

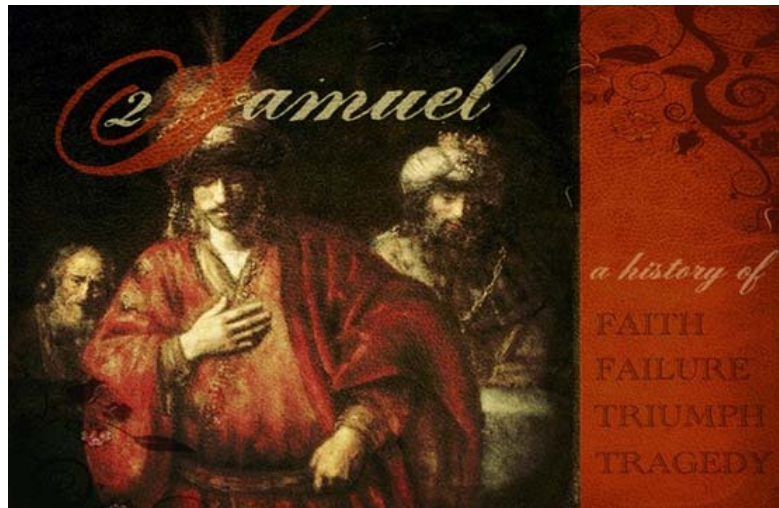
2 Samuel 12: 13-25
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Monday at Metro
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[2 Samuel 12:13-25](#)

Nathan Rebukes David – Part 3

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

After his great moral failures of Chapter 11 David would spend the next year refusing to confess his sin. During that time God dealt radically with David over his sins. Day and night for a year God's hand was heavy upon David ([Psalm 32:3-4](#)). The conviction was so heavy that David described it as if his bones were broken and he was drained of any and all joy ([Psalm 51:8;12](#)). That is what makes the opening words of 2 Samuel 12 so mind-blowing:



[2 Samuel 12:1](#) *1And the Lord sent Nathan to David.*

In His incredibly longsuffering Love, God sent a particular man to David - Nathan.

- A man who LOVED the Lord.
- A man who LOVED truth.
- A man who LOVED David enough to tell him the truth.

By way of a story, Nathan describes David's sin of adultery as stealing. At the end of the story, we see David's response:

[2 Samuel 12:5](#) *5Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man.....*

We saw in David's response how:

1. We can go to chapter and verse to judge someone else when we ourselves are in sin. We can know the words of the Bible but be distant from the Author.
2. We often try to excuse or minimize or deflect attention from our own sin by passing judgment on others
3. Our own sin always looks worse on someone else.

David was so self-assured and self-righteous in pronouncing sentence on this man. Sentencing that was so immediate. Sentencing that far exceeded the crime. That he even called God to witness the rightness of his judgment, "As the Lord lives, the man who has done this deserves to die." Then with 4 simple words Nathan shocks David into realizing his own guilt before God.

[2 Samuel 12:7](#) *7Nathan said to David, "You are the man!"*

In verses 7-8, David's sin is framed against the background of God's amazing blessings upon his life. God explains to David that his sin was ultimately an expression of ingratitude. After God had given all of this to

David, and had so much more to give him, David stole another man's wife.

By way of application, we said that every sin, all the way back to the first sin, is an act of treachery against an infinitely kind God. Think of the backdrop of the very first sin!

Paradise — SINLESS and PERFECT environment, crowned with glory and honor

[In verse 9](#), God sets forth David's sin in specific detail.

QUOTE: Alexander Maclaren

"God accuses us and condemns us one by one that He may save us one by one."

A personal salvation requires a personal conviction of sin. It wasn't enough for David to confess that he was a sinner in a general sense. He had to own the specific sin he had committed.

[2 Samuel 12:13](#) *13David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord."*

As we pick up our study, I don't want any of us to miss the powerful nature of what transpired in just a few moments. First, there was the suddenness and incredible heart rending force of those four words that left David naked and guilty before God! The Lord had been cutting away at David for nearly a year. And then in a moment, there was a final thrust of the Word of God — sharper than any two-edged sword — and David is undone!

Then there was David's response. He had made such profoundly sinful choices over a protracted period of time. But in this moment with two possible choices to make, David makes the only right choice. God had named David's specific sins. David does not parse the divine indictments against him, didn't plead not guilty on some of the charges and guilty on the rest.

In a moment, after a year of rationalizing and covering his sins, with striking brevity, David totally agrees with God on the very nature of his crime. He had SINNED AGAINST GOD! Now, in that moment, the darkest moment of David's life, a moment in which David is swallowed by the blackness and the enormity of his guilt, there comes another proclamation, just as sudden, unexpected, and powerful as the four words that had slain him.

[2 Samuel 12:13](#) *And Nathan said to David, "The Lord also has put away your sin; you shall not die."*

The same hand of God that had in a moment so mightily and utterly slain David, just moments later pulls him out of the grave! David has gone from hopelessly guilty — guilty before the Holy God of heaven — to totally forgiven.

How can that be? Why should God let him off the hook? How can God let him off the hook?

[Romans 5:20](#) *but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more,*

[Romans 6:23](#) *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Okay, but if God was going to forgive him, shouldn't He have left David hanging in the wind for at least the same length of time David had been covering his sin, resisting the convicting work of the Holy Spirit?

[Proverbs 28:13](#) *Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.*

[1 John 1:8-9](#) *If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9If we confess*

our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Upon genuine repentance and faith there is no jail time to be served, no house arrest, no probation.

CRUCIAL:

You see, in the course of these few radical and powerful moments, there was an amazing thing that transpired in the heart of David. Yes, it took a year of the longsuffering of God's love at work on him. Yes, God had to slay David with the weight and reality of his sin, leave him in a hopeless heap, but it in the course of those earth shattering, heart crushing moments, this is what was transpiring in the heart and mind of David.

[Psalm 51:1](#) *1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;*

David threw himself on the mercy of God that flowed from a the love of God that was steadfast

Now he knew just how steadfast the love of God is

1according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

David realized that sin is so great it needs not a little mercy – but abundant mercy

[Psalms 51:2-6](#)

2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!

3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

4 Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.

5 Behold, (K) I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

6 Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

David's confession was the result of God's teaching David about the reality of his sin. Not just a head knowledge, but a heart knowledge. God had reached places in David's heart that were beyond David's capacity to know.

[Jer. 17:9](#) *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?*

[Rev. 2:23](#) *I am he who searches mind and heart*

[Psalm 51:7-9](#)

7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

8 Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice.

9 Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

David knows that his sin has stained him before God, but he knows that God can cleanse him and comes to God trusting God to do that.

I shall be

[Psalm 51:10](#)

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

David now knows that his successes and triumphs were not the measure of his spiritual strength. He humbly looks to God to spiritually strengthen and sustain him

[Psalm 51:11-12](#)

11 Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit

David wants more, than forgiveness, he wants restoration to fellowship with God. Fellowship with God that he knew as a shepherd in the fields.

[Psalm 23:4](#) *Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil for you are with me*

Fellowship with God that he knew when he was a refugee in the Judean wilderness.

[Psalm 63:1-5](#) *....my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. 2 So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory. 3 Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. 4 So I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands. 5 My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips,*

[Psalm 51:13](#)

13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.

The forgiven sinner has much to say about the One who has so graciously forgiven him.

QUOTE: Joseph Parker p.168

[Psalm 51:14-16](#)

14 Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.

15 Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

16 For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering. 17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

No religious gauntlet to run, no religious rituals to perform, just genuine brokenness before the Holy God whom you have offended! In a moment, the true and living God, the creator of heaven and earth, responded to this broken man with, "The Lord also has put away your sin; you shall not die."

What a sound that must have been in the ears of David, to the soul of David!

Psalm 32:1-2 Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. 2 Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity,

2 Samuel 12:14 14 Nevertheless, because by this deed you have utterly scorned the Lord, the child who is born to you shall die."

The [KJV](#) reads it as – 14 Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also that is born unto thee shall surely die.

What David did was not unusual among the unbelieving kings and rulers of the world, but it should be unusual among God's people. The pagan cultures that opposed the God of Abraham, Isaac and David and the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and David would now be able to malign God and malign God's law because the man who professed such a zeal for God and God's law had so greatly dishonored both. They would say, "This is the man who Slew Goliath in the name of the LORD, God of Israel! Prays and writes songs of praise to the name of the Lord, God of Israel! And now he steals another mans wife and then murders that man!"

POINT:

Such sin gives the unbeliever the hypocrite they so desperately want to hide behind because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also that is born unto thee shall surely die.

This is tough stuff! What are we to think of it?

CRUCIAL INSIGHT:

There are consequences to forgiven sin. We must never think of them as divine retribution – a settling of accounts

QUOTE: Redpath p. 202

FIRST

The consequences of forgiven sin are intended by God to, first, show God's hatred of sin.

QUOTE: Matthew Henry

God will therefore vindicate his honour by showing his displeasure against David for this sin, and letting the world see that though he loves David he hates his sin; and he chooses to do it by the death of the child

SECOND

We need to see that God didn't only want to heal David of the guilt of his sin; He also wanted to heal David of the presence of this sin.

QUOTE: Spurgeon

That sin only threw out upon the surface the evil that was always within him; and now God.... begins to use the knife to cut it out of him."

[Hebrews 12:7-11](#) 7It 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? 8If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. 9Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? 10For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he

disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. 11For 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.

We never read of David committing adultery again.

[2 Samuel 12:15](#) 15Then Nathan went to his house.

Nathan, the Prophet of God and the Friend of David, had faithfully delivered his message and now he walks off the stage so-to-speak, and returns to his home.

Imagine the sense of relief and the sense of rejoicing. Relief that he had obeyed God and spoken the truth in love to David. Rejoicing that he saw the king of Israel, his personal friend, restored to fellowship with God. It is radical to see how God blessed and honored Nathan's obedience.

David would name one of his sons after this Prophet who honored God, and this Friend who loved him enough to speak the truth to him. ([1 Chron. 3:5](#)). And the Messiah of Israel, the Savior of the world, would be a descendant of David's Nathan ([Luke 3:31](#)).

[2 Samuel 12:15](#) 15.....And the Lord afflicted the child that Uriah's wife bore to David, and he became sick.

SIN IS NOT TO BE TRIFLED WITH!

We cannot number the times since Genesis 3 that the innocent are made to suffer because of the sin of the guilty.

QUOTE: Blaikie p.187

NOTE:

Without diminishing the very real suffering of this child, this was far more tragic for David and Bathsheba than it was for the child himself. Their young son suffered for several days and surely we can rightly trust that God's comfort was extended to the child in the midst of suffering. At the end of his suffering the child went to eternal glory. Though the child died, the chastisement was really upon David and Bathsheba and not upon the child. They would look at that child knowing that his suffering was linked to their sin!

QUOTE: F.B. Meyer

"God's mercy to his erring and repentant children will be shown in converting the results of their sin into the fires of their purification."

[2 Samuel 12:16-18](#) 16David therefore sought God on behalf of the child. And David fasted and went in and lay all night on the ground. 17And the elders of his house stood beside him, to raise him from the ground, but he would not, nor did he eat food with them. 18On the seventh day the child died.

CRUCIAL INSIGHT:

Prayer and fasting do not change God's mind. They are not tools to get whatever we want from God. They are demonstrations of radical submission and surrender to God's power and will.

[2 Samuel 12:18-20](#) 18...And the servants of David were afraid to tell him that the child was dead, for they said, "Behold, while the child was yet alive, we spoke to him, and he did not listen to us. How then can we say to him the child is dead? He may do himself some harm." 19But when David saw that

his servants were whispering together, David understood that the child was dead. And David said to his servants, "Is the child dead?" They said, "He is dead." 20Then David arose from the earth and washed and anointed himself and changed his clothes. And he went into the house of the Lord and worshiped.

This tells us that David had truly been broken and repentant before the Lord over his sin.

Worship is bowing the knee to God! There is not even a sniff of resentment or arguing with God. Here David is much like Job. When Job heard of the death of his children Job acknowledged the hand of God, and humbled himself under it and submitted to God's holy will in it.

QUOTE: Matthew Henry

Weeping must never hinder worshipping.

[2 Samuel 12:20-23](#) 20...He then went to his own house. And when he asked, they set food before him, and he ate. 21Then his servants said to him, "What is this thing that you have done? You fasted and wept for the child while he was alive; but when the child died, you arose and ate food." 22He said, "While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept, for I said, 'Who knows whether the Lord will be gracious to me, that the child may live?' 23But now he is dead. Why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he will not return to me."

David was confident that his son would meet him in heaven. On this side of heaven death brings an indescribable sense of loss, but if the one who has died is a believer — or is a child who has not yet reached the place of accountability for his sin, they are not lost.

QUOTE: Vance Havner

"When you know where something is, you haven't lost it."

We know where they are - [2 Cor 5:6-8](#) To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. That is why Paul would write:

[1 Thes. 4:13](#) But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.

[2 Samuel 12:24-25](#) 24Then David comforted his wife, Bathsheba, and went in to her and lay with her, and she bore a son, and he called his name Solomon. And the Lord loved him 25and sent a message by Nathan the prophet. So he called his name Jedidiah, because of the Lord.

THIS IS SO AWESOME

SOLOMON = Peace

JEDIDIAH = Beloved of God.

HERE'S THE PICTURE — People may not forgive, we may refuse to really believe that we are forgiven, but God forgives repentant sinners. Remarkably it is this son, the son born out of a marriage that began in adultery, that will be heir to David's throne, the ancestor of the Messiah. God does this to demonstrate the truth that God forgives repentant sinners.

QUOTE: John Trapp

"David's best sons came of Bath-sheba; because they were the fruit of their humiliation."

[Isaiah 57:15](#) *For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite.*

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