

2 Samuel 12

Nathan Rebukes David

12 The LORD sent Nathan to David. When he came to him, he said, “There were two men in a certain town, one rich and the other poor. ²The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cattle, ³but the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb he had bought. He raised it, and it grew up with him and his children. It shared his food, drank from his cup and even slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him.

⁴“Now a traveller came to the rich man, but the rich man refrained from taking one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare a meal for the traveller who had come to him. Instead, he took the ewe lamb that belonged to the poor man and prepared it for the one who had come to him.”

⁵David burned with anger against the man and said to Nathan, “As surely as the LORD lives, the man who did this must die! ⁶He must pay for that lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and had no pity.”

⁷Then Nathan said to David, “You are the man! This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. ⁸I gave your master’s house to you, and your master’s wives into your arms. I gave you all Israel and Judah. And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more. ⁹Why did you despise the word of the LORD by doing what is evil in his eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. ¹⁰Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.’

¹¹“This is what the LORD says: ‘Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity on you. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will sleep with your wives in broad daylight. ¹²You did it in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel.’”

¹³Then David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the LORD.”

Nathan replied, “The LORD has taken away your sin. You are not going to die. ¹⁴ But because by doing this you have shown utter contempt for the LORD, the son born to you will die.”

¹⁵ After Nathan had gone home, the LORD struck the child that Uriah’s wife had borne to David, and he became ill. ¹⁶ David pleaded with God for the child. He fasted and spent the nights lying in sackcloth on the ground. ¹⁷ The elders of his household stood beside him to get him up from the ground, but he refused, and he would not eat any food with them.

¹⁸ On the seventh day the child died. David’s attendants were afraid to tell him that the child was dead, for they thought, “While the child was still living, he wouldn’t listen to us when we spoke to him. How can we now tell him the child is dead? He may do something desperate.”

¹⁹ David noticed that his attendants were whispering among themselves, and he realized the child was dead. “Is the child dead?” he asked.

“Yes,” they replied, “he is dead.”

²⁰ Then David got up from the ground. After he had washed, put on lotions and changed his clothes, he went into the house of the LORD and worshiped. Then he went to his own house, and at his request they served him food, and he ate.

²¹ His attendants asked him, “Why are you acting this way? While the child was alive, you fasted and wept, but now that the child is dead, you get up and eat!”

²² He answered, “While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept. I thought, ‘Who knows? The LORD may be gracious to me and let the child live.’ ²³ But now that he is dead, why should I go on fasting? Can I bring him back again? I will go to him, but he will not return to me.”

²⁴ Then David comforted his wife Bathsheba, and he went to her and made love to her. She gave birth to a son, and they named him Solomon. The LORD loved him; ²⁵ and because the LORD loved him, he sent word through Nathan the prophet to name him Jedidiah.

²⁶ Meanwhile Joab fought against Rabbah of the Ammonites and captured the royal citadel. ²⁷ Joab then sent messengers to David, saying, “I have fought against Rabbah and

taken its water supply. ²⁸ Now muster the rest of the troops and besiege the city and capture it. Otherwise I will take the city, and it will be named after me.”

²⁹ So David mustered the entire army and went to Rabbah, and attacked and captured it. ³⁰ David took the crown from their king’s head, and it was placed on his own head. It weighed a talent of gold, and it was set with precious stones. David took a great quantity of plunder from the city ³¹ and brought out the people who were there, consigning them to labor with saws and with iron picks and axes, and he made them work at brickmaking. David did this to all the Ammonite towns. Then he and his entire army returned to Jerusalem.

Galatians 6:1-10

Doing Good to All

6 Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. ² Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ. ³ If anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves. ⁴ Each one should test their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else, ⁵ for each one should carry their own load. ⁶ Nevertheless, the one who receives instruction in the word should share all good things with their instructor. ⁷ Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. ⁸ Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. ⁹ Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. ¹⁰ Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

The Lord has taken away your sin. You are not going to die

(2 Sam 12:1-31 and Galatians 6:1-10)

20-Sep-20

It would be good to have your Bibles open at 2 Samuel chapter 12.

Let me pray before we begin...

Let's pray...

Intro

[Show stethoscope]

- If you go to the **doctors** for a **check-up**
- They might use a **stethoscope** - to **listen** to your **heart**

[PowerPoint 1]



- If the **doctor** hears an **unusual sound** - it tells the doctor there might be **something wrong** with your heartbeat or even your heart
- When was the last time you had your heart checked?

(pause)

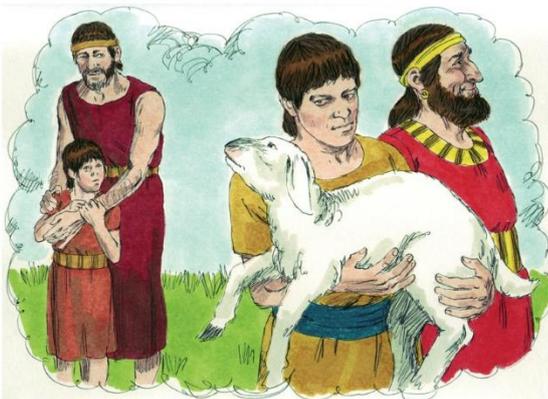
- In **1 Sam 13:14** - King David is described as *a man after God's own heart*
- But the **Bible uses heart** in a different way here - not our **physical heart** inside our **bodies**
- But - **Heart in the sense** - of meaning our **disposition** - that is our **character** and our **behaviour** and our **nature** - especially **how we obey God**

- David was described as 'a man after God's own heart' because he had a heart or spirit towards God - and followed God's ways
- But
- Last week - David did something really bad
 - He slept with someone else's wife - Bathsheba - Uriah's wife
 - She became pregnant
 - And to cover up his sin - he had, Bathsheba's husband, Uriah, killed by putting him in the fiercest part of the battle
 - His cover up worked - and he got away with it
 - Then David was free to marry - Bathsheba - and no one would be any the wiser
- But at the end of chapter 11 - v27 - we're told - **But the thing David had done displeased the Lord**
- He hasn't got away with it - God knows all about it.

The Parable (2 Samuel 12:1-4)

- Which brings us to today's passage - chapter 12
- God's prophet Nathan comes to David - and tells a parable

[PowerPoint 2-Parable]



- **A parable is:** *A simple story used to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson*
- **Jesus told parables** on many occasions - because **people love stories** - especially when they can **relate to the people in the story**
- The purpose of a **parable** was to make people think - especially about which character **they are most like in the story**
- **Parables are designed to make us think** - and ask ourselves - **do I need to change my behaviour?**
- **Nathan's parable** is pretty simple
 - The **rich man** has loads of **sheep** and **cattle**
 - The **poor man** has one **little ewe lammie** - who he treats like a **treasured possession**
 - A **traveller** comes to **town** - and the **custom** of the day was to **feed anyone** who visited you
 - Instead of **BBQing** one of his own **lambs** - **the rich man took** the poor man's **little ewe lammie** and **BBQed** it for the **visitor's dinner**
 - That's just plain **mean** and **selfish** and **greedy** - isn't it?

The Parable Explained (2 Samuel 12:5-12)

- When **David** hears **Nathan's parable** - he's outraged
- **David** says - the **rich man should die** for doing that - and also **pay back 4x** what he's taken (Ex 22:1 teaches - *whoever steals a sheep and slaughters it or sells it – must pay back 4 sheep*)

[PowerPoint 3-Parable explained]



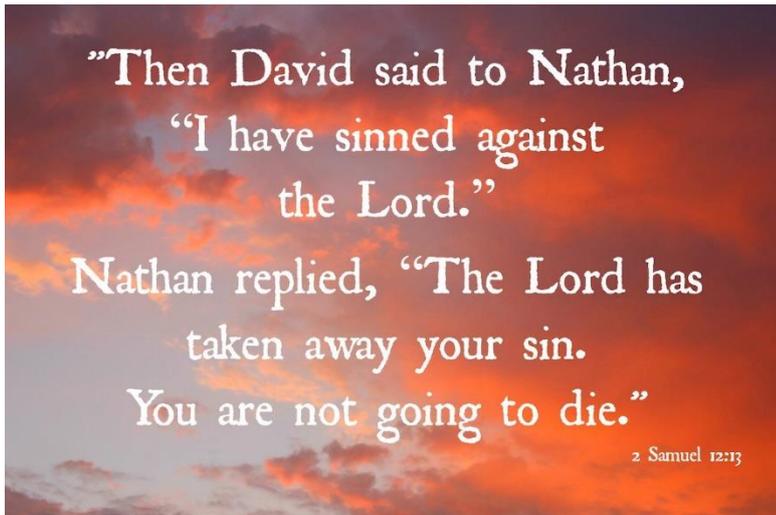
- What David doesn't realize is the parable is about him
 - The rich man is David - he has **everything** that God has blessed him with - He's the anointed king - he has a palace - he rules the land of **Israel** - he has many wives and children
 - The poor man is Uriah
 - The little ewe (female) lammie is Bathsheba, Uriah's wife - Uriah only has one wife whom he treasures
 - The traveller is - temptation - the devil - a temptation that David gave into - he took Uriah's wife and had Uriah killed
 - Nathan points the finger at David "You are the man!" (v7)
- Application - we can't hide our sins from God - He knows all about us
- Application - who are you most like in the parable?
- God's verdict on David is - because David struck down Uriah with the sword - the sword will not depart from David's house
- God's verdict is also that there will be calamity in David's household - as we'll see in the coming weeks - and this calamity will be out in the open for all to see - not like David's little secret with Bathsheba

Repentance and Forgiveness (2 Samuel 12:13)

- When confronted with sin - what should we do?
- Have a look at v13 - it's a **great** verse

[PowerPoint 4-Confession]

- David says to Nathan "I have sinned against the Lord"



- David gives **no** excuses - he **doesn't** blame anyone else - he **doesn't** offer any explanations - he **simply** repents of his sin
- **Yes**, he's sinned **against** Bathsheba, Uriah **and** many others who were affected - **but** ultimately, he has sinned **against** God - he's broken God's **commandments** - of **coveting**, **adultery**, **lies**, **murder** and **idolatry** of **himself**
- **Application** - **what sin** is there in our hearts **this morning** that **needs** to be **confessed** **to** God? We need to **get** the **stethoscope** out and **examine** **our** hearts **this morning**.
- As **1 John 1:9** says: **If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.**
- **It's never too late to confess our sins and turn back to God**

- David's **simple confession** is met with an **immediate response from God**
- Now remember the **punishment for adultery** - back then - was death for both parties involved (Leviticus 20:10)
- But look at **God's response** - through Nathan - v13b
- **The Lord has taken away your sin. You are not going to die!**
- Application - right there we have **God's grace** - **God's undeserved favour** - David deserved to die - but God says No - **I've taken your sins away and you're not going to die**
- **God is merciful** - and quick to **forgive** (Isa 55:7)

Consequences (2 Samuel 12:14-23)

- However, just because sins are forgiven doesn't mean they're aren't consequences
- See v14 - God says the son that Bathsheba is carrying will die

[PowerPoint 5-2 Sam 12:14]

[Read verse]

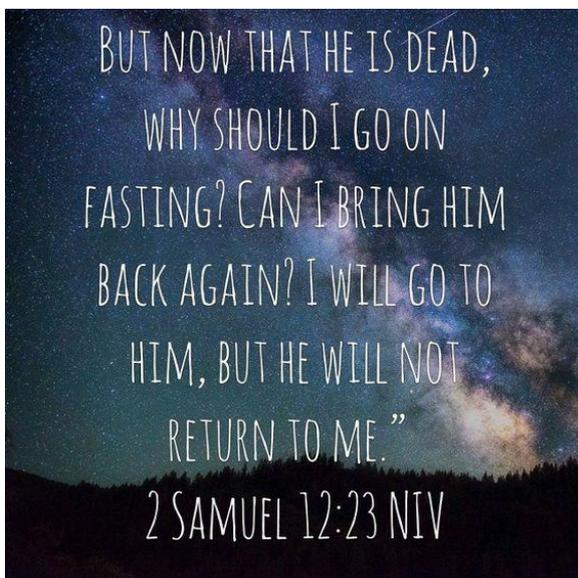
But because by doing this you have shown utter contempt for the Lord, the son born to you will die.

(2 Samuel 12:14)

- And v15 - as soon as Nathan left David - the Lord struck the child and he became sick
- Application - there are always consequences for our sins - as our NT passage from Galatians 6:7 says: Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows
- And as Gal 6:8 says - Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction;
- **David sowed to please his flesh with Bathsheba -**
- **God forgave David's sin - but sin always has consequences.**
- When sin is forgiven - a price has to be paid.
- Often an **innocent party** pays the price for forgiveness.
- Think of the **OT sacrifices for sin** - an innocent animal was killed to take the **blame** and punishment - for the sinner
- Of course, in a **far far greater way** - the **innocent and perfect Jesus** paid the price for our sins on that cruel cross at Calvary
- As **2 Cor 5:21** puts it: God made him [Jesus] who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him [Jesus] we might become the righteousness of God.
- But what are we to make of God striking down the innocent child - and the child dying?
- Well - we can **presume on God's mercy** here - the child was **spared** being brought up in a **household of strife** - he was **spared** of being the **product** of such a **sinful act by David** - and **having that label** on him. Instead the child was taken to be **with the Lord** right away.

- **As Isaiah 57:1 says:** The righteous perish, and no one takes it to heart; the devout are taken away, and no one understands that the righteous are taken away to be spared from evil.
- When **David** heard that the child was sick, he **prayed** and **fasted** hoping that **God** would **change His mind** and allow the child to live (v22)
- But **David's prayers** were not answered - because that was not God's will.
- However, **David's prayer and fasting** are not a waste of time - his **prayers** and time with God placed him in the **right frame of mind** to accept God's decision
- And by **spending that time in prayer** with God - David is able to **see** some hope in this tragic event

[PowerPoint 6-Hope]



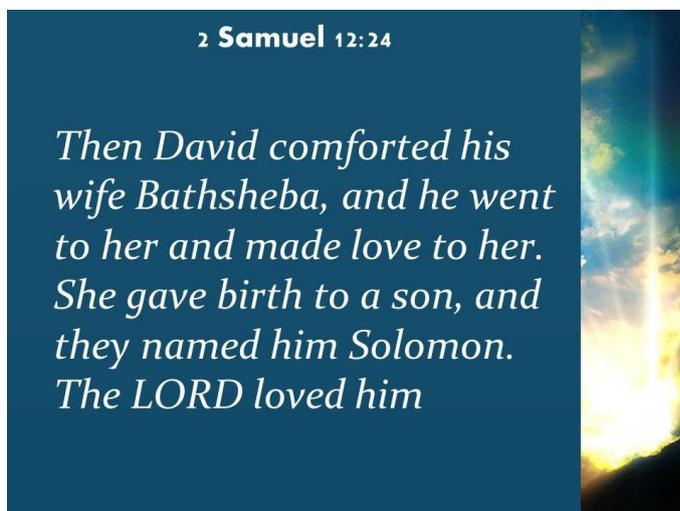
- See v23 - David says **Can I bring him back again? I will go to him, but he will not return to me.**
- Application - A **couple of things we can learn from this**

- **1st - David firmly believes that he is forgiven - and so he is confident he will go to Heaven - We can have that same assurance - if we have put our **faith in Jesus** - our sins are **forgiven** and we have **eternal life** in **Heaven** waiting for us**
- **2nd - David realizes that although he can't bring his dead son back, David will go to **Heaven** and **see his son again** [as David says - I will go to him]. We can draw comfort from this too. The **loved ones** we have lost - we will **see them again, in Heaven.** How good is that!**

Grace Shown (2 Samuel 12:24-25)

- Despite the **consequences**
- **God's grace** abounds
- See v24-25

[PowerPoint 7-Solomon]



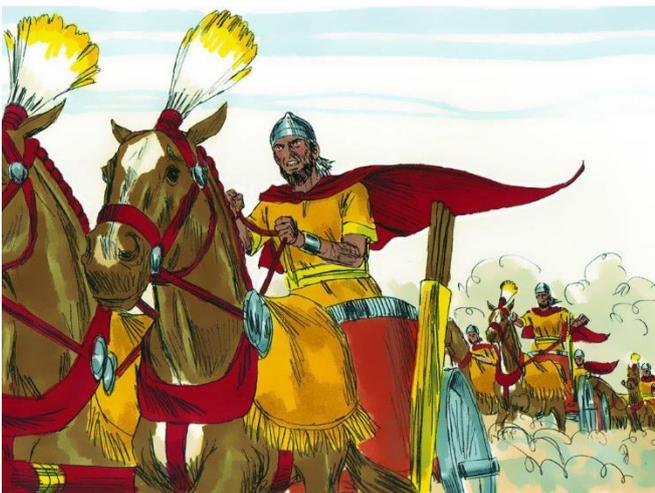
- **David comforts Bathsheba** and she gives birth to another son
 - They named the boy **Solomon** - which means "**peace**" - it's like his name is a **symbol** that there is **peace** between **God** and **David** - now that David has repented

- The **Lord**, through Nathan, also gave Solomon another name - that is **Jedidiah** - which means "loved by God"
- This child **Solomon** is to be a direct descendant of **Joseph**, Jesus' earthly Father (Matthew 1:1-16)
- Despite the sinful way in which **David** and **Bathsheba** came together - in **God's wonderful grace** - this child - **Solomon** - will be part of the earthly family of **Jesus**, the **Messiah** and **Saviour** of the World
- **God** has the incredible knack of making good out of bad situations!

Victory over the Ammonites (2 Samuel 12:26-31)

- Now that David has reconciled with God - and he is no longer preoccupied with his family situation - and by now a year or so has passed

[PowerPoint 8-Victory]

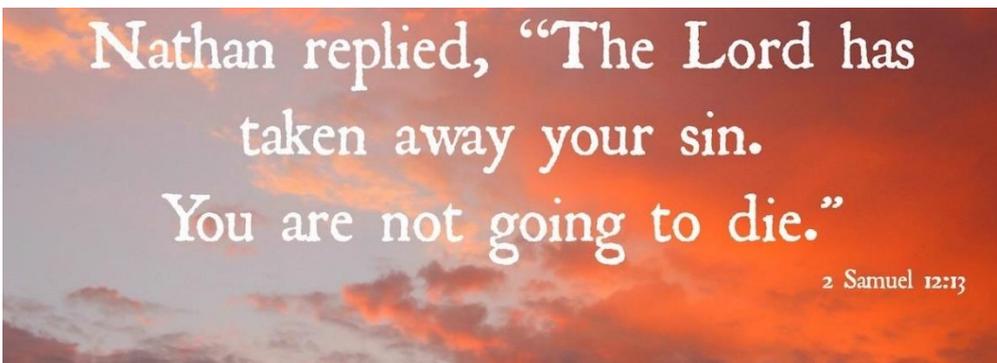


- The commander of David's army, **Joab**, calls upon **David** to **enter** into the **battle with** the **Ammonites** - a battle which began in chapter 10
- Finally, with David back on track and reconciled to **God** - the **enemy** - the **Ammonites** - are finally **defeated** - victory is **secured**

Conclusion (Jesus' Victory)

- And as we think of victory
- We - have a victory too
- Remember the words of God that **Nathan** spoke to David in 2 Sam 12:13

[PowerPoint 9-Not going to die]



- **V13**-The **LORD** has taken away your sin. You are not going to die
- This is the **Gospel** in one verse!
- Because of **Jesus death** - our sins are taken away - and because of **Jesus' resurrection** - we're not going to die - we have the promise of eternal life in **Heaven**. [of course, we must believe in Jesus' death and resurrection]
- What a victory we have because of Jesus - victory over sin and death.
- To finish up - I'd like to set us some **homework** for this afternoon.
- When King David confessed his sin with Bathsheba - he wrote Psalm 51.
- I'd like us to **read** his wonderful **confession** - in **Psalm 51**.
- And I want to **draw your attention** to one verse now - **V13** of Psalm 51

- When David confesses - he doesn't just think about his own sin - he also doesn't want others to stay in their sins either - he wants them to learn from his sinful behaviour - so he says - v13

[PowerPoint 10-Psalm 51:13]

[Read verse]



- What David is promising here is that he will teach others who have not repented of their sins - all about - confessing their sins and turning back to God.
- So, my challenge for us this morning is:
- Let's encourage others to turn away from their sin
- As Gal 6:1 our NT passage says: Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently
- And let's not keep this victory over sin and death - that we have because of Jesus - to ourselves - let's share it - so more sinners will turn to Jesus - and have their sins taken away and not die!

Let's pray...