

I. Introduction and review.

II. The LORD pursues wayward David. v. 1a

A. The LORD takes action.

1. In the previous chapter David seemed to be in control – *sending*. 11:1,3,4,6,14,27
2. Now the LORD finally takes action and sends someone. Deut. 17:15,20
3. Why does God wait so long? Ps. 32:3-4

B. The LORD's action was necessary.

1. David would not have sought God on his own.
2. How do we hide from God? Gen. 3:8 Jonah 1

C. The LORD's action is comforting – pursuing grace. Pr. 3:11-12 Heb. 12:5-11

1. Though real believers may fall into sin, the LORD will not let them remain in sin. Isa. 49:14-16 Mt. 18:12-14 Hosea
2. Because our eternal security depends upon God and not us, a true believer cannot lose his or her salvation. John 10:27-29 Rom. 8:29-30 I Pe. 1:3-5
3. God's work of preserving us includes not merely our eternal security, but also our perseverance in following Him. John 10:27 I Jo. 2:3-4 Eph. 2:10
4. The LORD's process of disciplinary restoration may be hard and unpleasant. Jonah 1:4ff Ps. 119:67,71 He. 12:11,8
5. It is possible for a person who professes to be a believer to have never been truly converted. Mt. 7:21-23 I Jo. 2:3-4 Heb. 12:8

D. The LORD sends Nathan to confront David.

1. Nathan is given a dangerous and difficult assignment. Pr. 20:2 Mt. 14:3-10
2. The fact that a prophet could speak this way to a ruler is a reminder that the LORD is the true king of Israel.

E. The LORD still uses human messengers to confront and restore His wayward people.

1. Shepherds (Pastors/Elders) have a special duty to seek out wandering sheep. I Pe. 5:1-5 Acts 20:28 Ps. 23
2. God calls upon each of us to do what Nathan did in confronting sin. Gal. 6:1 Matthew 18:15-20 Heb. 10:24 Rom. 15:14 James 5:20 Pr. 27:5-6 Lev. 19:17
3. We have to overcome our own reluctance and fear. Pr. 29:25
4. Not every sinner responds as well as David ultimately does. Pr. 9:7-8a 15:12
5. Do you welcome rebuke and admonition? Pr. 9:8b-9 17:10
6. We all need people who love us enough to confront us when we are in sin. Pr. 27:6

III. The LORD, through Nathan, exposes David's sin. v. 1b-6

A. Nathan uses a parable to reach David. v. 1b-4

1. How does he come up with such a great story? II Pe. 1:21
2. Why is this story especially appropriate for David? 5:2 I Sam. 16:11 Ezek. 34:23
3. The parable is wonderfully crafted. 12:8-9 16:21 Pr. 6:30ff
4. Such parables are used elsewhere in the Scripture. 14:1-20 Jdg. 9:6ff Isa. 5:1ff I Ki. 20:35ff Ezek. 17:2-10 Mt. 13:3
5. Does David realize that this is merely a story?

B. David reacts in judgmental anger. v. 5-6

1. Even though David's conscience has been hardened, he still has a strong sense of right and wrong. Ex. 22:1 Luke 19:8
 2. Those who are caught up in sin still function as moral agents – at least when it comes to others. Mt. 7:1ff
 3. David unknowingly pronounces sentence upon himself.
 4. This is a reminder of how we can be blinded and deceived by our sin. Heb. 3:13
- C. How can we be wise and creative (like Nathan) in confronting one another?
1. We must keep in mind that most people don't like to be confronted.
 2. Before you go, pray and prepare. Pr. 25:11-12 Mt. 7:1ff
 3. Be sure you have proof.
 4. It is often much better to help the guilty party form his or her own conclusion.
 5. Approach one another gently: your goal is not to crush, but to bring to healing repentance. Gal. 6:1 Pr. 15:1,4
 6. The sharpest sword you have is God's Word. Heb. 4:12 Eph. 6:17

IV. The LORD through Nathan condemns David's sin – You are the man! v. 7-12

- A. Nathan follows the typical prophetic pattern of a covenant lawsuit.
1. Recalling God's faithfulness to the covenant. v. 7-8
 2. Exposing the covenant breaker's unfaithfulness. v. 9
 3. Setting forth the sanctions for disobedience. v. 10-12
- B. I (the LORD) have greatly blessed you -- position, protection, and prosperity. v. 7b-8
- C. You (David) have broken the covenant through your adultery and murder. v. 9, 14a
1. You have despised the Word of the LORD. v. 9 Ps. 51:4
 2. You have given the LORD's enemies cause to blaspheme. v. 14
- D. You and your family will suffer the consequences of your sin. v. 10-12,14b
1. The punishment fits the crime: murder and adultery in David's house. Ex. 21:24 II Sam 12:18 13:8ff 18:14-15 I Ki. 2:24
 2. David's sin has a national and a covenantal dimension.
- E. Application: We need to take our sin seriously.
1. Ingratitude is at the root of our sin.
 2. When we sin we are guilty of despising God Himself. Ps. 51:4
 3. It is only when we understand the wickedness of our sin that we can fully appreciate the greatness of God's grace. Mark 2:17

V. Concluding applications.

Discussion questions:

1. Have you ever been condemned by the words of your mouth?
2. Whose responsibility is it to confront sin in the church?
3. What is the role of family members in confronting each other with sin?
4. How receptive are you to correction?
Do you have any Nathans in your life?
5. How can you follow Nathan's example when you have to correct others?
6. Why do many people lack the courage to confront sin in others?
7. Why do people need to understand God's law and their sin before they can appreciate the gospel?
8. How does this text point to Christ?