

## David: Confrontation in Sin 2 Samuel 12

We've all seen a friend crash after a progression of poor decisions. Christians are called to confront our brothers and sisters in Christ for the sake of bringing them back into fellowship with the Lord. We can learn from Nathan's successful confrontation with David thanks to his compassionate confidence and his commitments to the right Time, the right Way, and the right Truth.

### Read: Psalm 51.1-3

My sophomore year of college, Susan and I were at an Aggie football game with some friends, and it turned out to be one of my favorites even though I can't remember the opposing team or who won. It was one of those game when it was 120 degrees with 200% humidity, and by the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter everyone was mumbling their yells while constantly on their knees.

- At this point, I noticed a girl standing a few rows ahead of us was starting to sway. It wasn't good: Her friends would bump into her and she'd take a minute to react; yells would get passed back and she'd be 2 behind.
- I was growing concerned, so I made Susan look just as the girl fell forward, at which point everything went into slow motion (or that might just be the dehydration talking) and I did my best to be a hero by saying "Oh."
- Fortunately, the girl landed on the guy in front of her. Unfortunately, the guy in front of her didn't know what was going on, so he instinctively jumped back, and the girl proceeded to nose-dive into the bleachers. She was fine: just a little bruised and a lot embarrassed.

### The Truth is...

- **We've all seen a friend crash after a downward spiral of bad decisions** – Girl's friends didn't say anything as she started to sway or act lethargic. When were you silent: no studying = failed test; bad relationship = emotional wreck; isolation = depression; substance/lust = addiction
- **Is that what Christians should allow in their friendships? As we move into summer, when so many of us are tempted to backslide, are we going to just watch it happen from a distance if we even watch it at all?**

### This Semester...

- We're studying **the Life of David through his stories and Psalms** in order to understand what made him a "man after God's own heart." I want us to understand what defined him because I want to have that heart, and I want you to have that heart.

### This Morning...

- We're looking at **Nathan's response to David's sin** – **He cares enough to confront David with 3 elements: the Right Time, Right Way, Right Truth**

### The Context

- **David and Bathsheba**; Nathan comes in for the confrontation equipped with 3 crucial elements: **The Right Truth, The Right Time, The Right Way**

### The Confrontation

- **Right Time**
  - **Read: 2 Sam 12.1a** – Scholar's estimate this meeting taking place about a year after the birth of David's son. Nathan didn't confront David right after the sin or after Bathsheba realized she was pregnant or right after the baby's birth, which wouldn't fit with MY timeline, but...
    - The key to Nathan's timing was that **it was God's timing**. Though we sometimes

- doubt, **God always does the right thing in the right time. Because timing is crucial!**
- Ex: The potty dance – when my niece was potty training, we had to help her remember to use the potty instead of her pants. But you can't just constantly ask your kid **"do you need to go potty?"** or else you'd confuse them. Instead, her parents would look for "the dance" to ask "do you need to go potty?" and immediately carrying her to the bathroom.
- **In confrontation, your timing is as important as your wording, so you need to rely on God's timing.**
- **Right Way**
  - **Read: 2 Sam 12.1b-7a** – Nathan brilliantly tells David a story to **draw him in and break down defenses**. He even lets David interact with the story *Blues Clues* style. After David's set up, **Nathan brings the hammer**.
    - Nathan is compassionate and confident and knew he had to confront in the right way. **Because wording is crucial!**
  - **In confrontation, your wording should be compassionate and confident.**
- **Right Truth**
  - **Read: 2 Sam 12.9** – Nathan knew the whole truth of the situation. Plenty of people were talking about the situation and I'm sure there were plenty of theories and differing versions.
    - Nathan didn't start out the conversation with "I don't really know what's going on" or "I've heard all this from Jimmy the cook." Nathan sought out the real truth because **the truth is crucial!**
    - Ex: Yucatan Peninsula - Hernan Cortes claimed that the name Yucatán was a **misunderstanding**. In this telling, the first Spanish explorers asked what the area was called, and the response they received, **"Yucatan,"** was a Yucatec Maya word meaning **"I don't understand what you're saying."**
  - In confrontation, you should be grounded in the whole truth.
- **Result: The Right Response**
  - **Ex: Grandfather reveal video**
    - When all the pieces align, you've prepared for the best response
  - **Read: 2 Sam 12.13a; Psalm 51.10-13** – Thanks to the Lord working through Nathan's confrontation: **David admits his wrong, desires to repent, humbly seeks restoration in relationship with God**

### The Challenge

- This isn't a message to send you out to finish the spring or start the summer with a **"Righteousness Hammer"** that you use to point out the sin in everyone's life. Don't take notes on **who you need to bring to the 7pm** so they can be ready for a **tough talk at Spoons** afterwards.
- Instead, we need to **Equip to be Nathan & Expect to be David**
  - **Equip to be Nathan**
    - Most important **conversation is with God**
    - Remember the **Right Time, Right Way, Right Truth**
  - **Expect to be David**
    - **Tell the Truth**
    - **Make the Time**
    - **Pave the Way** – ex: tough questions
- **In other words, create a system**
  - **Ex: Non-verbals with wife** – I'm ready to leave; Are you ready to leave; I need to tell you something... after we leave. Because apparently our introverted lives revolve around leaving wherever we find ourselves.
  - **We need to fight against easy isolation, turn the lights on with someone we trust, and ask tough questions.**
    - **We need to care enough to confront and to be confronted.**

**Psalm 51:1-3 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.

**Psalm 51:10-13 ESV**

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.  
Then I will teach transgressors your ways,  
    and sinners will return to you.

**2 Samuel 12:1-7 ESV**

*Nathan Rebukes David*

And the LORD sent Nathan to David. He came to him and said to him, "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. 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. 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." 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." Nathan said to David, "You are the man!

**2 Samuel 12:9 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 12:13 ESV**

David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." And Nathan said to David, "The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die.