

Focus passage: 2 Samuel 12:1-10

1 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. 2 The rich man had very many flocks and herds, 3 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. 4 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." 5 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, 6 and he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity."

7 Nathan said to David, "You are the man! Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you out of the hand of Saul. 8 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. 9 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. 10 Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.'

What stands out to you from this passage?

If you are not very familiar with what David had done, read 2 Samuel 11:1-17. Does it surprise you that David would do such a thing?

How do you respond to criticism? How would you have responded, as a king, to this rebuke?

David just killed the man who stood between him and what he wanted, yet when Nathan comes and rebukes him, what does he do? Read 2 Samuel 12:13

How would you have felt if you were Nathan and you had to confront the king, who just murdered Uriah, about his sin?

What would it take for a man in David's position to stop covering up his sins and instead repent? What does it take for us to recognize our own failings and to humbly hear the rebuke of others?

We aren't called as Christians to go about randomly rebuking each other. It's not our own opinions we're asserting. What is our guideline for right behavior? Read 2 Timothy 3:14-17

Even though his actions led to the death of Uriah, David recognizes that this is a sin against God and God is the one who can forgive. Read Psalm 51 to see more of David's response.

Do you find it harder to ask for forgiveness, to forgive others, or to receive forgiveness? Why?

How can you apply this Scripture to your life?

