

**A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART**  
**A study in I and II Samuel and the Psalms of David**  
AMEN Bible Study 2014-2015

**David and Nathan: The Power of Repentance**

II Samuel 12:1-25

March 5, 2015

12:1a **I. Grace pursues sinners**

*<sup>1</sup>And the LORD sent Nathan to David.*

:1b-6 **II. Grace convicts sinners**

*He came to him and said to him, "There were two men in a certain city, the one rich and the other poor.<sup>2</sup> The rich man had very many flocks and herds,<sup>3</sup> 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.<sup>4</sup> 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."<sup>5</sup> 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,<sup>6</sup> and he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity."<sup>7</sup> Nathan said to David, "You are the man! Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you out of the hand of Saul.<sup>8</sup> And I gave you your master's house and your master's wives into your arms and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah. And if this were too little, I would add to you as much more.<sup>9</sup> 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.*

:10-12 **III. Grace disciplines sinners**

*<sup>10</sup>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.'<sup>11</sup> 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<sup>12</sup> For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel and before the sun.'*

:13a **IV. Grace turns sinners**

*<sup>30</sup>David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD."*

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**Psalm 51: Experiencing true repentance**

vv.1, 2 **A. Ask God for help**

*<sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.<sup>2</sup> Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!*

vv.3-6 **B. Make a sincere confession**

**"I did it."**

*<sup>3</sup>For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.*

**“I offended God.”**

<sup>4</sup> *Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.*

**“That’s just like me.”**

<sup>5</sup> *Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.*

**“I have no excuse.”**

<sup>6</sup> *Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.*

vv.7-12

### **C. Seek full restoration**

**\* complete cleansing**

<sup>7</sup> *Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.*

**\*abundant gladness**

<sup>8</sup> *Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice.*

<sup>9</sup> *Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.*

**\* spiritual renewal**

<sup>10</sup> *Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.*

**\* restored intimacy**

<sup>11</sup> *Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.*

<sup>12</sup> *Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.*

vv.13-19

### **D. Reengage God’s mission**

**\* witness with zeal**

<sup>13</sup> *Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.*

**\* worship with brokenness**

<sup>14</sup> *Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.* <sup>15</sup> *O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.*

<sup>16</sup> *For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.* <sup>17</sup> *The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.*

**\* work with vision**

<sup>18</sup> *Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; build up the walls of Jerusalem;* <sup>19</sup> *then will you delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on your altar.*

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Westminster Shorter Catechism, Question 87: What is repentance unto life?

Repentance unto life is a saving grace, whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin, and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ, doth, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God, with full purpose of, and endeavor after, new obedience.

:13b-25 **V. Grace saves sinners**

:13b **A. We do not receive the death we deserve**

*And Nathan said to David, “The Lord also has put away your sin; you shall not die.”*

:14-23

**B. We submit humbly to God's Providence**

*<sup>14</sup> Nevertheless, because by this deed you have utterly scorned the LORD, the child who is born to you shall die. <sup>15</sup> Then Nathan went to his house. And the LORD afflicted the child that Uriah's wife bore to David, and he became sick. <sup>16</sup> David therefore sought God on behalf of the child. And David fasted and went in and lay all night on the ground. <sup>17</sup> And the elders of his house stood beside him, to raise him from the ground, but he would not, nor did he eat food with them. <sup>18</sup> On the seventh day the child died. And the servants of David were afraid to tell him that the child was dead, for they said, "Behold, while the child was yet alive, we spoke to him, and he did not listen to us. How then can we say to him the child is dead? He may do himself some harm." <sup>19</sup> But when David saw that his servants were whispering together, David understood that the child was dead. And David said to his servants, "Is the child dead?" They said, "He is dead." <sup>20</sup> Then David arose from the earth and washed and anointed himself and changed his clothes. And he went into the house of the LORD and worshiped. He then went to his own house. And when he asked, they set food before him, and he ate. <sup>21</sup> Then his servants said to him, "What is this thing that you have done? You fasted and wept for the child while he was alive; but when the child died, you arose and ate food." <sup>22</sup> He said, "While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept, for I said, 'Who knows whether the LORD will be gracious to me, that the child may live?' <sup>23</sup> But now he is dead. Why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he will not return to me."*

:24-25

**C. We serve others graciously**

*<sup>24</sup> 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 <sup>25</sup> and sent a message by Nathan the prophet. So he called his name Jedidiah, because of the LORD.*