

Message Notes | The Life of David

Part 8: The Gift of Repentance

2 Samuel 12:1-14

→ What is your emotional reaction to the word *repent*?

#1 Repentance is a change in my heart about sin that leads to a change in my life.

→ What do you do when you sin is exposed?

#2 God loves you too much to leave you in your sin.

→ a parable about David - **vs. 1-12**

#3 You need a Nathan in your life

→ "Blind spots"

#4 Allow Nathans to speak into your life.

→ a beautiful confession - **vs. 13 and Psalm 51:1,7,17**

#5 Repentant people trust in God's unfailing love.

→ a foreshadowing of another son - **vs. 14**

Group Questions | The Life of David

Part 8: The Gift of Repentance

2 Samuel 12:1-14

1. What do you tend to do when your sin is exposed? Hide? Defend yourself? Minimize it? Excuse it or blame someone else? Confess it? Something else?
2. For what reasons is it so difficult to allow someone to speak honestly in your life? What role do pride, rationalization, comparison, or familiarity with sin play in creating blind spots?
3. God and Nathan confronted David out of *love* for his soul with the goal of bringing about healing. Why is it so important to confront someone about their sin? What might happen if confront someone from a posture of bitterness, anger, or moral superiority?
4. Who is a "Nathan" in your life? What qualities would make a trustworthy "Nathan" in your life?
5. David's repentance begins with acknowledging his sin, but it doesn't end with staring at his sin. **Read Psalm 51**, especially **verses 1, 7, and 17**. Where does David ultimately turn? What does that teach us about where repentance should lead us?
6. Repentance isn't finding your way back to God. It's more than just trying to be a better person. It's God lovingly coming after us. How does this change the way you understand or view repentance?
7. Where do you need to turn away from sin and turn toward God's unfailing love? (bonus points if you ask a "Nathan" in your life to help you with a blind spot).

Bible Reading

2 Samuel 12:1-14

The Lord sent Nathan to David. When he came to him, he said, "There were two men in a certain town, one rich and the other poor.² The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cattle, ³ but the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb he had bought. He raised it, and it grew up with him and his children. It shared his food, drank from his cup and even slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him."⁴ "Now a traveler came to the rich man, but the rich man refrained from taking one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare a meal for the traveler who had come to him. Instead, he took the ewe lamb that belonged to the poor man and prepared it for the one who had come to him."

⁵ David burned with anger against the man and said to Nathan, "As surely as the Lord lives, the man who did this must die! ⁶ He must pay for that lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and had no pity."

⁷ Then Nathan said to David, "You are the man! This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. ⁸ I gave your master's house to you, and your master's wives into your arms. I gave you all Israel and Judah. And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more.'⁹ Why did you despise the word of the Lord by doing what is evil in his eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. ¹⁰ Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.' ...

¹³ Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord." Nathan replied, "The Lord has taken away your sin. You are not going to die. ¹⁴ But because by doing this you have shown utter contempt for the Lord, the son born to you will die."