# II Samuel 12

## Review…

- **II Samuel 10-11 – The fall of King David…**
  - King Nahash of Ammon died – and David sent ambassadors to comfort his son…
    - But the son accused the ambassadors of being spies – and humiliated them…
    - In response David sent his troops to attack the city of Ammon…
  - David should have led the fight – but instead stayed home at the palace…
    - Walking on the rooftop one afternoon – he saw a beautiful woman taking a bath…
    - He called her - Bathsheba a married woman – up to his room and had an affair with her...
    - He found out later that she was pregnant with his child!
  - David called her husband Uriah back from the battle…
    - He hoped Uriah would go home to his wife – think the baby was his…
    - But Uriah was noble and would not leave the palace while the troops were at war…
    - So David sent a note back with Uriah – telling Joab to let Uriah be killed in battle…
    - Joab followed the orders – David married Bathsheba – but God was not happy!

## Repentance and restoration… (*3 things*)

- **1st – Confronting sin… vs. 1-12** Read: II Samuel 12:1-12
  - 1st - The Lord sent Nathan the prophet to David… vs. 1-6
    - It had been about a year since the affair – Bathsheba had given birth to a son…
      - God had waited patiently for David to repent – but he needed some help…
      - God prefers us to come to Him and repent for our sin – so He can forgive us…
      - But if we refuse to repent – then God has no problem stepping in to remind us!
    - Nathan told David the story of two men – one was rich / and one was poor…
      - The rich man owned many sheep and cattle – he had everything in abundance…
      - But the poor man only owned one little lamb – and he cared for it like a child…
      - One day some guests arrived to the rich man's home – and he threw a feast…
      - But rather than taking one of his own flock – he butchered the poor man's lamb!
    - When David heard the story he was FURIOUS!
      - He demanded 'as the Lord lives – any man who would do such a thing deserves to die'…
      - It was an overreaction on the part of David – the Law did not call for death for stealing…
      - **Exodus 22:1** - "If a man steals a sheep and slaughters it he shall give four sheep."
      - David overreacted because he was VERY guilty for stealing the wife of poor Uriah…

- I tend to be prideful – a now it all – and think I have all the answers…
- And because I struggle with pride – it is VERY easy for me to see pride in others!
- Our sin always looks worse on others – and we are quick to see our sins in others lives…
- We are sensitive to those sins because we are convicted by the same sin in our life!

- We like to point out our sin in others – because we think it keeps us out of trouble…
  - When I was young I got in trouble a lot – but I also knew how to get out of trouble…
  - If I got in trouble for sneaking a cookie out of the jar…
  - All I had to do was tattle on my older sister – how she had also done something wrong…
  - And my 'sin' would be forgotten as my parents dealt with my sister first!
  - The problem is that pointing out others mistakes – does nothing to fix ours!
  - The truth is we will all stand before Jesus – and be accountable for our lives…
  - So rather than focusing on what others are doing right or wrong...
  - We need to make sure we are walking pure and holy before the Lord!

- 2nd - Nathan looked at David and said bluntly – 'You are that man!'… vs. 7-12
  - God had made David King over Israel – saved him from the hand of Saul…
    - He blessed David with wives – the Kingdom – and if that was not enough…
    - God was not done – He had planned to give David EVEN more…
    - God has amazing plans for our lives – beyond anything we could imagine…
    - But we have the power to undo that plan – we can stop the blessing of God…
    - If we choose to rebel – if we insist on going our own way – God will let us…
    - And rather than the blessings of God – we will end up with the sorrow of sin!
  - David rejected the Word of God – and murdered Uriah and stolen his wife…
    - As consequence the sword would not depart from the house of David…
      - The newborn son of Bathsheba would become sick and die…
      - David's son Amnon would be murdered by his brother Absalom – **II Samuel 13:29**
      - Joab would kill Absalom for rebelling against David – **II Samuel 18:14**…
      - Solomon would kill his brother Adonijah for trying to steal the throne – **I Kings 2:25**
      - David had murdered one man – but as a consequence 4 of his sons would die!
    - One of the sons of David would rise up and rebel against him…
      - Then God would give the wives of David to another man…
      - Absalom would rebel against his father – tried to take the throne – **II Samuel 15**
      - He would chase David out of Jerusalem – and sleep with David's concubines!
    - David sinned in secret – hidden what he had done – but God would punish him openly!
      - Many assume they are 'ok' because God does not immediately punish them...
      - They make mistake of interpreting God's 'patience' for God's 'acceptance'...
      - Just because God has not judged yet – does not mean God will not judge…
      - God is patient – longsuffering – giving time to repent and turn back to Him…
      - God waits to punish sin only because He loves the sinner – **II Peter 3:9**
      - God is patient – longsuffering – to give time to repent and turn back to Him…
      - But if we harden our hearts / not to repent - our sin will not remain hidden
- 3rd - I am sure it was not easy for Nathan to confront David…
  - He had no guarantee how the King would reacted – David could have killed him…
    - But Nathan loved David enough to tell him the truth…

- And he was more concerned about obeying the Lord – than pleasing the King!

- It is dangerous to confront people about their sin - they get upset...
  - At the very least they will try and avoid us - because we are reminding them of their sin...
  - But they might get VERY upset yell at us – because they want to silence us!
  - But we are called to confront others in spite of how they react to us...
  - Our motive is love - we want to see them clean / forgiven - **Ephesians 4:15**
  - Not that we can make people turn back to Jesus - but we can warn them…
  - **Hebrews 3:13 -** "Exhort one another daily, while it is called 'Today,' lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin."
  - We might think it is kinder not to confront someone who is sinning...
  - But the truth is leaving someone in their sin - is condemning them to hell...
  - Not that we are not saddened when we see the hurt our words might cause...
  - But we rejoice to see them repent - restoring their relationship to Jesus!

- **2ND – TRUE REPENTANCE... VS. 13-23** READ: II SAMUEL 12:13-23
  - 1st - David confessed to Nathan – 'I have sinned'… vs. 13

    - When people finally face the consequences for their actions – they are always sorry...
      - No one like consequences - no one wants to face the results of their sin...
      - No child about to be punished - will not be quick to say 'I am sorry'...
      - You would be hard pressed to find a single person in prison who is not 'sorry'...

    - But being sorry - does not always mean you have repented...
      - If we are just sorry we got caught – sorry because of our consequences...
      - Then we are not sorry for what we did – and given the chance we might do it again...
      - Even if feel guilty – beat ourselves thinking 'how could I have done that'...
      - Many people deal with their burden of guilt by trying to forget it...
      - They drown themselves in alcohol / or keep themselves busy...
      - But the moment they stop / become sober - the guilt and despairs return...
      - But we do not change - we do not turn from our sinful ways to Jesus...
      - Judas 'regretted' betraying Jesus - he was sorry for what he had done...
      - He tried to argue with the chief priests - but they could not forgive him...
      - He tried to cast the 30 silver coins on the floor - but it did not undo his sin...
      - He did not repent - he did not come back to Jesus - instead he hung himself...
      - The sorrow/regret of the world leads to death - because we do not run to Jesus!
      - **II Corinthians 7:10** – "Sorrow without repentance… results in death."
  - 2nd - Nathan comforted David – 'The Lord has forgiven you – you will not die'…

    - Confronted by his sin – David confessed his sin – and he repented...
      - **Psalms 51:1-4** - "Against You, You only, have I sinned ..."
      - King David did not make excuses - he did not try to undo his sin...
      - He recognized what he did was wrong - and he ran to God for forgiveness!

    - We turn from our sin to Jesus - repent and be forgiven – that brings salvation!
      - **I John 1:9** – "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
      - If we confess our sin - any sin - Jesus will forgive us and make us clean again!
      - Godly repentance brings freedom - we are not longer bound by our past mistakes...

- We are able to move beyond our failures - we begin to grow again in Christ!

- 3rd - The sin of David had given the enemies of God great opportunity to mock Him… vs. 14
  - David was the King - the representative to the world for the 'Nation of God'…
    - But the anointed King of Israel – had committed adultery and murder!
    - Now the world could mock and say – see the people of God are no different!
    - The power of example is amazing - people tend to follow - good or bad...
    - Stand outside and look up - see how long it takes for others to look up too...
    - So God needed to make an example of David – so people would be afraid to sin…
  - As a result of the sin of David and Bathsheba – their newborn son would die…
    - David was forgiven - but that did not mean there were no consequences…
      - If you disobey your parents – they spank you – though they still love you…
      - **Hebrews 12:5-8 -** "You have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: 'My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD... For whom the LORD loves He chastens, and punishes every son whom He receives...'"
      - God loves us too much to let us get away with our sin - so He punishes us...
      - Not because He is angry - or mad at us - but because of His great love for us!
      - God desires to teach us - His kids - how to live a pure and holy life…
    - It was an extreme consequence – so that David would never forget…
      - If the consequence for stealing a million pesos – was you had to say you were sorry…
      - A lot of people would become a thief – but if the consequence were years in prison…
      - If sin did not have any lasting consequence – we might be tempted to sin again…
      - But like the child who only has to touch a hot flame once...
      - Severe consequences teach us a lesson that we will never forget!
- 4th – David begged God to save the life of his son… vs. 15-23
  - He did not eat or drink anything for 7 days – lying on the ground before the Lord…
    - But on the 7th day the child died – and the leaders were afraid to tell David…
    - And when David saw them talking he knew – the child was gone…
    - He got up and changed – then went to worship the Lord at the Tabernacle…
    - David knew that his son could not come back – but one day he would go to be with him!
    - One of only a handful of verses in the Bible that deals with salvation and young children…
  - What happens to young children/babies who are not old enough to believe in God…
    - They have not yet come to the age when they are capable of choosing Jesus...
    - Every child is different – salvation is likely a process - not a single moment...
    - A 3-year-old child might 'accept' Jesus - but not with full understanding...
    - They might 'accept' Jesus again at 10 or 12 - then again at 15 or 16...
    - Coming to a place as an adult where they understand and choose Jesus!
  - But as long as at least one of the parents is a believer...
    - **I Corinthians 7:14** – "The Christian wife/husband brings holiness to the marriage. Otherwise, your children would not have a godly influence, but now they are holy…"
    - This could simply mean because of the influence of the believing spouse...
    - Teaching the children about Jesus - training them up to follow the Lord...
    - But it could also have a spiritual aspect - the kids are literally sanctified...

        - The saving faith of the believing spouse extending over the children...
        - Until they reach an age where they can choose whether or not to follow Jesus!
    - You might ask - what about if both parents are un-believers...
        - The Bible is silent on this - we do not know what happens to these children...
        - I would say - God is still just - and if they kids are not old enough to understand...
        - Then God would take them straight into heaven - but I cannot say for sure

- **3RD – COMFORT FROM GOD... VS. 24-31** READ: II SAMUEL 12:24-25
    - David comforted Bathsheba – and she gave birth to another son…
        - David called him Solomon – peaceable – but Nathan called him Jedidiah – loved of God!
            - Because the Lord loved this son – he would be the next King of Israel!
            - At the same time Joab conquered the capitol of Ammon…
            - He called for David so that he would receive the credit for the conquest of the city…
            - So David conquered the city – and made slaves out of people of Ammon…
            - In the end – God restored honor to David – and gave him the victory…
        - When we mess up – there is a danger of getting stuck in self-pity…
            - Sin separates us from God – but the Holy Spirit convicts us of sin to restore us...
            - And when we repent and turn to the Lord - there is forgiveness and restoration!
            - Condemnation is when we dwell on our mistake - we know we messed up...
            - Instead of keeping our eyes on Jesus - we focus on ourselves - and sink into despair…
            - Conviction draws us closer to God - condemnation pulls us away from Him!
            - Once there is repentance – God forgets the sin - **Psalms 103:12** – so should we!