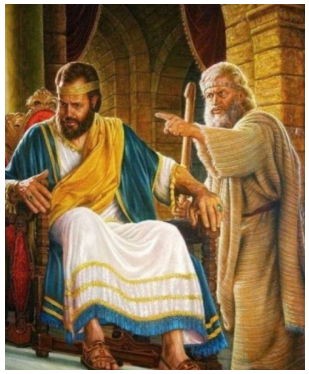
2 Samuel 12: 1-31

Confrontation, Repentance, Consequences



Scripture Study Class
October 18, 2026

1

2 Samuel 11:27b "but the thing that David had done displeased the Lord."

Confrontation

2 Samuel 12:1 "The Lord sent Nathan to David."

The role of a prophet is to represent God to the people.
A prophet speaks for God to the people.

2 Samuel 12:7 "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel"
2 Samuel 12:11 "Thus says the Lord".

Jesus in His role as a prophet spoke as the Father instructed Him.

John 8:28 "I do nothing on my own authority but speak just as the Father taught me".

John 12:49-50 "For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has Himself given me a commandment – what to say and what to speak. And I know that His commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me."

2

Jesus fulfilled the role of all 3 offices – prophet, priest, and king.

Prophet: John 12:50 "What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me."
Hebrews 1:1 "Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son."

Priest: Jesus presented Himself as the atoning sacrifice for our sins.
He also intercedes for us before the Father.

Hebrews 7:24 "but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them."

King: Jesus defeated our enemy Satan and secured victory for us.

1 Corinthians 15:57 "But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

3

Amos 7:10: Then Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent a message to Jeroboam king of Israel: Amos is raising a conspiracy against you in the very heart of Israel. The land can not bear all his words. For this is what Amos is saying "Jeroboam will die by the sword and Israel will surely go into exile away from their native land. Then Amaziah said to Amos, "Get out you seer. Go back to the land of Judah."

But God is always seeking restoration.

Amos 9:11: "In that day I will restore David's fallen tent. I will repair its broken places, restore its ruins, and build it as it used to be."

Captivity in exile is not the end of the story. Slavery to sin is not the end of the story.

That's the story of the Bible – God seeking straying sinners to restore them.

4

God sent Nathan to David in order to restore him.
God was faithful to his covenant with David.

EPC Book of Discipline: “The purpose of discipline is to maintain the honor of God, to restore the sinner, and to remove offense from the church.”

Galatians 6:1 Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness.

Nathan confronted David with gentleness, wisdom, and cleverness. He didn’t immediately, directly accuse David. He told him the story about the rich man and the poor man. This approach enabled a repentant response. If he had confronted David with a direct accusation, it probably would have elicited a defensive response; David may have started to make excuses for his sin. But Nathan’s approach led David to accuse himself even before he realized it. He unwittingly pronounced judgement on himself. David said “the man who has done this deserves to die”.

5

David didn’t know that he was pronouncing his own sentence. He was accusing the rich man in Nathan’s story but didn’t see his own sin. He judged the rich man, but not himself.

Matthew 7:1-5 “Judge not that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. Why do you see the speck that is in your brother’s eye but do not notice the log that is in your own eye. Or how can you say to your brother, “Let me take the speck out of your eye when there is the log in your own eye?” You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye.”

Romans 2:1-4 Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgement on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things. We know that the judgement of God rightly falls on those who practice such things. Do you suppose, O man, you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself, that you will escape the judgement of God? Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God’s kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?

6

When Nathan said to David, “You are the man!” David suddenly realized that he had already pronounced his own guilt. No excuses, no defense.

Nathan went on to say “Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, “I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you out of the hand of Saul. And I gave you your master’s house and your master’s wives into your arms and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah, And if this were too little, I would add to you as much more.”

Romans 8:32 “He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?”

Spurgeon: “When I thought God was hard, I found it easy to sin; but when I found God so kind, so good, so overflowing with compassion, I smote upon my breast to think that I could ever have rebelled against One who loved me so, and sought my good.”

Nathan went on to say “Why have you despised the word of the Lord, to do what is evil in his sight.

7

Repentance

2 Samuel 12:13: David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the Lord.”

Psalm 51 A Psalm of David when Nathan confronted him after his sin with Bathsheba.

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.
Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.
Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.
Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice.
Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.
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.

8

Nathan told David “The Lord has taken away your sin. You are not going to die.”

Psalm 32

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.
Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.
For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity;
I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,” and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

9

Consequences

2 Samuel 12:14 “Nevertheless, because by this deed you have utterly scorned the Lord, the child who is born to you shall die.”

The consequences of sin often remain, even after repentance and forgiveness.

Without any consequences, maybe we wouldn’t take our sin seriously, maybe we wouldn’t truly repent.

The child died. And David grieved deeply. It had a powerful impact on him.

2 Samuel 12:9-10: “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. Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised me.”

The sword never departed from the house of David. David’s sons Amnon, Absalom, and Adonijah all died by the sword, and later Solomon ordered the death of Joab the commander of David’s army.

10

David was not allowed to build the temple.

We read in 1 Chronicles 22:7 “David said to Solomon, “My son, I had it in my heart to build a house to the name of the Lord my God. But the word of the Lord came to me, saying, You have shed much blood and have waged great wars, You shall not build a house to my name, because you have shed so much blood before me on the earth.”

Nathan also told David, “Behold, I will raise up evil against you out of your own house. And I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor.”

(which was fulfilled by Absalom, as we’ll read in 2 Samuel chapter 16).

11

Romans 8:28 “And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.”

God’s plans were fulfilled.

The Davidic covenant remained intact and David’s kingdom continued.

> 2 Samuel 7:8-16 and 1 Chronicles 17: God guarantees the perpetuity of David’s line and makes a covenant with David to establish an everlasting kingdom, ultimately fulfilled in Jesus, whose reign is eternal.

David resumed his duties as king. He led the Israelites in battles.

In 2 Samuel 12:29 we read: “So David gathered all the people together and went to Rabbah and fought against it and took it.”

Later, in 2 Samuel 21:15 There was war again between the Philistines and Israel, and David went down together with his servants and they fought against the Philistines. And David grew weary.”

12

David worshiped God with a deeper understanding of God's faithfulness.

> 2 Samuel 12:20 "Then David arose from the earth and washed and anointed himself and changed his clothes. And he went into the house of the Lord and worshiped."

God's discipline of David gave David a greater understanding of who God is and it strengthened his walk with God, and was part of his sanctification.

> Hebrews 12: 9-11 Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

> "but he disciplines us for our good, **that we may share his holiness"**
>
> "it yields the peaceful fruit of **righteousness**"

13

1 Peter 1:6-7 "In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith- more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire- may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ."

The joy of God's salvation returned to David. We read earlier from Psalm 51 "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."

Having gone through this experience, David was able to teach others more effectively and restore sinners.

14

In the hymn "How Firm A Foundation" we sing:

"When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine."

That was another positive consequence of this event for David. His dross, his sin, was consumed and his gold was refined, he was further sanctified.

"When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
For I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress."

15

Maybe God allows sin and suffering and difficult circumstances in our lives, like the one David experienced, to help us appreciate his grace and mercy. Would we ever really appreciate the full extent of the attributes of God – the depths of his love and grace and mercy, without experiencing sin and suffering?

Scott Erikson, in his book "What about Free Will?" puts it well:

"If evil provided no foil for righteousness to prevail, life would sink into a hollow impassivity. This explains why the redemptive triumph of Christ over all diabolical powers becomes the greatest narrative of history.

"Fiction imitates life, and thus God authored the real story to include evil and good, loss and redemption, tragedy and triumph. Without both polarizing elements, we never have the opportunity to appreciate the grandeur of the creator's masterful and wise purposes in which the full panorama of his glory is put on display."

The pastor of an OPC church in Purcellville VA, Ben Franks, put it this way:

"When we reach heaven, we may discover that the richest and deepest and most profitable experiences we had in this world were those which were gained in the very roads from which we shrank back with dread. The bitter cups we tried to push away contained the medicines we most needed. The hardest lessons that we learn are those which teach us the most and best fit us for service here and glory hereafter."

16

Another main character in the Bible sinned greatly but received God's grace and forgiveness like David did. Listen to what the apostle Paul wrote in 1 Timothy 1: 12-14

"I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus."

17