



A BETTER KING

A SERIES IN 2 SAMUEL



2 Samuel 12 – Sin’s Consequences And God’s Grace

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...But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord. 2 Samuel 11:27 (ESV)

For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah Psalm 32:3–4 (ESV)

And the LORD sent Nathan to David. He came to him... 2 Samuel 12:1a (ESV)

1. Nathan indirectly confronted David about his sin.

...There were two men in a certain city, the one rich and the other poor. The rich man had very many flocks and herds, but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb, which he had bought..... 2 Samuel 12:1b–3a (ESV)

...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. 2 Samuel 12:3 (ESV)

Now 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.” 2 Samuel 12:4 (ESV)

Then 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, and he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity.” 2 Samuel 12:5–6 (ESV)

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. Exodus 22:1 (ESV)

2. Nathan flipped the tables to expose David’s sin.

Nathan said to David, “You are the man!”.... 2 Samuel 12:7a (ESV)

...Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, ‘I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you out of the hand of Saul. And I gave you your master’s house and your master’s wives into your arms and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah. And if this were too little, I would add to you as much more.’ 2 Samuel 12:7–8 (ESV)

Why have you despised the word of the LORD, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and have taken his wife to be your wife and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. 2 Samuel 12:9 (ESV)

Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house,... 2 Samuel 12:10a (ESV)

...because you have despised me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife. 2 Samuel 12:10b (ESV)

Thus says the LORD, 'Behold, I will raise up evil against you out of your own house. And I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun. For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel and before the sun.' 2 Samuel 12:11–12 (ESV)

It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. Hebrews 10:31 (ESV)

Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. Galatians 6:7 (ESV)

3. **God's word shattered David.**

David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD."... 2 Samuel 12:13a (ESV)

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. 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. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. Psalm 51:1–12 (ESV)

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. Psalm 51:17 (ESV)

...And Nathan said to David, "The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die." 2 Samuel 12:13 (ESV)

4. **David's son died because of his sin.**

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

My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline or be weary of his reproof, for the Lord reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights. Proverbs 3:11–12 (ESV)

Then Nathan went to his house. And the LORD afflicted the child that Uriah's wife bore to David, and he became sick. 2 Samuel 12:15 (ESV)

David therefore sought God on behalf of the child. And David fasted and went in and lay all night on the ground. And 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. 2 Samuel 12:16–17 (ESV)

On the seventh day 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 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.” 2 Samuel 12:18 (ESV)

But 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.” 2 Samuel 12:19 (ESV)

Then 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. He then went to his own house. And when he asked, they set food before him, and he ate. 2 Samuel 12:20 (ESV)

Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshiped. And he said, “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.” Job 1:20–21 (ESV)

Then 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.” 2 Samuel 12:21 (ESV)

He 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?’ But 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.” 2 Samuel 12:22–23 (ESV)

What do these verses teach us about grieving?

1. Grief shouldn’t keep us from God, it should drive us to God.
2. God uses His Word, worship, and prayer to carry us through times of loss.

What do these verses teach us about the loss of a child?

1. David’s words give us hope for the salvation of children who die.
2. Death doesn’t sever the relationship with our children.
3. Grieving parents should know their children in heaven are better cared for by God than Mom and Dad could have cared for them on earth.

5. God blessed David’s relationship with Bathsheba.

Then David comforted his wife, Bathsheba,... 2 Samuel 12:24a (ESV)

...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. 2 Samuel 12:24b (ESV)

...And the LORD loved him and sent a message by Nathan the prophet. So he called his name Jedidiah, because of the LORD. 2 Samuel 12:24–25 (ESV)

6. God blessed David as king.

Now Joab fought against Rabbah of the Ammonites and took the royal city. And Joab sent messengers to David and said, “I have fought against Rabbah; moreover, I have taken the city of waters. Now then gather the rest of the people together and encamp

against the city and take it, lest I take the city and it be called by my name.”
2 Samuel 12:26–28 (ESV)

So David gathered all the people together and went to Rabbah and fought against it and took it. And he took the crown of their king from his head. The weight of it was a talent of gold, and in it was a precious stone, and it was placed on David's head. And he brought out the spoil of the city, a very great amount. And he brought out the people who were in it and set them to labor with saws and iron picks and iron axes and made them toil at the brick kilns. And thus he did to all the cities of the Ammonites. Then David and all the people returned to Jerusalem. 2 Samuel 12:29–31 (ESV)

Applications

- 1. Hiding sin leads to greater sin and the destruction of our hearts. The only hope for sin is confessing and repenting, then casting ourselves on the mercy of God through Jesus. A broken and contrite heart God will not despise.**
- 2. True believers may pursue sin, but God will not allow them to remain in sin. God will discipline his children to break their love for sin and bring them home.**
- 3. The pleasure of sin is never worth the long-term pain.**
- 4. God's discipline of his children is hard, but it is always intended for our good.**
- 5. The Lord uses other Christians to confront us when we wander into sin.**
- 6. There are two things we need to take more seriously:**
 - A. The consequences of sin are much bigger than we realize.**
 - B. The grace of God toward repentant sinners is better than we can imagine.**

Life Group Questions

- 1. Read 2 Samuel 12.** What stuck out to you in this chapter? What did you learn about this story that you didn't know?
- 2.** Why did Nathan use a story to confront David instead of a direct accusation? What does this teach us about how to approach others and the true nature of confession?
- 3.** Why did God not condemn David to die even though the law demanded it? What does this reveal about God's nature and the importance of repentance?
- 4. Read 2 Samuel 12:14.** Why did David's infant son, who wasn't guilty, die? Was God just in that death?
- 5. Read 2 Samuel 12:23.** Does this teach that all infants who die go to heaven?
- 6.** The Lord sent Nathan to confront the king. How do you know if the Lord wants you to confront a wayward brother or sister? How well do you receive corrections?
- 7. Read 2 Samuel 12:24-25.** What do these verses teach us about God's ability to bless a marriage with sinful beginnings, such as through immorality or an unbiblical divorce?
- 8. EXTRA CREDIT — Read Psalm 51.** What does it teach us about repenting and where forgiveness is found?