

2 Samuel Chapter 12

And the LORD sent Nathan unto David. And he came unto him, and said unto him, There were two men in one city; the one rich, and the other poor. ²The rich man had exceeding many flocks and herds: ³But the poor man had nothing, save one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and nourished up: and it grew up together with him, and with his children; it did eat of his own meat, and drank of his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was unto him as a daughter. ⁴And there came a traveler unto the rich man, and he spared to take of his own flock and of his own herd, to dress for the wayfaring man that was come unto him; but took the poor man's lamb, and dressed it for the man that was come to him.

Verse 1 – God sent Nathan, someone David trusted in to get him to repent. Nathan's approach is to use a story or parable. Think about why he used a story with David. Describes two men...one rich, the other poor. The parable will help him to condemn himself. Sends Nathan perhaps because he already had a relationship with the prophet.

- God let him go awhile. Must have been a while since the baby was already born. No true repentance all that time. Can you relate?
- Doubtful that he could have good fellowship and the joy of salvation during this time.
- Matthew Henry notes – He sends after us before we seek after Him.

Verse 2 – Rich man had abundant flocks. David was rich and certainly had many more wives than Uriah had.

Verse 3 – Poor man only had one little lamb that he cherished and took care of. This lamb meant much to him. David would have known about the importance of sheep since he used to be a shepherd and sheep were in his background.

Verse 4 – A traveler came for a visit and he wanted to entertain this person. Instead of taking one of his own flock, he took the poor man's only lamb and killed it to use for the meal for the traveler.

⁵And David's anger was greatly kindled against the man; and he said to Nathan, As the LORD liveth, the man that hath done this thing shall surely die: ⁶and he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity.

Verse 5 – The story made David very mad. Anger was hot against the rich man. Says to Nathan, as God is alive, the rich man will surely die for what he did in taking the poor man's only lamb.

Verse 6 - Declares that according to the Law, the rich man will restore the poor man four-fold because of what he did and because he had no pity. No concern for the poor man or his property.

The four-fold restitution David outlines will be paid by David as he will lose four sons.

⁷ And Nathan said to David, Thou art the man. Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I anointed thee king over Israel, and I delivered thee out of the hand of Saul; ⁸ And I gave thee thy master's house, and thy master's wives into thy bosom, and gave thee the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would moreover have given unto thee such and such things. ⁹ Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in his sight? Thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife to be thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon.

Verse 7 – Nathan now ready to confront him....tells him, he is the rich man and the one in this story who has done wrong, is under judgment, and has shown no pity to a poor man. His ministry of repentance works.

- God says he anointed king over Israel.
- Delivered him from Saul and trouble...remember that?
- He is reminding David that it was God who provided and that he had achieved none of this through his own might.

Verse 8 – continues to remind him how he was blessed and kept by God up to this point. He was given Saul's house, wives, and the house of Israel and Judah.

- If all that God had blessed him with was not enough for him.....He would have given him much more stuff. David just had to continue to trust God.

Verse 9 – Asks him a question....why have you broken and despised God's commands and do evil in His sight? Wonder what David's response to this question would be? What would be your response? God replays what he did:

- Killed Uriah with the sword.
- Taken his wife as his own.
- Killed his friend with the sword of their enemy. Used the enemy or allowed the enemy to kill him. But he was responsible.

David was responsible....you can't blame everything on the devil. This was an abuse of power by a leader...happens all the time today.

Don't forget what God has done for you. When you remember His goodness, it is harder for you to sin and despise God.

¹⁰ Now therefore the sword shall never depart from thine house; because thou hast despised me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife. ¹¹ Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house, and I will take thy wives before thine eyes, and give them unto thy neighbor, and he shall lie with thy wives in the sight of this sun. ¹² For thou didst it secretly: but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun.

Verse 10 – the result of his sin and error...there is a price to pay. Reap what you sow.....he used the sword against Uriah...now the sword will never leave his house. God gives the reason....because he despised God. When we sin like this...that's how God views it. Let's be very careful here that we understand the nature and seriousness of sin. Four of his sons will die.

- Adds that he took Uriah's wife to be his. Two fold problem David has...two reasons for this judgment....sin and despised God....sin against and despised his brother...Uriah. Two greatest commandments are broken in this act.

Verse 11 – Lord says he will raise up evil against him. God is going to allow some things to stand against him and the source will come out of his own house. Reap what you sow...he destroyed and caused trouble in Uriah's house...now trouble will come to his house.

- Since he took someone's wife, now his own wives will be taken away in front of his eyes within his lifetime. Under this sun....or in seen in the light of day.

Verse 12 – He did it in secret....concealed it...tried to hide it but God will expose and do this thing and judgment so that others will see. Interesting how when we sin in secret if caught, the judgment against us can be exposed where others can see what we are going through.

When you despise others in the Kingdom and despise the Word, you despise God. Here God makes David aware of his sin.

¹³ And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die. 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.

Verse 13 – David's reply to Nathan.....I have sinned against God. Once he confesses, good news....Nathan says that God has put away his sin. When the sin is put away and removed, you shall not die.

- When the Lord puts away our sins, we may still have to deal with the consequences but the curse of the Law that kills is taken away.
- Importance of confession.
- Matthew Henry – he will not die...meaning an eternal death

- David receives grace and mercy as he didn't get what he fully deserved for his sins.

Verse 14 – But because of this sin, it has given the enemy the opportunity to blaspheme. Our sins when exposed gives the enemy the opportunity to speak against the kingdom. Our sins hurt the witness and testimony of the Kingdom and God and gives the enemy the opportunity to speak up against it.

- The fruit from this sin and deed will be taken away and destroyed. Someone knows something about the things you gained from sin being taken away.
- God shows the world that he loves David, but hates his sin.
- Blaspheme means to despise, reject or show irreverence for God.

¹⁵ And Nathan departed unto his house. And the LORD struck the child that Uriah's wife bare unto David, and it was very sick. ¹⁶ David therefore besought God for the child; and David fasted, and went in, and lay all night upon the earth. ¹⁷ And the elders of his house arose, and went to him, to raise him up from the earth: but he would not, neither did he eat bread with them. ¹⁸ And it came to pass on the seventh day, that the child died. And the servants of David feared to tell him that the child was dead: for they said, Behold, while the child was yet alive, we spake unto him, and he would not hearken unto our voice: how will he then vex himself, if we tell him that the child is dead? ¹⁹ But when David saw that his servants whispered, David perceived that the child was dead: therefore David said unto his servants, Is the child dead? And they said, He is dead.

Verse 15 – Nathan leaves and trouble comes. God does what He said He would do. He keeps His word....the Lord struck the child and it became very sick.

Verse 16 – David sought God for the child's life. Must have prayed. He fasted and bowed all night. Seriously consulted and asked God to have mercy and spare the child.

Verse 17 – elders of his got up and approached him to encourage him and pick him up. That's what elders should do. But David refused to eat with them or to get up.

Verse 18 – Child dies on the 7th day. Servants were afraid to give him the bad news. Their rationale and assumption was because when the child was alive and there was still hope...he wouldn't listen to them and wouldn't allow himself to be encouraged so they thought if he put himself through all that when the child was alive....how much so now that the child is dead.

Verse 19 – When David saw them whispering he figured out that the child was dead...rather than just assume...he asks them the question. They confirmed it.

The baby had to die in this situation or today we would go real crazy in sin and expecting to get ahead and get blessed like that.

²⁰ Then David arose from the earth, and washed, and anointed himself, and changed his apparel, and came into the house of the LORD, and worshipped: then he came to his own

house; and when he required, they set bread before him, and he did eat. ²¹ Then said his servants unto him, What thing is this that thou hast done? thou didst fast and weep for the child, while it was alive; but when the child was dead, thou didst rise and eat bread. ²² And he said, While the child was yet alive, I fasted and wept: for I said, Who can tell whether GOD will be gracious to me, that the child may live? ²³ But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.

Verse 20 – When God says no. Notice how David responds to bad news.

- 8th day – rose from the earth...he finally got up. David made a positive move which was not what others expected. We need to be able to get up from disappointment.
- Washed and anointed himself.
- Changed his clothes.
- Went to church and worshipped.
- Went back to his own house after he worshipped.
- Had a meal.
- Getting up and preparing to meet God, and public worship were a part of his response to the bad news. How do we respond?

Verse 21 – Servants confused with the response. What is this that he is doing? Fasted and wept when alive but now in death he gets up and eats. They can't figure this out.

People around us might be comforted by the way we respond to tough times.

Verse 22 – Reason for fasting and weeping in the beginning....you never know if God might be gracious and show more mercy and favor so that the child could live. The reason for his actions was to see if God might change His mind.

Verse 23 – Why fast now...because it won't bring back what he has lost. It won't bring back the child. David states that he will go to the child but the child is not coming back to the earth in this state to him. There is a place where the righteous dead go that we will see them again.

²⁴ And David comforted Bathsheba his wife, and went in unto her, and lay with her: and she bare a son, and he called his name Solomon: and the LORD loved him. ²⁵ And he sent by the hand of Nathan the prophet; and he called his name Jedidiah, because of the LORD.

Verse 24 – After he received the bad news and worshipped and got himself together....he was ready to comfort his wife because she had went through some stuff too. In fact, it was his fault mostly that she had suffered loss. His actions caused her to go through some stuff that prompted her to need to be comforted. Watch me....have your actions caused someone else problems? David's response shows us what we need to do before we try to comfort others we have caused some trouble to.

- Not just about your recovery, after you get yourself together, you may need to reach out to someone else.



- He drew closer to her and they tried again. Before you try again...get yourself right with God.
- Solomon – peaceful
- God loved the fruit that came out of this thing. After all of this sin and mistakes....something was produced after he repented that God loved. God can still love what you do after the mistake and sin.
- Ordered Nathan to call him Jedidiah – beloved of the Lord

Make sure you are right with God before you attempt to comfort others. Follow the process (feast steps).

Marriage that began in adultery, finishes in victory.

How are you going to finish now that you know you have despised God? Just follow the steps. God is strong in mercy, power, forgiveness, cleansing, etc.

There is good stuff behind this in front of David. There will be more battles, but also more victories. I want what David received....restoration!

Dan Guzik – This is the first time she is called Bathsheba. Before David's repentance she was called Uriah's wife.

Solomon and what his name means gives us proof that God forgives and that blessings and the better can still come after your sin and mistakes. Do you understand now why the first child born out of sin had to die?

²⁶ And Joab fought against Rabbah of the children of Ammon, and took the royal city.

²⁷ And Joab sent messengers to David, and said, I have fought against Rabbah, and have taken the city of waters. ²⁸ Now therefore gather the rest of the people together, and encamp against the city, and take it: lest I take the city, and it be called after my name.

²⁹ And David gathered all the people together, and went to Rabbah, and fought against it, and took it. ³⁰ And he took their king's crown from off his head, the weight whereof was a talent of gold with the precious stones: and it was set on David's head. And he brought forth the spoil of the city in great abundance.

³¹ And he brought forth the people that were therein, and put them under saws, and under harrows of iron, and under axes of iron, and made them pass through the brick-kiln: and thus did he unto all the cities of the children of Ammon. So David and all the people returned unto Jerusalem.

Verse 26 – Fighting against Ammon continues...they finally take the city. They experience victory again after the recovery from the sin.

Verse 27 – Joab sends word that he has taken the city.

Verse 28 – calls David so that he can get the credit instead of him.



Verse 29 – David takes the city.

Verse 30 – Takes the crown.

Verse 31 – return in victory.

David is back on the battlefield where he should have been before. Just because he wasn't spiritual before, doesn't mean you can't be spiritual now.

2 Samuel Chapter 12:14-25 – notes from my spiritual mentor and former pastor, James Turner.

James Turner Observations – When God Says No

There are times when God doesn't do exactly what we requested or hoped for.

- David and Bathsheba were in an "expected state". We should always be in an expected state of hope after we have repented of previous mistakes and sins. Hope in looking for and believing in better days ahead.

7 Reasons why God might say no.

1. Prayer I not so much about getting the answer as it is about getting to Him. God might say no because He is more concerned with us getting to Him than getting it or that thing. Can get some things you desire and request and still not have joy. But when you get God, you will have it all. God may be more concerned about you getting Him, drawing closer in relationship with Him than in you getting the promotion.
2. Often the answer is ready but we are not ready to receive it. Example, Abram had a promise and the promise was ready but h wasn't. Took him 25 years to work some stuff out of him so he would be prepared to receive and handle correctly the promise.
3. Sometimes He says no because the request is too small. We may ask for something that might be much less than His best for us. Example, Brother Chuck shared how he didn't get a job he was praying for when he got laid off. Instead, when God said no to his prayer request, Brother Chuck got a much better job for more money with less travel and a promotion. God had to say no to the job he originally prayed for so He could bless him with something much better! So now Brother Chuck can and does praise God for saying no to the first prayer request and yes to something better.
4. The prayer we are praying will harm us and not help us. God knows better than we do.
5. He wants us to bear the ugly consequences of what we've done or bad choice that we just made. If God keeps getting you out of this and that, you'll never learn anything. God could have taken care of your request but sometimes He may want you to go through so you never do it again or make that mistake again.
6. Sometimes it's not the appointed time. Delays are not always denial. What happens might impact more than just you and your little world so God may not move within your timeframe so that all pieces come together in the right time for a better fit.
7. Sometimes "no" is simply the best answer. Our parents used to say no and that was it. Why not God who is the potter.

Verse 16 – David fasted and prayed while the child was sick. Application, if God doesn't do what you want Him to do, you still have to stay connected. David stayed connected to God even after the child died when God said no.



Verse 20 – After He says no, keep living. Don't go into the closet. Try it again but this time the right way. The next time He tells you no, remember He told somebody else no too and it worked out okay.

Just because God says no that time, doesn't necessarily mean He'll say no. Bathsheba and David hooked up again, because they believed again.