"NATHAN'S REBUKE"

2 Samuel 12:1-15

Nathan’s Parable and David’s Confession
12 Then the Lord sent Nathan to David. And he came to him, and said to him: “There were two men in one city, one rich and the other poor.

2 The rich man had exceedingly many flocks and herds.

3 But the poor man had nothing, except one little ewe lamb which he had bought and nourished; and it grew up together with him and with his children. It ate of his own food and drank from his own cup and lay in his bosom; and it was like a daughter to him.

4 And a traveler came to the rich man, who refused to take from his own flock and from his own herd to prepare one for the wayfaring man 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 So David’s anger was greatly aroused against the man, and he said to Nathan, “As the Lord lives, the man who has done this shall surely die!

6 And he shall restore fourfold for the lamb, because he did this thing and because he had no pity.”

7 Then Nathan said to David, “You are the man! Thus says the Lord God of Israel: ‘I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul.

8 I gave you your master’s house and your master’s wives into your keeping, and gave you the house of Israel and Judah. And if that had been too little, I also would have given you much more!

9 Why have you despised the commandment of the Lord, to do evil in His sight? You have killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword; you have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the people of Ammon.
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.’

11 Thus says the Lord: ‘Behold, I will raise up adversity against you from your own house; and I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun.

12 For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel, before the sun.’ ”

13 So David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the Lord.” And Nathan said to David, “The Lord also has put away your sin; you shall not die.

14 However, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme, the child also who is born to you shall surely die.”

15 Then Nathan departed to his house.

INTRODUCTION

1. Many are familiar with David's sin involving Bathsheba, resulting in adultery and murder

2. Though these were dark pages in David's record, they were preserved that lessons might be learned by those who followed after

1 Corinthians 10:11-12

11 All these things happened to them as examples, and were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.
3. There are lessons to be learned, not only from David's mistakes, but from the rebuke that Nathan gave to David because of his sin
4. Found in 2 Samuel 12:1-15, Nathan's rebuke will serve as the basis for our study today [Among the lessons that might be gleaned from "Nathan's Rebuke" is this one...]

I. WE ARE OFTEN BLIND TO OUR OWN FAULTS
A. IN THE CASE OF DAVID...
1. He could easily see the sin in the man of Nathan's story
2. But not in himself; it took a direct accusation ("You are the man!") by Nathan

B. IN OUR CASE, THIS IS OFTEN TRUE...
1. We can easily see the "mote" in another person's eye, but not the "beam" in our own
2. There are several reasons why this may be so a. We may let strong desires confuse the plain distinction between right and wrong
   A. Many have softened their views on divorce and remarriage when it hits their family. Therefore changing our convictions on a position when it hits close to home
   B. We may habitually flirt with evil, diminishing our sense of it as evil
   C. Accepting the world's definition of immodesty in regards to apparel
3. Therefore the standards of the world soon become our standards c. We may refuse to apply principles of scripture to the moral nature of our personal conduct
1) whether or not certain habits are consistent with the Christian life
2) Therefore behaving in a way more becoming a person of the world, than one who is a child of God!

C. BECAUSE WE ARE OFTEN BLIND TO OUR OWN FAULTS...
1. We need to be thankful for friends like Nathan
   a. Caring enough to bring our faults to our attention
   b. Courageous enough to challenge our conduct
2. We need to be like David
   a. Open to the constructive criticism of others
   b. Not so blind as to fail to see our faults when pointed out by others

   [Another valuable lesson from "Nathan's Rebuke" is that we learn...]

II. THE BEST WAY TO BRING ABOUT REPENTANCE A. APPEAL TO GOD'S LOVE...
1. Nathan reminded David of God's great kindness -
2. This appeal based upon God's love and mercy is found in the preaching of the gospel
   a. Paul made it in Romans 2:4
   Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God’s kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?
   b. In our own efforts to save or restore others, let's be sure make the same appeal to God's love!
B. REVEAL THE SIN...
1. Nathan was very clear in telling David what he did was wrong
2. In a similar way, the gospel makes it clear that all are sinners. Since people will not repent unless they realize they are sinners, it is necessary to help them see their sins (with the right attitude, of course)

C. WARN OF THE CONSEQUENCES...
1. Nathan spelled out what would happen because of David's sin
2. The gospel, while it contains "good news", is no different. As we seek to call others to repentance, we must in love and great solemnity point out the consequences of sin!

[As we continue our examination of "Nathan's Re却ke", we now see...]

III. THE PROPER ATTITUDE IN REPENTANCE
A. DAVID PROVIDES THE PROPER EXAMPLE...
1. He made it PERSONAL - "_I_ have sinned..."
   a. He didn't try to place the blame on Bathsheba or the circumstances
   b. He didn't try to spread the guilt to others (Joab's involvement in the death of Uriah) -- He accepted the full responsibility of his own sin!
2. He saw the true nature of his guilt: it was "...against the _LORD_"
a. It is true that he also sinned against Bathsheba, Uriah, his own wife, etc.
1) But true penitence comes from an understanding that sin is more just a violation of HUMAN relationships
2) It is an affront against the GOD who created us in His image!

b. Notice, then, what David wrote in Psalm 51:3-4 as he confesses his sin...?
1) "Against You, You only, have I sinned..."
2) With poetic hyperbole, he confesses his sin against God as well!

B. MUCH REPENTANCE TODAY FALLS SHORT IN THIS REGARD...
1. We often don't make our sins PERSONAL enough
   a. We may be quick to admit "We have sinned"
   b. But will we also be quick to admit "I have sinned"?

2. We often don't think of how our sins are AGAINST THE LORD
   a. Unless we do, our repentance is likely to be shallow
   b. I.e., our conduct will change just enough to satisfy the approval of man
   c. Someone who needs to repent for forsaking the assembly...

1) We often say they have "sinned against the church"; while true, they need to appreciate that in fact they have "sinned against the Lord"!
2) If we view ourselves as only having sinned against the church...
   a) we may only be concerned about being faithful in the eyes of the church
   b) Thus correcting only our conduct as the church sees us.

3) But if we view ourselves as having sinned against the Lord...
   a) We will be concerned with being faithful in His eyes
   b) Thus correcting any conduct visible only to the Lord!
   [Our next observation may be the most encouraging one gleaned from "Nathan's Rebuke"...]

IV. THE PARDON PROVIDED BY GOD
A. THE EXAMPLE OF DAVID'S FORGIVENESS...
1. His forgiveness was IMMEDIATE
   a. That is, when the proper conditions were met
   b. In his case, the confession of his sin

2. His forgiveness was COMPLETE
   a. Nathan said "The LORD also has put away your sin"
   b. The phrase "put away" is similar to other terms suggesting a complete forgiveness of sin: "covered", blotted out", "remembered no more"

B. GOD'S PARDON IS SIMILAR TODAY...
1. It is both IMMEDIATE and COMPLETE
2. But there are conditions that must be met
   a. For the non-Christian.

   **John 8:24**
   I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am he, you will indeed die in your sins.”

   **Acts 2:38**
   Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
   b. For the Christian.

   **1John 1:9**
   If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

   **Acts 8:22**
   Repent of this wickedness and pray to the Lord in the hope that he may forgive you for having such a thought in your heart.

3. Such wonderful pardon is made possible only through the blood of Christ!

   **Ephesians 1:7**
   In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace
   [Our final observation may be the most sobering one to contemplate...]
V. CONSEQUENCES OF SIN OFTEN FOLLOW DESPITE PARDON

A. DAVID LEARNED THIS FROM NATHAN...

1. Though he was forgiven of his sin, there would still be consequences of his sin

2. Nathan listed them in 2Samuel 12:10-12,14 all of which came to pass:
   a. The baby died
   b. David's daughter (Tamar) raped by her half-brother (Ammon)
   c. One son (Ammon) killed by another (Absalom)
   d. One son (Absalom) leads a conspiracy, takes over the kingdom, lays with his father's concubines, and is finally killed

B. THE SAME IS OFTEN TRUE TODAY...

1. An alcoholic may quit drinking and be forgiven, but still suffer the physical consequences of alcoholism

2. A parent may obey the gospel, but do so too late to have a positive effect on the spiritual development of the children

3. A young person may "sow their wild oats" before settling down and becoming a Christian...
a. While forgiven, they may still have to "reap what they have sown"
Like going to prison, be placed on probation, not be able to have a driver's license for a while, or have a tough time getting people to trust them again.

b. the rest of their lives being adversely affected by such things as:
1) An unexpected pregnancy (an early or unwanted marriage)
2) An unscriptural divorce (not free to remarry)
3) A moment of passion (suffering with incurable STDs)
4) Experimenting with drugs (irreversible brain damage) -- God's pardon is wonderful, but we must not forget the consequences of sin!

CONCLUSION
1. Such are the lessons we learn from "Nathan's Rebuke"...
a. We are often blind to our own faults
b. The best way to bring about repentance
c. The proper attitude in repentance
d. The pardon provided by God
e. Consequences of sin often follow despite pardon

2. As with much of the events recorded in the Scriptures...
a. There are lessons to help us in our own relationship with God
b. There are lessons to help us be of service to others regarding their relationship with God May we be wise enough to heed the counsel of "Nathan's Rebuke"!