

## Bible Study – May 30, 2018

### “Taking A \_\_\_\_\_ For What’s Right”

#### UNSUNG: Major Lessons from ‘Minor’ People – Pt. 3

#### Character Study: The Prophet Nathan

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#### SCRIPTURE: **Samuel 7 & 12**

Nathan had the privilege of delivering the message about God's covenant with David and his descendants (2 Sam. 7), but now the prophet had to perform spiritual surgery and confront the king about his sins. David had been covering his sins for at least six months, and Bathsheba's baby was about to be born. It wasn't an easy task the Lord had given Nathan, but it's obvious that he prepared carefully for his encounter with the guilty king.

#### 2 Samuel 7 **Accepting God's Will**

In this chapter, the Lord revealed to Nathan and David what is usually called the Davidic Covenant.

**What the covenant meant to David (vv. 1-9).** During his years of exile, David had vowed to the Lord that he would build Him a temple (Ps. 132:1-5), and his bringing the Ark to Jerusalem was surely the first step toward fulfilling that vow. Now it troubled David that he was living in a comfortable stone house with cedar paneling while God's throne was in a tent, and he shared his burden with Nathan. This is the first appearance of Nathan in Scripture. When Nathan told David to do what was in his heart, he wasn't affirming that David's desires were actually God's will. Rather, he was encouraging the king to pursue his desires and see what the Lord wanted him to do. God answered by giving Nathan a special message for the king, and Nathan faithfully delivered it.

#### 2 Samuel 12 **Nathan Confront David About His Sins**

**The trial (vv. 1-6).** In telling a story about the crime of another, Nathan prepared David for dealing with his own sins, and it's possible that David thought Nathan was presenting him with an actual case from the local court. Nathan was catching David off guard and could study the king's response and better know what to do next. Since David had been a shepherd himself, he would pay close attention to a story about the theft of an innocent lamb; and as king, he was obligated to see that poor families were given justice. David passed judgment on the rich man without realizing he was passing judgment on himself.

**The verdict (vv. 7-9).** The prophet realized that though David was very angry, he was also unguarded and ready for the sword of the Spirit to pierce his heart (Heb. 4:12; Eph. 6:17). Without hesitation Nathan said, "You are the man!" (v. 7 NKJV) and proceeded to hold up the mirror that revealed how sinful the king really was. By coveting, committing adultery, bearing false witness, and killing, David had broken four of the Ten Commandments, *and he thought he could get away with it!*

**The sentence (vv. 10-12).** David's adultery with Bathsheba and having Uriah killed were premeditated crimes. The Lord judged both sins and David paid dearly for his lust and deceit.

**The pardon (vv. 13-14).** The condemned prisoner knew that the verdict was true and the sentence was just, so without any argument, he confessed: "I have sinned against the Lord" (v. 13). While God did forgive David's sins, God in His government had to permit David to experience the consequences of those sins, beginning with the death of Bathsheba's baby.

**Question for Discussion:** Have you ever had to take a stand for or against something that you believed in? Give some examples of the kinds of difficult stances we have to take in life.

**Question for Discussion:** What enabled you to take a difficult stand?

**What enabled Nathan to speak truth to power?**

The \_\_\_\_\_ of Nathan. Nathan means \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ language.

The \_\_\_\_\_ of Nathan. According to 2 Samuel, Nathan was a court prophet who delivered divine messages from God. If we are to take a stand for what's right, we need to be clear about our \_\_\_\_\_ from God.

The \_\_\_\_\_ of Nathan. He heard from the Lord. (cf. 2 Samuel 7:1-2)

The \_\_\_\_\_ of Nathan. Nathan was willing to speak truth to power whether it was popular or not. (cf. 2 Samuel 7 and 12)

(A) Nathan had the \_\_\_\_\_ to acknowledge when he may have been wrong.

(B) Nathan had the \_\_\_\_\_ to stand up in the face of those in power.

The \_\_\_\_\_ of Nathan.

Rather than accusing David of his sins explicitly, which may have caused David to get defensive, Nathan told a story which allowed David to see himself. We have to be wise in how we confront people about their error of their ways.

The \_\_\_\_\_ of Nathan.

Even after confronting David about his sins, Nathan was still able to provide a word of comfort to David. We should always be ready to comfort people with God's Word.

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