



You Are The Man!

2 Samuel 12:1-25

Chuck Swindoll wrote:

“How could a man—a man after God’s own heart—fall to such a level? If you are honest about your own heart, it’s not hard to understand.”



David Has Sinned Egregiously

- And the Lord must judge it.
- We will see that the Lord's judgment is harsh yet merciful.
- David has committed a sin whose only stated penalty in Scripture was death, yet the Lord sovereignly promised that the king would not die.
- About 9 months has passed...



And I Bet It Was A Hard 9 Months

- Psalm 32:3-4 –

“When I kept silent about my sin, my
body wasted away Through my
groaning all day long. For day and
night Your hand was heavy upon me;
My vitality was drained away as with
the fever heat of summer.”



2 Samuel 12:1-4

1 Then the Lord sent Nathan to David. And he came to him and said, “There were two men in one city, the one rich and the other poor. 2 “The rich man had a great many flocks and herds. 3 “But the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb Which he bought and nourished; And it grew up together with him and his children. It would eat of his bread and drink of his cup and lie in his bosom, And was like a daughter to him. 4 “Now a traveler came to the rich man, And he was unwilling to take from his own flock or his own herd, To prepare for the wayfarer who had come to him; Rather he took the poor man’s ewe lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him.”

“the Lord sent Nathan to David”

- Apparently this occurs on the day that Bathsheba gave birth to the child.
- **Don't miss the bravery of Nathan.**
- Nathan begins with a parable about a rich man and a poor man.



The Parable

- The rich man's wealth included “a great many flocks and herds,” suggesting that he, like David, was a shepherd.
- The poor man “had nothing except one little ewe lamb.”
- The rich man follows the rules of hospitality by preparing a meal for a visitor, but he uses a stolen lamb to do so.



2 Samuel 12:5-6

5 Then David's anger burned greatly against the man, and he said to Nathan, "As the Lord lives, surely the man who has done this deserves to die.
6 He must make restitution for the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing and had no compassion."



David Acts as Judge in Israel

- He interrupts the narrative and definitively pronounces judgment against the sinful party.
- In fact, David is enraged: “As the Lord lives, surely the man who has done this deserves to die.”
- He then goes back to the law (Exodus 22:1): “He must make restitution for the lamb fourfold.”

2 Samuel 12:7-10

7 Nathan then said to David, “You are the man! Thus says the Lord God of Israel, ‘It is I who anointed you king over Israel and it is I who delivered you from the hand of Saul. **8** I also gave you your master’s house and your master’s wives into your care, and I gave you the house of Israel and Judah; and if that had been too little, I would have added to you many more things like these! **9** Why have you despised the word of the Lord by doing evil in His sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword, have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the sons of Ammon. **10** 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.’

Of Course...

When David condemns the rich
man's sin, he also condemns
himself, and Nathan
emphatically declares:

“You are the man!”



Without Waiting for a Response

- Nathan begins to speak for the Lord:
 1. The Lord's blessings upon David (vv. 7-8)
 2. David's offenses against God and man (v. 9)
 3. Payment for David's sins (vv. 10-12)



1. The Lord's blessings upon David (vv. 7-8)

- By crediting the words to “the Lord God of Israel,” Nathan was establishing judgment in a covenantal context.
- David had not only sinned; he had violated the covenant relationship with the Lord.



God's Blessings to David

1. **Position** – “I...anointed you king over Israel”
2. **Protection** – “I...delivered you from the hand of Saul”
3. **Possessions** – “I...gave you your master's house”
4. **Prestige and Privilege** – “I...gave you...your master's wives”
5. **Control over** “the house of Israel and Judah”

New Details Emerge

- When David assumed the throne over all Israel, he took control of at least a portion of Saul's possessions and exclusive rights to Saul's harem.
- This was a common practice in the ancient near east that signified complete transition of power.



And Then!

The Lord says that David had not yet come close to understanding the heights of God's generosity on his behalf.

I believe there are times that we are guilty of the same.



We Often
Forget the
Gospel.



2. David's Offenses Against God

- David “despised the word of the Lord by doing evil in His sight”
- He violated 2 of the 10 commandments by killing “Uriah the Hittite with the sword” and taking “his wife to be your wife”
- And notice that the Lord lays the responsibility for Uriah's death on David even though the Ammonites delivered the fatal blow.

Uriah Was Dead Due to David's Sin

- But God decreed that death would enter David's life, as well –

“the sword shall never depart from your house”

- We will see this play out in the next several chapters.

All told, 4 of David's sons will experience premature death.



What was David's
pronouncement of
judgment back in
v.6?



God Restates the Cause

“you have despised Me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife”

The Lord personalized David's transgression—he had not merely despised the Lord's word; he had despised the Lord, Himself.



2 Samuel 12:11-12

11 Thus says the Lord, ‘Behold, I will raise up evil against you from your own household; I will even take your wives before your eyes and give them to your companion, and he will lie with your wives in broad daylight. **12** Indeed you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel, and under the sun.’”



3. Payment for David's Sins

- An Example of *lex talionis*.
- Deuteronomy 19:21 –
“Thus you shall not show pity:
life for life, eye for eye, tooth for
tooth, hand for hand, foot for
foot.”



Judgment Against David

1. “I will raise up evil against you from your own household”
 - Violence will beget more violence
2. “I will even take your wives before your eyes and give them to your companion, and he will lie with your wives...”
 - Sexual sin will beget more sexual sin

And Not Only That...

“Indeed you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel, and under the sun.”

Numbers 32:23 –

“But if you will not do so, behold, you have sinned against the Lord, and be sure your sin will find you out.”



2 Samuel 12:13-14

13 Then David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the Lord.” And Nathan said to David, “The Lord also has taken away your sin; you shall not die. **14** However, because by this deed you have given occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme, the child also that is born to you shall surely die.”



David's Response

In a remarkable display of humility and contrition, David confesses his guilt:

“I have sinned against the Lord.”

David had certainly sinned against Uriah, Bathsheba, and the soldiers who died at Rabbah; but those offenses were derivative and secondary in nature.



Psalm 51:4

“Against You, You only, I
have sinned And done what is
evil in Your sight, So that You
are justified when You speak
And blameless when You
judge.”



One Commentator said:

“This was the turning-point in the life of David, and the clearest indication that he was different from Saul in the most essential relationship of all, that of submission to the Lord God. For that reason he found forgiveness, whereas Saul never accepted his guilt or the rejection that followed from it.”



David's Confession Was:

Immediate
Without Denial
Without Excuse

The Lord's forgiveness was equally direct
and unrestrained.

Notice that the Lord forgives David without
requiring any animal sacrifice or offering.



Forgiveness with Mercy

“The Lord also has taken away your sin; you shall not die.”

- By law, David deserves death, but...

- Exodus 34:6-7 –

“...The Lord, the Lord God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin...”

David Reflects Israel

- Israel often played the harlot in the OT with foreign gods, thereby committing a sin for which the Law decreed death.
- Yet after judging them and causing them to sacrifice much of the blessing that had been theirs, Yahweh the merciful permitted them to live.

He is a Covenant-keeping God.



David is a Picture of Israel

Turn to Jeremiah
31:31-37



However...

- The Lord did not remove all consequences resulting from David's sin.
- **ESV:** “because by this deed you have utterly scorned the Lord” (the same phrase used to describe Hophni and Phineas in 1 Samuel 2:17, slain by God for their sin), David's son would die.



What is Our Gut Reaction?

Why does the child suffer because
of the parents' sin?

That's NOT Fair!

Notice that neither Nathan nor
David thinks like we do.



2 Samuel 12:15-17

15 So Nathan went to his house. Then the Lord struck the child that Uriah's widow bore to David, so that he was very sick. **16** David therefore inquired of God for the child; and David fasted and went and lay all night on the ground. **17** The elders of his household stood beside him in order to raise him up from the ground, but he was unwilling and would not eat food with them.



Notice a Few Things

1. “Nathan went to his house”
2. “Then the Lord struck the child”
3. “Uriah’s widow”
4. “David...inquired of God for the child”
5. “David fasted and went and lay all night on the ground”



2 Samuel 12:18-19

18 Then it happened on the seventh day that the child died. And the servants of David were afraid to tell him that the child was dead, for they said, “Behold, while the child was still alive, we spoke to him and he did not listen to our voice. How then can we tell him that the child is dead, since he might do himself harm!” **19** But when David saw that his servants were whispering together, David perceived that the child was dead; so David said to his servants, “Is the child dead?” And they said, “He is dead.”

“on the seventh day”

- The child dies, and this is doubly significant.
- What happened with every male child in Israel on the 8th day?
- David’s son was conceived as a result of David’s contempt for the Lord’s covenant, so it is painfully fitting that the child should be excluded from Israel’s covenant community.



What's in a Name?

- The 7th-day death may also explain why the child is never referred to by name.
- Perhaps the child never received a name, since under normal circumstances naming might not occur until after the child received the covenant sign.



Luke 1:57-62

57 Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. **58** And her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. **59** And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. And they would have called him Zechariah after his father, **60** but his mother answered, “No; he shall be called John.” **61** And they said to her, “None of your relatives is called by this name.” **62** And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he wanted him to be called. **63** And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, “His name is John.” And they all wondered.

Before We Move On

A Note on
Circumcising the
Child on the 8th
Day.



David's Servants are Fearful

- David had inflicted so much pain on himself during the child's sickness, they “were afraid to tell him that the child was dead” lest he “do himself some harm.”
- Ever the astute observer, David puts two and two together and concludes that the child must have died.



2 Samuel 12:20-23

20 So David arose from the ground, washed, anointed himself, and changed his clothes; and he came into the house of the Lord and worshiped. Then he came to his own house, and when he requested, they set food before him and he ate. **21** Then his servants said to him, “What is this thing that you have done? While the child was alive, you fasted and wept; but when the child died, you arose and ate food.” **22** He said, “While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept; for I said, ‘Who knows, the Lord may be gracious to me, that the child may live.’ **23** But now he has died; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I will go to him, but he will not return to me.”

David Surprises Everyone

- Instead of acting recklessly, David ended his humiliation before the Lord and prepared to worship.
- In a manner appropriate for a priest, David “washed, anointed himself” and “came into the house of the Lord and worshiped.”
- David’s “new life” would begin where his former life had found its success and strength: in the presence of the Lord.

David's Servants are Mystified

“What is this thing you have done?”

Whereas most people lay in the dust when a family member died, David had chosen to get up; others fasted after a death, but David ate.

David has a theological answer.



David Knew the Lord

- And he knew that Yahweh was a God of great compassion and mercy who sometimes relented from executing harsh—but just—judgments.
- Therefore, it was possible that the Lord would let the child live, and that was David's motivation for his behavior.



The Child Was Now Dead

- This doesn't mean God was unjust or unloving.
- It meant that the divine word spoken through Nathan was trustworthy and that the God who spoke it was absolutely sovereign.
- Neither David's sin nor the child's death changes God's nature.



Don't Miss David's Words

“I will go to him,
but he will not
return to me.”



2 Samuel 12:24-25

24 Then David comforted his wife Bathsheba, and went in to her and lay with her; and she gave birth to a son, and he named him Solomon. Now the Lord loved him **25** and sent word through Nathan the prophet, and he named him Jedidiah for the Lord's sake.



Amazing Grace in Grief

- Having been comforted by God, David is able to comfort “his wife Bathsheba.”
- In v. 15, she was “Uriah’s widow”; she is now David’s “wife.”
- And through the Lord’s mercy, Bathsheba “gave birth to a son.”



“he named him Solomon”

- The name means, “His peace.”
- Following the agony of a child’s death, the Lord provided peace.
- The Lord “struck” the first child; He “loved” the second.
- Jedidiah: “Beloved of Yahweh”



“Jacob have I loved”

What does this mean?

Then, what hint did our author
just give us on what Solomon
will do in the future?



Let's Close With:

Psalm 51



Next Week: Consequences...



