



How God Addressed David's Sin

- I. Introduction. 2 Samuel 11 records David's sin with Bathsheba. David is called "a man after God's own heart." One of the reasons he was a man after God's heart is how he responded to God's confrontation of his sin in 2 Samuel 12.

- II. Six Lessons from 2 Samuel 12.
 - A. God loves us too much to let us stay in our sin- 12:1. God sent Nathan to confront David in his sin. David went to great lengths to hide his sin. He thought he had escaped without being exposed. But God needed to expose David's sin so He could heal David's heart. Numbers 32:23 says, "You may be sure that your sin will find you out." God exposes sin not to hurt us but to heal us. David wrote in Psalm 32:3-5, "When I refused to confess my sin, I was weak and miserable and I groaned all day long. Day and night your hand of discipline was heavy on me. My strength evaporated like water in the summer heat. Finally, I confessed all my sins to you and stopped trying to hide them. I said to myself, 'I will confess my rebellion to the Lord.' And you forgave me. All my guilt is gone." God exposes our sin so that the poison of sin will not destroy us. In His love, God exposes our sin so He can heal and restore our hearts to Him. Respond to the phrase "God loves you too much to let you stay in your sin." Has this been true in your life? Why do we want to separate God's love from God's discipline?

 - B. We are often harder on others than we want others to be on us- 12:2-7. Nathan told David a story about a rich man who had large numbers of sheep and cattle. He had a guest visit his home. He stole the only lamb of his poor neighbor to feed the guest. David was livid. He proclaimed this man deserved to die. He must pay back four times what he took. Nathan turned the story back on David- "You are that man." This interchange reveals something interesting about human nature. We want to judge others by their actions, but we want others to judge us by our intentions. Why do you think this is true? How do we develop a heart of mercy and compassion for others who are caught in sin without overlooking the sin?

 - C. God's forgiveness does not negate consequences- 12:7-12. God spelled out the consequences of David's sin. His family would suffer the consequences of his sin. There would be sexual sin and violence in David's household for the rest of his life. The consequences of our sin hurt those who are closest to us- that is part of the sting of sin. God forgives us and heals our hearts when we confess our sin and repent, but He does not withdraw the consequences of the choices we make. He allows us to suffer the

blows that come from our sin. Why do you think God does not protect us from the consequences of our sin? How does this principle apply to our relationship with others?

- D. The sin of God's people hurts His reputation in the world- 12:13-14. Nathan told David that he was forgiven, but there was a specific consequence to the fact that his sin damaged God's reputation in the pagan world. David's child would die. Sin breaks God's heart on so many levels. God specifically mentioned in this text that when His children sin, it damages His reputation among people who do not know Him. Our sin can damage God's credibility with worldly people. Do you believe this to be true in our culture today? Why? Can you give a specific example? What is the consequence of this truth for the church?
- E. The only appropriate response to sin is repentance- 12:13-23. David confessed his sin and repented of his actions that had broken God's heart. He pleaded with God on behalf of his child. He accepted God's decision to take the child. David accepted responsibility for his sin. He reconnected with God and walked out his consequences in faith and humility. That is why David was a man after God's own heart. The greatest enemy of intimacy with God is pride. We have a tendency to either be too prideful to confess our sin or willing to play the victim and avoid personal responsibility for our sin. David did neither. Why is humility a prerequisite to be a man after God's heart? How do we address pride issues that keep us from repenting before God? How does a person repent? What is the difference between confession and repentance?
- F. God weaves His perfect will through the tapestry of our sin and failure- 12:24-25. David slept with Bathsheba and she gave birth to Solomon the next King of Israel. God used all the pain and negative circumstances surrounding David's sin and birthed out of it the next King of Israel. God does the same thing in your life. He takes all your decisions both good and bad, He takes your sin and your acts of righteousness, and He weaves His will into your life. God can use every event no matter how good or bad and use it for your good and His glory. The key for us is to have a heart like David's heart- a heart that desires God, is quick to confess sin, and is willing to repent and walk in humility before the Lord God Almighty. Tell a story about a time when you saw God weave His will through a challenging circumstance in your life. What is your takeaway to apply in your life this week?

