

Character Study: David
Part 6 – David’s Repentance
II Samuel 12:1-23

What’s happening?

- After David’s sin, the Lord sent the prophet Nathan to speak to him. Nathan told David a story of a rich man, who, though he had many animals, took a poor man’s only lamb in order to feed a traveler. (12:1-4)
- Hearing the story, David became enraged, saying the rich man must die. Nathan stunned David, revealing that David was the rich man he was referring to. He explained that God had abundantly blessed David, yet David willingly despised God’s commandments by killing Uriah and taking his wife. (12:5-9)
- The Lord spoke through Nathan, telling David that as a result of his sin, the sword (murder) would plague his family, enemies within his own family would be against him, and his wives would be taken from him. But unlike David’s sin, which was done in private, these things would come to pass openly where everyone would see. (12:10-12)
- David was full of sorrow and confessed his sin. Nathan told David that God would spare his life, but because of the seriousness of his actions, David’s child would die. (12:13-14)
- The child of David and Bathsheba became ill, and David fasted and pleaded with the Lord for the child until he passed away. (12:15-23)

What’s God doing?

> God is showing that there are consequences for sin. David’s sin was intentional, and some of it was even strategically planned out. The punishment David faced shows very clearly how offended God is by sin.

What’s to learn?

- From this lesson, it is apparent how God views sin. God hated sin in David’s day, just as He hates sin today.
- The consequences for sin are always worse than we think they will be. Sin greatly affects us, as well as those around us.
- God desired David’s repentance, as He does ours when we sin. Even though David would still face consequences from his sin, he still confessed and was sorrow for his actions (Ps. 32:3-4; Ps. 51).

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