

God's grace through confession and repentance

2 Samuel 12

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Core value: Jesus-centered

<https://babylonbee.com/news/new-evidence-suggests-king-david-actually-saw-bathsheba-wearing-leggings-as-pants>

2 Samuel 12:7, 13 Nathan then said to David, "You are the man!...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.

1 Corinthians 10:12 (NIV) So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!

Proverbs 6:23-29, 32 For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching is light; And reproofs for discipline are the way of life ²⁴ To keep you from the evil woman, From the smooth tongue of the adulteress. ²⁵ Do not desire her beauty in your heart, Nor let her capture you with her eyelids. ²⁶ **For on account of a harlot one is reduced to a loaf of bread**, And an adulteress hunts for the precious life. ²⁷ Can a man take fire in his bosom And his clothes not be burned? ²⁸ Or can a man walk on hot coals And his feet not be scorched? ²⁹ So is the one who goes in to his neighbor's wife; Whoever touches her will not go unpunished ³² The one who commits adultery with a woman is lacking sense; He who would destroy himself does it.

Set up for the fall: Letting our guard down in idleness and seeing too much. (verse 1-2)

In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king's men and the whole Israelite army. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But **David remained in Jerusalem**. ² One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof **he saw** a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful.

- We are not where we are supposed to be.
- We are out of sight from accountability.
- We are by our self.
- Our first glance is innocent. Staring or gazing creates the hazard.
- When we see too much of what isn't ours, we are violating someone.

The fall: Moving from seeing to thinking. (what is not said between verse 2 and 3)

^{NIV} **Matthew 5:28** But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

The fall: Moving from thinking to curious yet intentional engagement. (verse 3)

³ and **David sent someone to find out about her**. The man said, "Isn't this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite?"

The fall: Moving from curious yet intentional engagement to fulfilment and gratification. (verse 4)

⁴ Then David sent messengers to get her. **She came to him**, and **he slept with her**. (She had purified herself from her uncleanness.) Then she went back home.

Coverup try #1-2 were failures, Cover up try #3 was a horrific success. (verses 6-26)

The moral of the story: Leaving God out our thoughts, engagements and actions will lead to serious problems. Don't forget it! (verses 27b)

But the thing David had done displeased the LORD.
But the thing that David had done was evil in the sight of the LORD. (NASB)

2 Samuel 12:1, *Then the Lord sent Nathan to David...* "Then" could have been months later.

Everyone else may have forgotten David's sin, but God did not!

^{NLT} **Psalm 32:3-5** When I refused to confess my sin, my body wasted away, and I groaned all day long. ⁴ Day and night your hand of discipline was heavy on me. My strength evaporated like water in the summer heat. ⁵ Finally, I confessed all my sins to you and stopped trying to hide my guilt. I said to myself, "I will confess my rebellion to the LORD." And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone.

Nathan shared a parable to uncover David's guilt. (verses 1b-4)

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."

David stepped on his own landmine of condemnation of guilt! (verses 5-7a)

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." ⁷ Nathan then said to David, "**You are the man!**"

Nathan reveals God's goodness to David that he denied by sinning against God. (verses 7b-8)

Thus says the LORD God of Israel,

1. 'It is I who anointed you king over Israel and
2. it is I who delivered you from the hand of Saul.
3. ⁸ 'I also gave you your master's house
4. and your master's wives into your care,
5. and I gave you the house of Israel and Judah;
6. and if *that had been* too little, I would have added to you many more things like these!

Nathan uncovers David's sin against God. (verses 9-12, 14)

'Why have you:

1. **despised the word of the LORD** by doing evil in His sight?
2. You have **struck down Uriah** the Hittite with the sword,
3. [you] have **taken his wife to be your wife**,
4. [you] and have **killed him with the sword of the sons of Ammon**.

¹⁰ 'Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because

5. you have **despised Me** and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife. 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.
6. ¹² 'Indeed **you did it secretly**, but I will do this thing before all Israel, and under the sun."
7. 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 had the right response to find God's grace and mercy. (verse 13)

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.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

James 5:16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

^{NIV} **Ephesians 1:7** In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace

David wrote a song of confession and repentance to show God's grace. (Psalm 51)

^{NAU} **Psalm 51** For the choir director. A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet came to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba. Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; According to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions. 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, I have sinned And done what is evil in Your sight, So that You are justified when You speak And blameless when You judge. ⁵ Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me. ⁶ Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being, And in the hidden part You will make me know wisdom. ⁷ Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. ⁸ Make me to hear joy and gladness, Let the bones which You have broken rejoice. ⁹ Hide Your face from my sins And blot out all my iniquities. ¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. ¹¹ Do not cast me away from Your presence And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. ¹² Restore to me the joy of Your salvation And sustain me with a willing spirit. ¹³ *Then* I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners will be converted to You. ¹⁴ Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, the God of my salvation; *Then* my tongue will joyfully sing of Your righteousness. ¹⁵ O Lord, open my lips, That my mouth may declare Your praise. ¹⁶ For You do not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it; You are not pleased with burnt offering. ¹⁷ The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise. ¹⁸ By Your favor do good to Zion; Build the walls of Jerusalem. ¹⁹ Then You will delight in righteous sacrifices, In burnt offering and whole burnt offering; Then young bulls will be offered on Your altar.

1. How did Nathan help David come to grips with his past actions?
2. What did Nathan tell him would be the consequence of his sin? (verses 10-14)
3. In Psalm 51:3-4; what does David acknowledge about his sin?
4. From Hebrews 12:6; 12:10-11; why does the Lord discipline those he loves?
5. How do we know David was restored to fellowship with the Lord? (vs.12, 17)
6. What does David link with his salvation? (vs. 12)
7. From Psalm 51; what delights God?