

Week Five: Answering to Sin

June 8-14, 2008

Welcome to The Vine. In this issue we will take a look at David as he works through the stages of a process with which we might be very familiar - a process of being confronted by his own sin. Observe how his perspective changes from stage to stage; discern how his relationship with God changes as well. Throughout our own walk with God we sometimes have moments "in the valley" or even "mountain peak" experiences. It is in how we respond to these different times in our life that our character is tested and built. Last week we looked at chapter 11 in 2 Samuel which described how David got into this mess. This week we will look at how he deals with a tough time in his life. As you dig in, consider how his model can be beneficial to your life.

If you wish to receive The Vine via e-mail each week you may register online at www.kentwoodcommunitychurch.com/thevine by following the directions listed there. If you have any questions or comments on The Vine, please let us know at thevine@kcconline.org.

First Encounter

Read 2 Samuel 12:1-12

List all we are told about the rich man in the story. How does he contrast with the poor man in the story? What does it reveal about their characters?

What is David's attitude after hearing Nathan's story? What are the significant points of judgment that David proclaims?

What do you think Nathan was feeling as this was happening? What is Nathan's goal?

Evaluate David's approach to the transgressions of others. Why didn't he see his sin in the same way? How would your approach be the same or different? How does this compare to God's approach to sin?

Prayer Reflection: Pray and ask the Lord to show you areas in your life where you need a "Nathan"—where you need clearer eyes to see your own sin and shortcomings. Ask the Lord to give you eyes to see and good friends to come along side you and help you see.

Nathan

The New Bible Dictionary (IVP, 2006) says this about Nathan: A prophet involved in the story of King David. He appears without introduction when David expresses his wish to build the temple (2 Samuel 7 & 1 Chronicles 17). Nathan approves at first, but after speaking with God, informs David that this task is for David's descendent...Nathan is best known for his fearless denunciation of David's double sin against Uriah the Hittite, and the parable in which it was couched.

Second Encounter

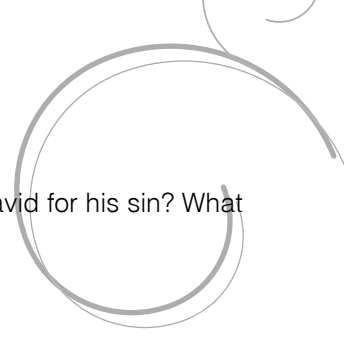
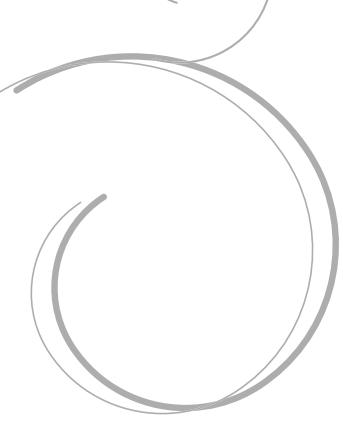
Read 2 Samuel 12:1-12

Why do you think Nathan approached David in this way? What were his other options?

How would you describe the Lord's attitude in verses 7 through 9? What does the Lord point to in the past?

What are all the things he accuses David of doing? List the judgments he gives to David.





Can you explain why God is especially angry with David for his sin? What clues are given in the text?

Read through this section again and note how David's attitude and Nathan's attitude might change during the whole 12 verses.

Prayer Reflection: Find Proverbs 9:10 in your Bible and pray through it. How could this verse have instructed David? How might it help you today? Discuss this with the Lord.


Third Encounter

Read 2 Samuel 12:13-31

What is Nathan's response to David's repentance?

What forms of repentance does David display? What is the result of his repentant actions?

What blessings does David continue to receive from God?



What is confusing to David's servants in verse 21? How would you reword David's explanation in verses 22 & 23?

What opportunity does Joab lay before David? What does David do? What was the result for David and for the entire nation of Israel when he led the army as King? How does this contrast with 2 Samuel 11:1-2?

Prayer Reflection: Pray to the Lord and discuss what this whole chapter has been showing you. Has it been bothering you about a hidden sin in your life? If so, pray about it and plan out specific next steps of repentance. Has it come to your attention that you have an opportunity to be a "Nathan" for someone else? Has the Lord showed you His holiness? Has He been showing you His grace? Talk to Him about this.

Fourth Encounter

Read all of Psalm 51

This Psalm was written by David in response to 2 Samuel 11 & 12. What does David confess here?

What does this Psalm say about God? What does it state about sin?

Review the Psalm again. What does David ask the Lord to do for him?






What does David understand about God?

What is the turning point in the Psalm? What changes after that point?

Prayer Reflection: Slowly go through Psalm 51 and pray it to the Lord. If you need to stay and spend some time on some verse, do it. Spend the time. Soak in this chapter.

Small Group Guide

NOTE: This guide is provided to help Small Group Leaders take their groups through the passage. The following questions are suggestions. Feel free to add to these questions or reword them as you prayerfully prepare for your small group.

1. Have someone review the entire story of 2 Samuel 11 & 12. You can do this creatively. You can have your group do a finger-puppet show. You can have different people be different characters, with a narrator. Have some fun with it.
 2. What were some ways in which David may have justified his sin to himself? How might we get caught in that same justification for our sins?
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3. Have you ever had to be a “Nathan” to someone? How did it go? What were your feelings? Has anyone ever done a great job of being a “Nathan” for you? What would it look like to cultivate that sort of relationship in your life?

4. What do you think about David's anger in verse 5? His repentance in verse 13?

5. What does David's pleading and praying for his child say about his character? About his relationship with the Lord?

6. Read through Psalm 51 and find all the ways it ties to the story in 2 Samuel 11 & 12.

7. What is the turning point in Psalm 51? Why? What in this Psalm points to Jesus?

Written by The Vine Team.
Email thevine@kcconline.org
with comments or questions.
We would love to hear what
you think about it. We are also
looking for people willing to
help create The Vine. If this
interests you, let us know.

