

2 Samuel 12: 1-6
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[2 Samuel 12:1-6](#)

Nathan Rebukes David Part 1

Related Topics: David; Bathsheba; Uriah; Joab; Weak Heroes; Consequences of Forgiven Sin; Steps to a Fall; Covering Up Sin; Nathan; Sin Is Against God; Confession of Sin; Restoration; Solomon

In [Chapter 11](#) the Word of God records for us the GREAT FAILURE of a GREAT MAN. In our last 2 weeks together we have seen King David deliberately place his desires over and against the expressed will of God. He broke the tenth commandment ([Ex. 20:17](#)) in coveting Uriah's wife. He then broke then the seventh ([Ex. 20:14](#)) in his adultery with Bathsheba. Finally, in his attempt to cover his sins he broke the sixth ([Ex. 20:13](#)) by murdering Uriah.

The Chapter closed with the words, *"But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord."* THAT was the first mention of God in the chapter that recorded David's moral collapse. But that doesn't mean that God was absent or disinterested. Though He is not mentioned God had witnessed every event, read the intent of every heart. David had NOT gotten away with anything.

CRUCIAL:

David would discover the stress and agony of living a double, false life. David EXPERIENCED the displeasure of God over the next year!

[Psalm 51:8](#) *8Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice.*

[Psalm 51:12](#) *12Restore to me the joy of your salvation,*

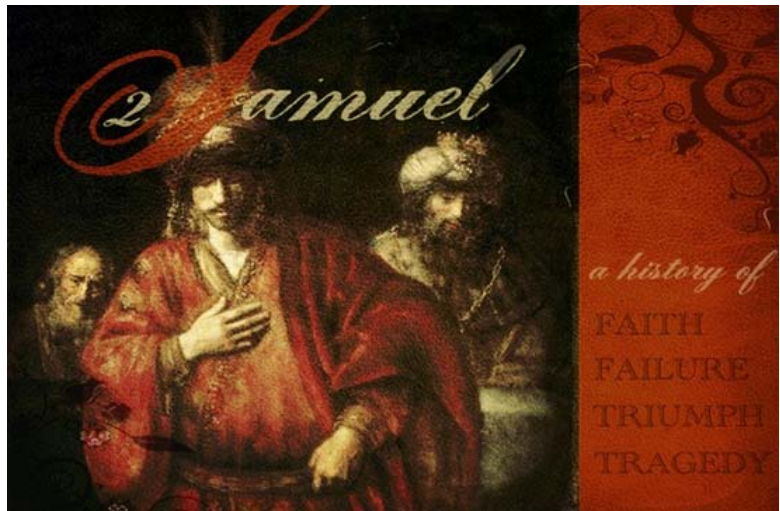
[Psalm 32:3-4](#) *3For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. 4For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up .*

He was under such intense conviction during this time and that all the joy in his life evaporated away.

CRUCIAL OBSERVATION:

For about 1 year the Lord was radically dealing with David, the Holy Spirit was lovingly CONVICTING David of his sins. But David would NOT confess his sins before God.

If I am trying to get through to someone and they won't have any part of it, I quit after a few tries. I just write them off, and sometimes I am quite glad to do it, and even hoping to see them face the music that is awaiting them. SOMETIMES we think that God is just like us in the matter of Our sin, us hiding our sin, refusing to respond to the convicting work of the Holy Spirit, failure to confess our sin.



THIS IS MINDBLOWING – After David had refused for almost a year to confess his sin, we read these words in the opening verse of [2 Samuel 12:1](#) *1And the Lord sent Nathan to David.*

God is SO patient with us. The KJV uses the word LONGSUFFERING. [1 Cor 13 NKJ](#) says that LOVE, God’s kind of love, SUFFERS LONG.

NONE of us like to SUFFER at all, let alone SUFFER LONG! [1 Cor 13 NKJ](#) says that LOVE, God’s kind of love, SUFFERS LONG and THEN is KIND. If I’m SUFFERING I’m not usually found to be KIND. If I’m SUFFERING LONG! Well then....

God LOVES David! He loves David with a love that SUFFERED David’s rejection for almost a year. And even after a year, He was still so KIND as to CONTINUE speaking to David. God says, all right then, I’ve been chipping away and chipping away, NOW I’II SEND Nathan to David.

CRUCIAL APPLICATION:

Guys, THAT is how God loves you and me! God SUFFERS LONG with us. THAT is how God deals with you and me. THAT is how He wants us to deal with each other!

HAVING SAID THAT, I MUST ADD THAT God knows that we are made of the kind of stuff that after hearing such an amazing truth we will think, WHAT’S THE HURRY to repent of my sin? God will SUFFER LONG with me. God said in [Genesis 6:3 NKJ](#) – “My Spirit shall not strive with man forever.”

We must NEVER presume upon the grace and longsuffering of God because given enough time we WON’T WANT to repent! When we hear or sense the conviction of the Holy Spirit we must respond to it immediately because we might wake up one day and NOT hear his voice, NOT have a Nathan.

[Hebrews 3:15](#) *“Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.”*

1And the Lord sent Nathan to David.

IN HIS LONGSUFFERING LOVE God sent a PARTICULAR man to David. Back in [2 Samuel 7](#), David told Nathan that he wanted to build a place to house the Ark of the covenant. Out of good intentions, but without inquiring of the Lord, Nathan told David to go for it. That same night the Lord corrected Nathan and told Nathan that he had to go back to David and set things straight. Nathan did that very thing. Nathan was an HONEST man, Nathan was a man of INTEGRITY. Nathan, also, had ACCESS to the heart of David. David had seen the HUMILITY of Nathan in admitting his error concerning wrongly speaking about David’s plan to build a temple. David had seen the COURAGE of Nathan in telling David that God had rejected David’s plans to build the temple. Besides being a PROPHET OF GOD, Nathan was a GENUINE FRIEND OF DAVID.

A COUPLE OF THINGS FROM THIS:

1.) *God has His “Nathans.” Men and women who HEAR the voice of the Lord. David’s Nathan had NO WAY of knowing about this sin apart from having it revealed to him by the Holy Spirit. THAT is a gift of the Holy Spirit*

[1 Cor 12:7-8](#) *To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. 8To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge (KJV Word of knowledge) according to the same Spirit,*

It is God the Holy Spirit revealing to an individual something that is UNKNOWN to him or UNKNOWABLE by him.

CRUCIAL: *David’s restoration to the Lord was accomplished by way of this manifestation of the Holy Spirit. David’s sin of adultery was known only to 2 people, David and Bathsheba. His sin of murder was known only to 2 people, David and Joab. But God the Holy Spirit knew about both*

sins and the Holy Spirit sovereignly chose to REVEAL it to Nathan. A man who LOVED the Lord. A man who LOVED truth. A man who LOVED David enough to tell him the truth.

2.) More than being concerned with what a Nathan DOES, we should be concerned with who a Nathan IS. We don't want to go around saying, "Yep — I'm a Nathan — My job is pointing out people's sins." We want to become, by the grace of God, the kind of person that God can use to speak a Word of Knowledge to a "David." The kind of person who HEARS from the Lord. The kind of person who is YIELDED to the person and power of the Holy Spirit.

THINK ABOUT THIS:

David's restoration was accomplished by the POWER of the Holy Spirit MANIFESTED through a human vessel! I do not want to discount such things as "home groups" or "life groups" or "care groups" or whatever catchy title they use. Relationships are IMPORTANT to the accomplishing of God's plan. It is NOT good for man to be alone. Nathan obviously had a relationship with David, they were friends! But we must not fall into the error of thinking that those things alone can accomplish the work of God. The WORK of God is NEVER accomplished in the realm of the flesh. It can ONLY be accomplished by the POWER of the Holy Spirit through the various manifestations of the Spirit.

[Romans 12:6-8](#) Having gifts (not natural abilities or talents) that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; 7if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; 8the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

We must NEVER merely desire to be a vessel through whom the Holy Spirit might MANIFEST HIMSELF. The Corinthians were ABOUNDING in the operation of spiritual gifts, but Paul HAD to write to them to EXPLAIN the NATURE of the gifts and the OPERATION of the gifts. And then he says this:

[1 Cor 12:31-13:3](#) 31But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way..... 1If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

We can only imagine the SHOCK it was to Nathan when the Holy Spirit revealed the sin of David to him. But when he came to David, He came NOT as CRITIC, but as FRIEND. Not wanting to see David DESTROYED, but to see David RESTORED. He came to him and said to him,

[2 Samuel 12:1-3](#) "There were two men in a certain city, the one rich and the other poor. 2The rich man had very many flocks and herds, 3but 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.

It was common in those days to keep a lamb as a pet, and Nathan used this story of the pet lamb to speak to his friend David.

[2 Samuel 12:4](#) 4Now 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."

NOTICE:

The sin Nathan describes is that of theft. In reality David stole from Uriah. He stole from Uriah the privilege

and pleasure of sex with Bathsheba. The privilege and pleasure of having sex with Bathsheba belonged to no other man than Uriah. Adultery and sexual immorality are theft, taking something that does not belong to us.

This principle is also true regarding pornography and lust. [Leviticus 18](#) describes the sin of uncovering the nakedness of those other than our spouse. The idea is that the nakedness of other doesn't belong to us and it is theft if we take it.

METRO – We do not want to miss the fact that the Lord has been speaking to us NON-STOP about the issue of sexual sin from both 2 Samuel and 1 Thes 4. He NEVER wastes His Word, it ALWAYS goes forth to accomplish a SPECIFIC thing. I am PRAYING and TRUSTING GOD that WE not miss out on His gracious warnings and loving correction.

[2 Samuel 12:5-6](#) 5Then 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, 6and he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity."

INTERESTING:

Nathan never actually asked David for a judicial decision. David naturally assumed the story was true, and David immediately jumps in and passes sentence on the guilty man of Nathan's story. It is quite amazing that he does this because he has ZERO moral high ground from which to act.

PERSONAL: I must tell you that I am trying to LEARN to NOT jump in with my opinion because it just wreaks of having a high estimation of your own opinion. Having said that, part of his pronouncement is within the guidelines of Scripture.

[Ex. 22:1](#) If a man steals an ox or a sheep, and kills it or sells it, he shall repay five oxen for an ox, and four sheep for a sheep.

Amazingly, he states the Biblical limits for sentencing on the crime AFTER saying the guy must die for this crime! David's sentencing is WAY BEYOND what God, who is perfectly just, set forth in the Law of Moses.

So here is David, who is at that very moment covering up GROSS sin, he is NOT asked to pass judgment, but does anyway, and then presumes to know better than God as to what punishment the guy deserves.

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