

## FIRST THING:

- Welcome & Connect Card
- Please check out the QR code or [fathomchurch.org/info](https://fathomchurch.org/info)
  - for everything that's happening
- **SLIDE** BAPTISMS April 28. [fathomchurch.org/baptism](https://fathomchurch.org/baptism)

## INTRODUCTION **SAMUEL SLIDE**

Hey, if you have your Bibles, and I hope you do,

- please grab them and turn to 2 Samuel chapter 12.
- I'd encourage you towards a paper Bible if possible...
- You can use one of the hard-backed black bibles
  - under every single chair.
  - You'll find 2 Samuel 12 on page **263**.

## INTRODUCTION: RECAP

Last week was a rough one. David and Bathsheba.

And today we come to chapter 12.

- It's been about a year since David DIDN'T go to war,
  - which is where he should've been.
- And in his lazy state...
  - he is tempted...
  - when he sees a very beautiful woman...
  - from his rooftop.
- And even though his servant warns him that she's off limits.
  - He TOOK her,
  - and LAY with her,
  - and got her PREGNANT.

- Then he tried desperately to cover up the sin...
  - by coercing Uriah, her husband, to sleep with her,
    - so that they would think the baby came from him,
  - but to no effect.
- So, David has Uriah,
  - one of his best friends,
    - killed in battle along with many other soldiers.

And now it's been about a year.

- We know that because David and Bathsheba's son is now born,
  - and in the ancient Hebrew culture,
    - for a male child...
    - the gestation period...
    - was right about 9-months.
  - Those are the kind of facts you pay me to know!

But if you remember how we ended last week?

David thinks he's gotten away with it.

- Uriah's dead.
- David marries Bathsheba,
  - becoming her redeemer,
- and looking like the hero...
- who takes care of the wife of a fallen soldier.

But chapter 11 ended with these words:

**But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD.**

## TRANSITION

And today, the reckoning happens.

I'm calling today's sermon **SLIDE CONFRONTED**

All of us have that moment when we're CONFRONTED with our sin...

- and we have to decide what to do.
  - Do you minimize it?
  - Do you whitewash it?
  - Do you blame shift to others?

### EVERYBODY SINS.

- But it's what you do in response to being CONFRONTED...
- that makes all the difference.

So, let's go. 2 Samuel 12 starting in verse 1:

### 2 SAMUEL 12:1

[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.

### EXPLAIN: NATHAN

Now, the LORD sends Nathan to David.

- And who is Nathan?
  - He's a prophet.

Now, when the Lord sends a prophet...

- to speak words of justice to a sinner...
- we expect thunderous CONDEMNATION!
  - *"Liar!"*
  - *Murderer!*
  - *What have you done?"*

That's what the Prophet Samuel said to King Saul in 1 Samuel.

*What have you done?*

But Nathan is sent in a much shrewder manner.

Nathan comes to David with a case.

- Now, in Israel there is no separation of powers.
  - There's no executive branch and judicial branch.
- That means, there are no courts or jury.
- The King functioned as Israel's judge.
  - So, if there was a legal dispute,
  - God's King would leverage God's Law
  - and execute justice.

We'll see this in David's son, Solomon,

- when two women bring a child to him and argue whose it is.
  - And Solomon tells them to cut the baby in half
  - and each can take half.
    - You remember that story?
- Well, this is the same idea.

Nathan is coming to the King to judge a case.

So, there were two men in a certain city, the one rich and the other poor.

Verse 2:

## **2 SAMUEL 12:2-3**

[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.

## EXPLAIN

Nathan lays it out:

- The rich man had a bunch of sheep...
- but the poor man had only one little lamb.
  - One little sheep that this poor man loved like a pet.
    - He fed it from his table.
    - He let it drink from his own cup.
    - He probably made it wear clothes.
      - Some of you have dogs like that.
      - Some of you have cats like that...
        - there's grace for us all!

But notice the verbs he uses:

- the lamb would *eat*,
- and *drink*,
- and *lie* with the man.

The exact same things David...

- was trying to get Uriah to do with Bathsheba...
- last chapter to cover up his sin.

Nathan's trying to line things up...

Verse 4:

### 2 SAMUEL 12:4

[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."

Now, this is especially heinous...

- because the rich man had plenty of sheep,
- to compare with the poor man's one sheep.

Hey, do you remember how many wives David had?

- 7...
- Bathsheba would be his 8th.
  - Plus, he had a harem of concubines.

So, Nathan is laying it on pretty thick.

- But as Nathan is telling this story,
- David gets enraged,
- and he interrupts Nathan.

Verse 5:

## 2 SAMUEL 12:5-6

[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."

### EXPLAIN: JUDGMENT

David doesn't even let Nathan finish before he pronounces judgment. And one of the pieces of judgment he says fits exactly with the Mosaic Law.

Exodus 22:1 says this:

### SLIDE EXODUS 22:1

[1] "If a man steals an ox or a sheep, and kills it or sells it, he shall repay five oxen for an ox, and four sheep for a sheep."

So, a fourfold restitution was part of the law...

- David deals justly with that part of the ruling.

But it's the other part of his ruling that is so very telling.

The text says that David is burning with anger, and says,

- "As the LORD lives,
- the man who has done this deserves to die."

## POINT 1: CONDEMNATION

David issues what we expect God to give David...

a judgment of **SLIDE CONDEMNATION**

- He condemns the man...
- he's unfit to live!

And if you think about it, that's incredibly excessive.

- There's nothing in the Bible...
- that says that lamb-stealing...
- is a capital offense...
  - even in a situation as cruel as this one!

This is an excessive ruling.

- But David's burning up!
- He wants the man killed! Why?

Hebrew scholar, Robert Alter, who I quoted last week, says this:

*"Nathan may be counting on the obverse side of a guilty conscience. Namely, the anxious desire to do the right thing."*

That's fascinating!

- When you're guilty...
- it makes you unusually upright...
- in other areas of your life.

Oh, don't you see what's happening here?

David is compensating!

- His inordinate anger against lamb-stealing...
- is actually the subconscious eruption of his own guilt.
  - He knows that he's done something wrong...
  - and now he compensates with a flair of anger and justice.

But he's set himself up...for Nathan's famous response.

Verse 7:

## 2 SAMUEL 12:7a

[7] Nathan said to David, "You are the man!"

And there it is.

- You are the man.
  - The person...
  - whom you have just condemned...
  - as deserving capital punishment...
  - is none other than you!

And then Nathan conveys the Lord's message to David.

## 2 SAMUEL 12:7b-8

Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel,

- 'I anointed you king over Israel,
  - [I gave you position]
- and I delivered you out of the hand of Saul.
  - [I gave you protection]



- [8] And I gave you your master's house
  - [I gave you possession]
- and your master's wives into your arms
  - [I gave you prestige]
- and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah
  - [I gave you power].
- And if this were too little, I would add to you as much more.

I gave...and I gave...and I gave.

Church: our CORRUPTION begins where our CONTENTMENT ends.

- God gave David EVERYTHING!
- But it wasn't enough...

One of our greatest weapons against temptation...is gratitude.

- David had become entitled...
  - and that's where temptation...
  - found a foothold in his life.

Verse 9:

## 2 SAMUEL 12:9

[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.

And now, God issues a verdict against David. Verse 10:

## 2 SAMUEL 12:10-12

[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 evil against you out of 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 and before the sun.'"

### EXPLAIN: DEATH

The fourfold pronouncement of judgment...

- that David made against the rich man...
- would be enacted in David's life.

He will have four sons die.

- The child in Bathsheba's womb will die.
- His son Amnon, who raped his half-sister Tamar,
  - will be killed by his other son, Absalom.
- Absalom will be killed by Joab,
  - the commander of David's army.
- And another of David's sons, Adonijah,
  - would be killed at Solomon's orders.

David was never thinking about all of that,

when he's on his rooftop and he sees a very beautiful woman.

- We never do...
- We never count the cost of our sin...
- We never play the scenario out to its logical conclusion.

They're just seeds, remember?

## EXPLAIN: RESPONSE

And David's eyes are opened!

- *"He's talking about me.*
- *I was that rich man who had everything...*
- *and I took Uriah's wife and killed Uriah."*

Now, when this happened, David had a choice.

- Will he finally come clean?
- Will he confess and repent?
- What will he do now that he's CONFRONTED?

I mean, he doesn't HAVE TO confess...

- He could keep playing the game he was playing,
  - and put a hit out on Nathan or something.
- He could've gotten defensive,
  - *"You don't know what kind of stress I'm carrying...*
  - *as king of this nation!"*
- He could deflect the blame to Bathsheba,
  - *"She shouldn't have been naked...*
  - *in plain sight on the roof."*

He could've DEFENDED, DEFLECTED, & DENIED.

But look at his response in verse 13:

### 2 SAMUEL 12:13

[13] 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.

## EXPLAIN

In response to being CONFRONTED in his sin...

- David REPENTED...
- AND...God FORGAVE him.

Now, some people don't like this verse at all.

- It doesn't seem fair...
- for God to simply forgive David.

Which is actually a fascinating double standard!

- Most people's criticism of God in the Old Testament...
  - is that he's TOO judgmental and harsh.
- But we don't like THIS...
  - because God's not harsh ENOUGH.

David is an adulterer.

David is a liar.

David is a murderer...a mass murderer, in fact.

- What's more: DAVID IS THE KING!
  - He's supposed to protect his people...
  - from stuff like this happening!
- David deserves the death penalty!
  - He deserves the same CONDEMNATION...
  - that he pronounced on the rich man from Nathan's story.

But God says, *"You shall not die."*

## POINT 2: CONVICTION

And it reveals a principle you need to know:

God always goes for **SLIDE CONVICTION** rather than CONDEMNATION.

The reason why we hate this verse is because IT'S NOT FAIR.

- God gives David mercy...
- he forgives him.
  - And we don't like that...
  - until WE need it ourselves.

We want everyone else to get what they deserve...but not us!

Now, the verb that's used in verse 13, the Lord has "put away" your sin.

- Is actually, more literally translated as:
  - the Lord has "passed over" your sin.
- It's the same Hebrew verb that's used in Exodus 12:23...
  - when God promised to pass over...
  - the houses of the Israelites...
  - with blood on the doorframe.

So, this isn't God saying,

- *"Oh dude, don't worry about your sin."*
- *It's no big deal.*
- *Your sin didn't matter!"*

No! In the Passover...we see a foreshadowing of a lamb killed to save!

- It wasn't that your sins WEREN'T being punished,
- or WEREN'T a big deal,
- or DIDN'T matter.

No, they were being put away!

- They were, in fact, being put on someone else.
  - In that case, a spotless lamb.

He's showing David that someone WOULD die for his sins.

It just wouldn't be him.

This is why Paul says this in 2 Corinthians 5:21

## SLIDE 2 CORINTHIANS 5:21

[21] For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

So, the assurance given to David is,

- *“Your sin WILL be paid for...*
- *just not by you!”*

Hey, I need you to hear me...

- all sin will be paid for.
  - It will either be paid for BY YOU...
  - or it will be paid for BY JESUS on the cross.
- Those are the only two options.

So, in response to his **SLIDE CONVICTION**, David repents...

- *I have sinned against the Lord.*

And God forgives...

- *I have passed over your sin.*
- *I've put it on someone else.*
- *You will not die.*

Nevertheless...verse 14:

## 2 SAMUEL 12:14

[14] Nevertheless, because by this deed you have utterly scorned the LORD, the child who is born to you shall die.”

## EXPLAIN: PUNISHMENT

Now, this has OFTEN confused people.

- This child who will die...IS NOT punishment for David's sin.
- God is NOT seeking retribution for David's sin here.
  - You're like, *"well, then this is a wild coincidence!*
  - *Because David just got busted.*
  - *And God's message to him was*
    - *'the sword will never depart from your house'.*
  - *And now his newborn son is gonna die.*
  - *That sounds a lot like RETRIBUTION to me, Pastor."*

But, we have to remember verse 13.

- God has just "passed over" David's sin.

What does that mean?

- It means that God no longer holds David's sin against him.
- He's not going to remember that sin.
- He's not going to exact any retribution from David for that sin,
  - because it's been put on someone else,
    - and to exact punishment twice for the same sin,
    - would be unjust.

Additionally, the transition word from verse 13 to 14 is **nevertheless**.

- It's not the word **AND**.
- It's not a punishment.
  - *"David, the Lord has put away your sin...*
  - *AND your son is gonna die."*
- No, it's,
  - *"I'm passing over your sin...*
  - *nevertheless...the child shall die."*

## POINT 2: CONSEQUENCES

So, note the movement of this passage.

- David expects CONDEMNATION.
- God brings CONVICTION.
- But there are still **SLIDE CONSEQUENCES**

There are differences between PUNISHMENTS and CONSEQUENCES.

And this, my friends, is the difficult pattern of the Bible.

God says,

- *"You're loved.*
- *You're accepted.*
- *You're forgiven.*
  - *AND...there are still consequences for sin."*

**We think that after forgiveness is granted...consequences should cease.**

But all the consequences previously pronounced will still happen.

- Yes, David is forgiven.
- BUT...there will still be CONSEQUENCES.

## APPLICATION

**There are CONSEQUENCES from God...**

**BUT...they are ALWAYS about God trying to refine us.**

- David has been forgiven...
  - he's been pardoned...
- but he hasn't changed yet.

And God will allow for these consequences...

- to continue in his life to refine...
- and change him.



I want to quote Eugene Peterson on this passage:

*“Up to this point, for chapter after chapter, we’ve seen David use everyone. Bathsheba is an object. Uriah is an obstruction. Joab is a tool. David is not a server of people, he’s a user of people. But from this moment, the rest of his life changes.”*

Consequences are about God trying to change us...not to punish us.

#### **POINT 4: CHANGE**

And that’s my last point.

- CONDEMNATION actually becomes CONVICTION.
- And CONSEQUENCES actually lead to **SLIDE CHANGE**

David is changed.

- Instead of the David who is the wielder of power,
  - sending and using people for his bidding,
- we now have a vulnerable David,
  - and this is how he’ll primarily appear for the rest of his life.

He won’t be using people anymore.

- It was tough...
  - gosh, it was so costly for him to learn this lesson.

But in the end, he changed. You’ll see it in the rest of this book.

#### **TRANSITION**

So, pretty much the rest of the chapter...

- is the account of the death of David’s son.
- And for sake of time, I’m gonna have to skip that...
- But let’s look at verses 24-25...
  - Right after his infant son died.

## 2 SAMUEL 12:24-25

[24] Then David comforted his wife, Bathsheba, and went in to her and lay with her, and she bore a son, and he called his name Solomon. And the LORD loved him [25] and sent a message by Nathan the prophet. So he called his name Jedidiah, because of the LORD.

### EXPLAIN

This is only the second time Bathsheba is named in these chapters.

- And we see that they have another child,
  - Solomon,
- through whom the line of David would continue...
- and ultimately Jesus the Christ.

And note the words, *“And the Lord loved him.”*

The most horrific event of David’s life...ends with hope.

### CONCLUSION: **BLANK SLIDE W/PADS**

And that’s really all the time we have for 2 Samuel this Spring.

- We’ll finish the book next Spring.

But for now, let’s end like this:

- these last two sermons have been difficult.
  - They’ve been hard to preach,
  - and probably hard to hear.

But I want to leave you with one final charge.

If we see anything in this story,

- it’s that you can CONFESS your sin...
- or you can be EXPOSED.
  - But no one gets away with anything.

And if you're not in Christ,

- gosh, I'm sorry, but you will find CONDEMNATION for your sin.

Romans 8:1 says

- [1] There is therefore now no condemnation...
- for those who are in Christ Jesus.

But there is CONDEMNATION for those NOT in Christ.

- So, let me just plead with you...
- Believe in Christ!

Your sin WILL be paid for.

- It'll either be paid for by you...
- or Jesus will pay it all!

So, believe on Christ, today!

But if you ARE in Christ, here's what you need to take from this text:

- if today, you hear the whispers of CONDEMNATION,
  - those are not from the Father.

CONDEMNATION comes from the enemy, not from God.

- But God will bring CONVICTION.
  - It's God's kindness that leads us to repentance.

So,

- if you hear words of CONDEMNATION today,
  - they are not from God...
- but if you feel pangs of CONVICTION...
  - those are good gifts from God...
  - through his Spirit to the believer,
  - beckoning us to repent...
  - and CHANGE the direction of our lives.

## ENDING

So, I'll read what was read over us before the sermon.

### **SLIDE** JOHN 3:16–17

[16] “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. [17] For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

CONFESS...

REPENT...

be CHANGED today, my friends.

Let's pray.

## RESPONSES:

Well, every week at Fathom we respond in 4 ways:

- COMMUNION – THE LORD’S SUPPER
- GIVING TITHES & OFFERINGS – [fathomchurch.org/give](http://fathomchurch.org/give)
- PRAYER - [fathomchurch.org/prayer](http://fathomchurch.org/prayer)
- SINGING

So, I’m going to read the Words of Institution from the Apostle Paul, we’ll take communion, and then we’ll sing:

### 1 CORINTHIANS 11:23–26 – WORDS OF INSTITUTION

[23] For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, [24] and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” **TAKE**

[25] In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” **TAKE**

[26] For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

Love you church, let’s stand and sing together.

## RESOURCES CONSULTED:

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