathsheba that David wanted? Was it the feeling of power? Her beauty? A moment of physical pleasure? Ultimately, David wasn’t swept away because he wanted something specific. David was seduced by Bathsheba’s beauty because he was no longer captivated by God’s.” J.D. Greear

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3. A Faithful Friend is Encouraging Towards a Restored Future (11-13)

“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. For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel and before the sun.’ 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.’” 2 Samuel 12:11–13

“What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?” Romans 6:1–2

“And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? ‘My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.’ It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline?...For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.” Hebrews 12:5-7, 11

“Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken.” Ecclesiastes 4:9–12

“Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another” Proverbs 27:17

- Join a Small Group
- Connect in worship regularly - meet someone new in this room!
- Serve on a Team - connections made around activity and service together!

If we are to be people after God’s own heart, we must invite faithful friends to join us on the journey and encourage us along the way.

What about you? Do you have people in your life that you have invited to keep you accountable? Are there people that can point you to God, speak the hard truths, and walk towards the future with you?

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“The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die.” 2 Samuel 12:13

Sources and Further Reading Opportunities:

- *The Bible Exposition Commentary* – Warren Wiersbe (1996)
- *The New American Commentary: 1 & 2 Samuel* – Robert D. Bergen (1996)
- *Exalting Jesus in 1 & 2 Samuel* – J.D. Greear & Heath A. Thomas (2016)
- *2 Samuel for You* – Tim Chester (2017)
- *ESV Study Bible* – Crossway (2008)
- *CSB Study Bible* – Trevin Wax, Ed. (2017)
- *Opening Up 2 Samuel* - Jim Newheiser (2014)
- *Commentary Critical & Explanatory on the Whole Bible* - Jamieson, Fausset, & Brown (1997)
- *Matthew Henry’s Concise Commentary* - Matthew Henry & Thomas Scott (1997)