

2nd Samuel Chapter 12

V: 1 The Lord sent Nathan... Nathan didn't just go on his own, but on God's authority.

- God sent a messenger to confront David.

John 16:7-8 “⁷Nevertheless I tell you the truth; it is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send Him unto you. ⁸And when He is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:”

- As Nathan comes to David, we see that they already have a relationship:

Proverbs 27:6 “Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.”

Proverbs 27:17 “Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.”

- We see God's wisdom as Nathan relates this parable to David, that as a shepherd David can totally relate to.
- Rich man, poor man – God almost always seemingly sides with the poor man, holding rich men to a higher standard.

Psalms 109:31 “For He shall stand at the right hand of the poor, to save him from those that condemn his soul.”

Proverbs 14:31 “He that oppreseth the poor reproacheth his Maker: but he that honoureth Him hath mercy on the poor.”

V: 2-4 David is the rich man with many wives and concubines, Uriah the poor man with one wife whom he dearly loved.

- The rich man would not partake of his own flock / collection of wives – instead took from the poor man his precious little lamb

V: 5-6 David reacts violently to this story; our sins always look worse when some one else is doing them. David doesn't realize as he reacts angrily to this situation that he is actually passing judgment upon himself.

- According to the Law the penalty for this type of crime wasn't death:

Exodus 22:1 “If a man shall steal an ox, or a sheep, and kill it, or sell it; he shall restore five oxen for an ox, and four sheep for a sheep.”

- David pronounced both a death sentence and restoration because along with the actual crime – he had no pity on the poor man.

V: 7-8 *“Thou art the man.”*

Hebrews 4:12 “For the word of God is quick / alive, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

- David is angry, he’s unguarded – and at that moment Nathan takes the Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God – and he plunges it into David’s heart – and he strikes a mighty blow for God, and it pierced David’s heart.

“Thus saith the Lord” – invoking the authority of God, speaking directly for God:

- Anointed to be king over Israel, delivered from Saul and all your enemies, given thy master’s house & wives, the houses of Israel, and Judah – and I would have given you more if that had not been enough!

V: 9 Nathan holds up the mirror that revealed just how dirty the king really was.

- Nathan explains why David stole Uriah’s little ewe lamb.
 1. He forgot the goodness of the Lord who had given him everything he had, and would have given him even more.
 2. David despised the commandment of God, he acted as though he had some special privilege in sinning – coveting, committing adultery, bearing false witness, and murder – thinking he could get away with it.

“You have despised the commandment of the Lord...”

- Despised: (H-959) bazah, baw-zaw'; to disesteem, despise, disdain, contemn, unappreciated, to hate, to hold as worthless, vile person.
- This is a pretty ugly picture of what our sin looks like from God’s perspective, our sin is always firstly against Him.

Psalm 51:4 “Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speaketh, and be clear when thou judgest.”

- David killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword: Uriah’s name means **Jehovah is my light**; or **flame of God**.
- David quenched the light of God, David quenched the Holy Spirit.

V: 10 Mention is specifically made of killing Uriah the Hittite several times, but the adultery part of it is only mentioned occasionally, not focused on as much.

- David's adultery with Bathsheba was a sin of passion, a sin of the moment that overtook him, but his sin of having Uriah killed was a pre-meditated crime that was deliberate.

Galatians 6:7-8 *“⁷Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. ⁸For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.”*

- The sword will not depart from David's house:
- David's oldest son **Amnon**, raped his ½ sister Tamar and was killed by his brother **Absalom**, who was later killed in his rebellion against David. David's 3rd son, **Adonijah** was killed when he sought to usurp Solomon's throne.
- When you add to that the 1st son born to **Bathsheba** who was stricken by God – David did in fact pay the fourfold price for taking the one eye lamb, four of his lambs were taken in re-payment. (Deut.19:21, Ex. 21:23-25, Lev. 24:20 – God repaid David in kind.).
- To despise God's Word is to despise God Himself.

V: 11-12 God will raise up evil in David's house; the things that David sought to do secretly God will visit publicly upon David for all to see; humiliation.

- Later when Absalom rebelled against David and sought to take over the throne, David fled Jerusalem because he couldn't bring himself to fight against his own son. When Absalom took over briefly, Ahithophel (Bathsheba's grandfather) counseled Absalom to demonstrate to the people that he was the king, that he was in charge, so he took his father's concubines to the roof top in a tent and went in unto them in front of all the people, fulfilling the word of God to David.

V: 13-14 David responds to the Lord: *“I have sinned against the Lord.”*

- David makes no attempt to defend himself or justify his actions, no attempt to blame anyone else – he takes full responsibility with a simply confession.
- Nathan, still speaking for God: *“The Lord hath put away thy sin – you are forgiven, you shall not die.”*

1 John 1:9 *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*

- This must have lifted a terrible burden off of David's conscience:

Psalm 32:1-4 “¹Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. ²Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile. ³When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long. ⁴For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. Selah.”

“*Howbeit...*” There is forgiveness and restoration, but there is always a “howbeit...” the repercussions and consequences of our actions.

- Sadly David's actions enabled, gave reason for the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme the Lord.

Blaspheme: (H-5006). na'ats, naw-ats'; to scorn; abhor, blaspheme, contemn, despise.

1. to speak impiously or irreverently of God or sacred things.
2. to speak evil of; slander; abuse.
3. to speak irreverently of God or sacred things; utter impieties.

- *“See, that’s what a man of God does! They’re all just a bunch of hypocrites! They’re no different than anybody else!”*
- “Howbeit...” - the child, the fruit of this sin shall die.

Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death...” always is, always will be...

V: 15-19 Chastening: is an expression of God's love, and an indicator or affirmation of relationship.

Proverbs 3:11-12 “¹¹My son, despise not the chastening of the Lord; neither be weary of his correction: ¹²For whom the Lord loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.”

- Nathan departs and the chastening begins as the child becomes ill and dies.
- It would appear that this child was born, then lived only one week preventing the parents from circumcising and giving him a name on the 8th day.

V: 16 David besought God; David prayed fervently for the child, he fasted and humbled himself before God.

- During that time the elders tried to get him to get up, and to eat but he refused.

V: 18 The child dies on the 7th day – 7 being the number of completion – 8 or the 8th day being a new beginning, which it was.

- David's servants are afraid to tell him that the child is dead, not being sure how he'll react considering his behavior thus far.

V: 19 David perceives the child is dead and is informed of the same.

V: 20 David acts on the information; takes a bath, fresh change of clothes, makes himself presentable – then he goes into the house of God and worships.

- In scripture, washing oneself and changing clothes symbolizes making a new beginning. (Gen. 35:1-2; 41:14; 45:22; Ex. 19:10; Lev.14:8-9; Jer. 52:33; Rev. 3:18).
- David is not only acting on the information that the child is dead and moving on, he's acting on the fact that he's been forgiven, that his sin has been removed, and re-engaging in his restored relationship with God by worshipping Him.
- David believed God and took Him at His word that he was in fact forgiven. As God had declared there would be repercussions from his sin, but he didn't walk in doubt, he walked in faith.

David wrote:

Psalms 103:10-12 “¹⁰He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. ¹¹For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear Him. ¹²As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.”

Previously David had written:

Psalms 51:1-3 “¹Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. ²Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. ³For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. ⁴Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.”

- David very wisely didn't make his appeal to God based on his merit or past performance, but on God's goodness and mercy, relying upon the character of God.

Psalms 32:5 “I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah.”

- David is operating on the confidence of God's character and the surety of His word.

V: 21-22 The servants didn't understand David's behavior: David wept and fasted and prayed while the child was alive and sick. Then when the child died, he did none of that.

- David explains that while the child was alive there was hope that God might be gracious and spare the child – David would do what he could, play his part while there was still hope.

- Again this is based on David's understanding of the character of God:
Exodus 34:6-7 “⁶And the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed, the Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, ⁷keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin...”
- David accepts God's will and judgment in his life, David was at peace with God.

V: 23 Why should I fast at this point, can I bring him back from the dead? “No.”

- We don't pray for the dead, they are in God's hands already – He is just and true, His will is perfect.
- David knows that he will go to see his son someday in heaven – which over the years has been a great comfort to those who have lost children.
- This raises a question: What happens to children who die before reaching the age of accountability?

1 Corinthians 7:14 “For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy.”

- David had the confidence that his son was in heaven.

V: 24-25 As David comforts his wife notice the transition: “*Bathsheba his wife*” as opposed to the “wife of Uriah” – this is a new beginning for both of them.

- **Solomon:** “His Peace” or “God is Peace” – they are at peace with God.
- “*The Lord loved him...*” – what a blessing, God's favor was upon him.
- And the Lord through the prophet Nathan gave Solomon another name:
- **Jedidiah:** “Yah's Darling” “Beloved of God” – underscoring God's love for both David and Solomon.
- **How can God bless this?** Because He knows David's heart, because He is merciful, and compassionate, and gracious – the depths of which we don't understand.

Isaiah 61:1 & 3 “¹The spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;” – “³To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might

be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He might be glorified.”

V: 26-30 Meanwhile back on the front; there is still a war to fight. This part of the story takes place during the previous events.

- Joab was faithful to David, after taking most of the city he calls for David to come and be part of the final battle to take it; giving the honor to David – which David does.
- As they capture the young king of Ammon who had treated David's kind gesture with such contempt, David personally removes the crown from off his head and places it upon his own.
- The crown weighed in at a talent of gold, along with the jewels:
- 1 talent (3,000 shekels) 75.6 lbs. 1.8 million dollars @ \$1,500 / oz.

V: 31 Here we see the subjugation of the Ammonites, becoming slaves.

- As we move into the next few chapters David will be reaping what he's sown – we always reap more, much more than we sow, there is always an exponential increase as we'll see.
 - Forgiveness, yes! Restoration, yes! Consequences to his sin, yes.

Psalm 32:1-4 “¹Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. ²Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile. ³When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long. ⁴For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. Selah.”

Psalm 51:10-12 “¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. ¹¹Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. ¹²Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.”