

Nathan Condemns David
Bible Background: 2 Samuel 12
Devotional Reading: John 7:40-47

Aim for Change (Page 247):

1. EXPLORE how sins' consequences extend beyond the individual and bring hurt to God and others
 2. ADDRESS sin and the injustices that occur as a result
 3. ADMIT our sins, ask God's forgiveness, and make godly choices
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Application for Activation (Page 252):

- True repentance requires humility, admission, and acceptance of our need for God's redeeming power (Proverbs 15:33, 18:12, **29:23**, James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5-6)
 - *We try to teach the younger generation that sometimes even though people are allowed grace, they still have to face the consequences. Where have you seen this in your life? (In Focus – Page 247)*
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The People, Places, and Times (Page 250):

- David – one of the Bible's great heroes due to his wide range of human experience as he started out as a shepherd who became king because he was a man after God's heart (1 Samuel 13:14; *Acts 13:22*)
 - Nathan was a prophet/trusted advisor who maintained his faithfulness to God first
 - Nathan was humble as he did not hover over his seat of power
 - Nathan knew it was more important to trust and obey God than to worry about calling David out on his sin (*Job 13:15-16*)
 - David was not exempt from temptation or the consequences that followed his actions; David broke all the commandments; can't hide from God's omniscient view (Deuteronomy 31:17; James 2:10)
 - Coveting & committing adultery – **Monday's reading – 2 Samuel 11:1-13**
 - Bearing false witness & committing murder – **Tuesday's reading – 2 Samuel 11:14-27**
 - *"A faithful friend/advisor won't give you ear candy, they will call you out on your sin. What friend or mentor do you have in your life who will hold you accountable? – Proverbs 15:10, 32*
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In Depth (Page 251-252) – provides more details/explanation of the Focal Verses on Page 249:

1. God Reveals (2 Samuel 12:1-7)

1. Preaching and teaching by illustration (parables) can actually lead to greater revelation in some cases so Nathan calls David out on his sin as God directed (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
 2. Jesus also taught in parables – Matthew 13 – Parable of the Sower (1-23), Hidden Treasures (44-45); Luke 15 – Parable of the Lost Sheep (1-7), Lost Coin (8-9), Lost Son (11-32)
 3. Sin causes us to be arrogant and to become blind to the reality that we have caused damage by our actions
 4. David thought he had succeeded because no one had challenged him (due to his position), but everyone knew about it causing others to sin – gossip, false witness, etc. (Ezekiel 22:9; Jeremiah 6:28)
- *If God were to reveal your sins to the public, what could you stand to lose? Friendships? Respect? Livelihood?*

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2. God Reforms (2 Samuel 12: 7-9)

- a. Truly there can't be a remission of sin without repentance, and there can be no repentance without the acknowledgment of guilt (Leviticus 5:5; Numbers 5:7; **Ezra 10:1**)
- b. After Nathan said, "Thou art the man," David was reminded that God had given him everything that he had; Saul's kingdom, wives, house, etc. and said if that wasn't enough, I would've given you more
- c. God is not interested in Mickey Mouse worship or lukewarmness (Revelation 3:16)
 1. Don't fall into sin by forgetting everything that you have is given by God (Psalm 24:1)
 2. Don't disrespect the Lord's commandments compromising it (**Deuteronomy 17:11**)
- d. God can only reform us when we yield to Him, acknowledge His righteousness, and admit our wrong
- e. David accepted responsibility for his own actions, admitted and confessed his sin as the penalty for David's crimes were death, but because of his repentance, God showed mercy and spared him, but there were consequences
 1. Murder was constant in his household (2 Samuel 13:13:26-30; 1 Kings 2:23-25)
 2. Constant rebellion against him by his family (2 Samuel 15:13)
 3. Wives given to another in public (2 Samuel 16:20-23)
 4. David's first child by Bathsheba died (2 Samuel 12:18)
- f. Take responsibility for your own actions (Psalm 62:12; **2 Corinthian 5:10**)

3. God Redeems (2 Samuel 12:13-15)

- a. The beauty of God's grace is that it covers over a multitude of sins (2 Corinthians 12:9)
 - b. Even though David had shown repentance by confession, "I have sinned against the Lord;" God wasn't going to let him off the hook easily
 - c. God used Bathsheba's child as an example for our faith
 1. Child committed no sin but conceived in sin meant they would have a scorned, shameful, and mistreated life
 2. A reminder that God sacrificed His only Begotten son for our sins so they may be forgiven (John 3:16; 1 John 4:9)
 - d. The Lord spared David's life because of His covenant promise to establish David's kingdom through his offspring (Jesus)
 1. Regardless of David's status/position, God doesn't discriminate. Sin is sin and consequences will follow
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Liberating Lesson (Page 252):

- It took a while for David to be fully restored in the eyes of God because he had to endure the consequences of his sin
- **How do you keep yourself out of temptation? (Acts 10:2; 1 Corinthians 10:13; 2 Peter 2:9)**
- **If you don't want to repent, God says you're on your own (Romans 1:24 - 28)**