

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Kings and Prophets

NATHAN'S MESSAGE

2 Samuel 12:1-25

Elementary Lesson

Year One, Quarter Four, Lesson Seven

[0460]

AIM: to use David's response to Nathan's message to teach my class that when the Word of God convicts your heart, get your heart right with God

OBJECTS TO HAVE: A picture of David
A picture of Bathsheba
A picture of Nathan
A picture of a lamb
A picture of a mansion
A picture of a shack
Your Bible

POINT OF CONTACT: How many of you have a pet? Does anybody have a dog? How about a cat? Does anyone have a fish or a bird? Does anyone have another pet, besides these?

You love your pet, don't you? If something happened to your pet, you would be very upset, wouldn't you?

Today I am going to tell you a story about a man and his family who had a pet lamb. How many of you have ever seen a lamb before? This man had a little lamb for his pet. But something terrible happened to this man's pet lamb. When it did, you can imagine that this man and his family were very upset. Let me tell you about it.

STORY: King David was a man after God's own heart. That means that David loved God very much, and that God was very pleased with the way that David lived his life. But David did an awful thing one day that caused God to be very displeased with him. I told you last week about the awful thing that David did. I told you how David stayed behind one day as his men went to battle. I told you how that led David to stealing the wife of another man. I told you how, to cover up his sin, David had that man, named Uriah, sent to the front line of the battle where he would be sure to be killed. So David had committed three awful sins: adultery, murder, and lying.

Now, many months had passed, and David's new wife, Bathsheba, was expecting a baby. David thought that his sins had gone unnoticed, and that no one would ever know about it.

Then one day, David received a knock on the door. David opened his door, and there stood the preacher, a greatly-respected prophet named *Nathan*. Nathan was David's longtime friend. David was very glad to see Nathan. But what David did not know was that God had told Nathan all about David's sins of adultery, murder, and lying. David noticed that Nathan seemed very angry about something, but David did not know why. David said, "Please come in, Nathan, and tell me what I can do for you."

Nathan said, "Something awful has happened in your kingdom, and I want to know what you think we should do about it."

David said, "Tell me about it."

David sat and listened as Nathan began. "There is a certain rich man in your kingdom. That rich man owns every kind of animal you can imagine. He owns very much land and has a lot of money. He is the richest man in the land. He runs many businesses, and has everything he could ever want.

"Across the street from this rich man lives a poor man. That poor man lives in a little shack with his family. They don't own a lot of animals like the rich man does. In fact, that poor man and his family had only one animal—a little lamb. That lamb was not being raised for food. That little lamb was their family pet. That little pet lamb was their prized possession. It was one of the few things that they owned in the whole world.

"One day, the rich man had some old friends come to visit him. The rich man decided that he wanted to throw a special party for his old friends, with a great big dinner. The rich man said to his servants, 'Go out and get a lamb for dinner tonight.' The servant started to leave, and the rich man said, 'Wait! I know that we have thousands of

lambs—but don't waste our lambs. Go over to that poor man who lives across the street, and take his lamb and cook it for dinner tonight.'

"So that servant went across the street to the poor man's house. The servant went into the poor man's house, and took his pet lamb away from him. The servant took his pet lamb, killed him, and cooked him for dinner. Though the rich man had great herds of his own sheep, he took the poor man's one lamb, the lamb that was this poor man's precious, special pet."

Nathan said, "King David, what should we do to this rich man?"

King David jumped up from his seat furiously and slammed his fist on the table. "That rich man must give his neighbor four lambs of his own. And then that rich man must die for his crime."

Nathan looked David in the eye and said, "King—You are the man. You are the richest man in the kingdom. You have everything that you want. Everything in the kingdom is yours. Yet, when you saw another man's beautiful wife, you stole his wife and sent him out to die. And then you thought that nobody would ever find out about it."

These were very strong words that Nathan spoke to the king. Nobody ever spoke to the king like that. But this was the prophet, delivering a message to the king directly from God. What will David do? How will he respond to Nathan's message?

David sat back down, and he began to cry. "You're right, Nathan, you're right. I have done exactly as you have said. I have sinned against the LORD."

Nathan said, "God has forgiven your sin. But you must realize that great trouble will come upon you, your family, and your kingdom, because sin always brings death."

Kids, that was one of the most important moments in David's life. The preacher had told David exactly what his sin was, and David had a choice to make: he could tell Nathan to leave, and because he was king, he could even have Nathan punished for talking to him like that; or, he could get his heart right with God, and say, "You're right, I have sinned." Because David chose to say, "I have sinned," God forgave him.

Every one of us gets in trouble many times in our lives. We do things wrong, and someone finds out. The thing to do is to say, "You're right, I have sinned." That's how you start to get back on the right track again.

Sometimes it is our mom and dad who show us that we have sinned. Sometimes it is the preaching that shows us we have sinned. Sometimes it is the Bible that shows us that we have sinned. But the right thing to do is to always admit that we have done wrong, and turn our hearts back to God.

There are some wrong ways to answer when we are told we have done wrong. One wrong way to answer is to **deny** that we did wrong. Another wrong way to answer is to **make up a lie** about what happened. Another wrong way to answer is to **blame it on somebody else**. These are all wrong ways to answer, and not only do they get us into more trouble, they make it so we are not forgiven by God. You see, God cannot forgive our sins until we admit that we have sinned. When we realize we have sinned, the right thing to do is to say, "Yes, I have sinned," and then start doing right.

Suppose you are at the neighbors house, and the kid next door does something that makes you mad. You lose your temper, and you hit him in the nose and give him a bloody nose. Then you turn around and go home. By the time you get home, your mom is waiting for you. She says, "The lady next door called and says her son has a bloody nose. He says you hit him. Did you do it?" You have a decision to make. Should you tell the truth and get in big trouble, or should you lie, and get in even bigger trouble? If you want God to forgive you, you should tell the truth, and say, "Yes, mom, I did it." Then do whatever your mom tells you to do about it.

When the preaching convinces you that you have done wrong, walk down the aisle and say, "Lord, please forgive me, I have sinned." When the Bible convinces you that you have done wrong, get on your knees and say, "Lord, I am sorry. I have sinned."

Sin always brings sorrow, and David faced much sorrow because of his sin. But he received God's help in his sorrow, because as soon as he was faced with his sin, he got his heart right with God. When God tells you that you have done wrong, admit what you have done, and get right with God.

Let's learn our memory verse – **Proverbs 28:1** – *The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion.*

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NATHAN'S MESSAGE

2 Samuel 12:1-25

Teen and Adult Lesson

Year One, Quarter Four, Lesson Seven

[0460]

Teacher, choose one of the following truths to expand upon in teaching this portion of Scripture to your teen/adult class. Teach and apply the truth that you choose using statements and illustrations that are most helpful and applicable to your students.

- I. **NO MATTER HOW HARD YOU WORK TO MANIPULATE EVENTS, GOD IS STILL IN CONTROL OF IT ALL.** 11:27-12:1. David had worked very hard to cover his sin, and it seemed like he had succeeded; but God was not pleased, and all of the covering-up in the world was not going to stop God from dealing with the great injustices of David's sins. Do not ever make the mistake of thinking that you're going to wrestle justice out of God's hands.
- II. **IT IS THE MERCY OF GOD THAT GIVES US THE OPPORTUNITY TO DEAL WITH OUR SIN.** 12:1-4. God could have dealt with David's sin without sending David any warning; He held the authority and the ability to do so. But it was God's mercy that sent Nathan to David, and gave David the opportunity to acknowledge his sin and repent of it. When God uses the preaching of His Word to convict you of sin, that is God's mercy at work, not His wrath.
- III. **GOD KNOWS WHAT YOU NEED TO HEAR TO CONVICT YOU.** 12:5-12. Nathan's message succeeded at bringing David to the place where his heart was tender, and it led to David being convicted that he needed to acknowledge his sin and repent. God knows how to bring you to the place where you can get right. We ought to plead with Him to never stop working on us.
- IV. **THE RIGHT RESPONSE TO CONVICTION IS IMMEDIATE CONFESSION AND REPENTANCE.** 12:13. This was one of the most crucial moments in David's life, in the history of the nation, and in the future of David's family. If he had refused to repent, it would have affected many people for years to come, and it would have complicated the results of David's sins even further. David made the right choice, and as a result, the healing could begin. How you react when you are faced with your sin will have an effect on many people in your life and in the generations that follow you.
- V. **REPENTANCE DOES NOT REMOVE ALL OF THE PAIN OF OUR SINS.** 12:13-18. David got right, and God had mercy; but there were still many, many effects of David's sin that would not be undone. We should get right because it is right to get right; but if you are getting right because you think that will make the consequences go away, that may not be the case. Our actions have consequences, and we must expect to face them, even after we get right. God will forgive us when we get right, and He will help us face the consequences of our actions; He may also have mercy and eliminate some of those consequences, but that rests completely with His Sovereignty.

Nathan's Message

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The Right Response to Conviction

- I. 2 SAMUEL 12:1-6 Nathan's Parable
 - 12:1^a God's call.
 - 12:1^b-4 Nathan's story.
 - 12:5-6 David's verdict.
- II. 2 SAMUEL 12:7-12 God's Judgment
 - 12:7^a Statement of David's guilt.
 - 12:7^b-8 Statement of God's blessings.
 - 12:9 Statement of David's offenses.
 - 12:10-12 Statement of God's punishment
- III. 2 SAMUEL 12:13-14 David's Repentance
 - 12:13^a David's statement of guilt.
 - 12:13^b-14 God's response to David's repentance.
 - 1. The case of his confession is closed: he will not die.
 - 2. The case of his influence is closed: his son will die.
- IV. 2 SAMUEL 11:15-25 The Child's Death
 - 12:15-19 David pleads for the child's life.
 - 12:20-23 David is at peace with the child's death.
 - 12:24-25 David and Bathsheba begin again.

Proverbs 28:1

The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion.

Nathan's Message

2 Samuel 12:1-25

[0460]

Match the answer from the right column that best fits the clue in the left column. Write the LETTER of the correct answer in the SPACE beside the matching clue.

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| _____ <i>The king of Israel</i> | A "THOU ART THE MAN!" |
| _____ <i>The wife of Uriah</i> | B A RICH MAN AND A POOR MAN |
| _____ <i>The great sins that David had committed</i> | C BATHSHEBA |
| _____ <i>What the LORD thought about what David had done</i> | D NATHAN |
| _____ <i>The prophet who came to see David</i> | E HE SHOULD DIE |
| _____ <i>The two men in the story that Nathan told to King David</i> | F DAVID |
| _____ <i>What the rich man took from the poor man</i> | G "I HAVE SINNED AGAINST THE LORD" |
| _____ <i>What King David said should happen to the rich man for his crime</i> | H HE WAS DISPLEASED |
| _____ <i>What Nathan said to David</i> | I ADULTERY AND MURDER |
| _____ <i>David's answer to Nathan's message</i> | J HIS ONE PET LAMB |

*The wicked flee when no man pursueth:
but the righteous are bold as a lion.*

Proverbs 28:1

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The answers to this week's puzzle

F *The king of Israel*

C *The wife of Uriah*

I *The great sins that David had committed*

H *What the LORD thought about what David had done*

D *The prophet who came to see David*

B *The two men in the story that Nathan told to King David*

J *What the rich man took from the poor man*

E *What King David said should happen to the rich man for his crime*

A *What Nathan said to David*

G *David's answer to Nathan's message*

A "THOU ART THE MAN!"

B A RICH MAN AND A POOR MAN

C BATHSHEBA

D NATHAN

E HE SHOULD DIE

F DAVID

G "I HAVE SINNED AGAINST THE LORD"

H HE WAS DISPLEASED

I ADULTERY AND MURDER

J HIS ONE PET LAMB