Singapore Bible College Jong Rodriguez

14-April-2020 Message 1 of 2

ESV 15 Minutes

**God’s Deal on Repentance**

***2 Samuel 12***

# Introduction

### Interest: Charles Spurgeon once asked a young maid "How do you know you are saved?" The young maid replied, "I now sweep under the mats." Funny it may seem but the truth behind rings in Christians nowadays.

### Need: Others can see us but only the superficial. Deep down in our hearts lies inner intents and thoughts invisible to the human eye but not with God. He sees us. He knows us. He knows even the deepest secrets. We are going to address the issue of repentance.

#### Do you have unresolved issues with God? My question is: if you have sins unknown to others, why are you still keeping them.

#### Are you hiding sins to look good in the sight of others?

#### Why are you so afraid to confess to God and repent? Is it because you will lose your job? You might lose your reputation? God will kill you? Not really.

### Subject: How does God respond to you when you agree with his view of your sin? That’s the question we are going to answer today.

### Background: [David sinned the greatest sin of adultery with Bathsheba and murder of Uriah.]

#### The story we are going to look at today is the story between David and Nathan the prophet of God. David, as we know, was a man after God’s own heart. He was indeed a successful man of God.

#### His life portrayed faithfulness to God. We know the story of David and Goliath in 1 Samuel 17 where he showed courage to face against the giant. David as a young shepherd boy slew the uncircumcised Philistine. David showed a life of obedience and forgiveness. We see him as a wanderer after being sought by Saul his king who was so angry at him yet David remained faithful to the Lord.

#### He has written psalms of thanksgiving that even amid calamity and fear, he trusted in God's provision and comfort. David wrote the most quoted psalm in history, Psalm 23. David's lineage was chosen by God to be an ancestor of his son Jesus. What an amazing man. Yet David was far from perfect. He was human as we are. The story we are going to look for today is part of David's lowest point of life. This is where he did the greatest sin of adultery with Bathsheba and murder of Uriah.

### Preview: The passage we are going to look today will give us three ways God deals a repentant sinner. May I invite you to open your Bibles to 2 Samuel 12?

#### We see in verse 1 the conjunction word “and”, in other translations “then”. Chapter 12 is a continuation of chapter 11. These two chapters are the record of David’s lowest point of life. They form a chiastic structure. The beginning of chapter 11 is parallel to the end of chapter 12 where they set the context of war. The nation Israel was in a battle against the Ammonites.

#### Then the structure is followed by David lying with Bathsheba and the birth of two children, one as a result of sin, and one from his repentance. Then follows the death of Uriah and the death of David's child. Then follows the sending of the report of Israel's defeat parallel with God sending a message of David’s defeat.

#### So what’s the center point of the structure? We find it in the final verse of chapter 11. It says “But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord.” We see in chapter 11 David’s action and chapter 12 opens a new passage of God’s action. Chapter 11 is David’s covering of sins and chapter 12 is God revealing his sins.

### Text: 2 Samuel 12 is part of David's success where he learned repentance. God forgave him but how does God respond to you when you agree with his view of your sin the way God responded to David?

(No one is perfect. Everyone sins but God’s desire for his children is for us to offer our lives for his glory so every sin we make is a signal that we need God’s pruning. How does God respond to you when you agree with his view of your sin? First…)

# I. God will reveal your sins (1-12).

## God will reveal through a message (1-4).

### In verse 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. 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. 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.”

### God revealed David’s sin through a message, through a parable. This is a clever way of revealing sin because Nathan is about to show him the gravity of David's sin.

### This parable took David completely off guard not knowing he will pronounce judgment on himself. David, hearing the story, got angry and said: “As the Lord lives, the man who has done this deserves to die and he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity.” Interestingly, David’s judgment on the rich man was quite unbiblical because their law states that 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 (Ex 22:1).

### Yet David elevated the punishment. He wanted death. On the other hand, he was caught off guard for indeed anyone who was caught in adultery and or murder deserved to be stoned to death. But God was so merciful to him. And he is the same God we serve today, whenever we do sin, he has his special way of delivering a message to reveal our sinfulness. He is faithful and just so he sends a messenger to correct crooked ways.

## He will reveal through a messenger (5-12).

### In verse 7, Nathan said to David, “You are the man!” God sent Nathan to David to expose what was hidden. David saw himself clearly that nothing can be hidden from God. In chapter 11, we see that he was doing the best he could to conceal his sins from the eyes of the people but not from God. Nathan followed by saying “because you have despised the Lord” in verse 10. God is in his throne, he that protects them from the enemies is the same God that watches over his people. He never sleeps nor slumbers.

### In verse 12 "For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel and before the sun." Terrifying it may seem but that’s how God responds, he will reveal your sins in a special way.

## Illustration: Apostle Paul was once a murderer.

### Illus. In the New Testament, Apostle Paul, whom we know as the great missionary to the Gentiles, was once a murderer but Jesus revealed to him his sins on Damascus road. God showed him the true way of freedom and redemption, though it was a painful process but was liberating.

### God reveals our sins because that’s the key to unshackle us from the bondage of sin.

(Now, we are going to look at the second way God responds when we repent. He won’t kill the sinner instead. . .)

# II. He will discipline (13-23).

 [God’s discipline is a painful process.]

## He will make you realize your sin (13-17).

### David failed at this moment of life but that doesn't mean he was a failure. He is still the man after God's own heart. For what reason? He acknowledged his transgression. He said in verse 13 "I have sinned against the Lord." Humility is the key here. This is also a challenge for all of us. Do we take that courage to admit our sins to God?

### David here openly embraced his weakness. That's what we need to do. God forgave David and cleansed his sins. In his reflection, David said in Psalm 32:1 “Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.” However, essential to his success is the purging of God. God let him through the process to feel the gravity of sin and the damage it costs.

## He will give consequences for sin (18-23).

### Verse 14 reads “Nevertheless, because by this deed you have utterly scorned the Lord, the child who is born to you shall die.” This is Nathan speaking to David. God will let David suffer the death of Uriah by the death of his child. What were the consequences of David’s sins?

### First, we see in verse 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.” It happened to David after this event. Amnon was killed. Absalom was murdered. His other son, Adonijah, was killed. Then we see in verse 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.”

### After this event, David’s house was torn because of the wives and that led to the departure of Absalom from the kingdom. And in this immediate context is the most painful consequence – the death of his child. We can see in verse 15-23 the mourning of David because the Lord afflicted the child. He fasted and laid on the ground for days. He could not even stand nor eat. But when he got the news from the elders and confirmed that the child is dead, David rose because he knew that God had just given him what he deserved for him to learn. Sin is expensive. No one can afford the cost of sin but when we do sin, the gracious God is there to help us rise from the pit of sin.

## [Illustration: The process of refining gold.]

### We are like gold. We go through a process. Before it becomes a pure and precious material, one must break the stones where it resides. Then follows the removal of dross. Then the refiner will further purify it by putting it into a furnace. And the process continues until it becomes pure and one can see the reflection of himself. God is our refiner. We are impure and he lets us experience those disciplines so that others may see the reflection of God in our lives.

### It was necessary for God to discipline David because he was the king of Israel, the sovereign people of God. They were to be an example to the surrounding cities. What would be their integrity to proclaim the Lord God if God didn't discipline David? And what would be the reputation of God to those people? God wants to use us so he continues to refine and purify us when we do sin.

(Now, we are going to look on the third way God responds when we repent. The third way God responds to you when you agree with his view of your sin is…)

**III. He will bless you (24-31).**

 [God blesses those who humbly come to him.]

## He will restore what had been lost (24-25).

### Because David repented of his sins, God blessed him. God honored him by giving him another child. This child was called Jedidiah meaning beloved of the Lord.

### This child is Solomon became the wisest king on earth and the successor of his father king David. We see that David lost his child but God is powerful to raise another one provided he must humble himself.

## He will give victory and direction (26-31).

### Another blessing God brought to David was the victory over the enemy. His army was defeated by the Ammonites but in the latter verses (26-31) Joab sent messengers to David to report their victory. Verse 27 and 28 read “I have fought against Rabbah; moreover, I have taken the city of waters. 28 Now then gather the rest of the people together and encamp against the city and take it, lest I take the city and it be called by my name.” This is Joab’s message to David. So David gathered all the people together and went to Rabbah and fought against it and took it. In verse 30, David had taken the crown thus declaring victory. They conquered all the cities of Ammonites and in the last verse (v. 31), they all returned to Jerusalem.

### God never left David and his kingdom despite his great sins. Instead, God turned his sins into a blessing by refining him, though a painful process, by restoring what had lost and by giving victory over the enemy. God can turn a mess into a message.

## [Illustration: A 24-year prisoner in the Philippines is now a missionary.]

### Five years ago, there was a missionary, whose name is Alejandro Joaquin, who visited our church asking for support. He testified to us that he was a murderer before so he was penalized to serve 24 years in prison. He shared with us his testimony of freedom. He shared about a pastor who visits their cell weekly and conducts Bible studies. According to him, this pastor was persistent and courageous in sharing the gospel. He was skeptical for a couple of years but later on, he turned to Christ. Thus, his Christian journey began by attending the Bible study. Later on, he received a copy of the New Testament and he started to read and study it. His spiritual life grew and through him, others living with him also came to know Christ. He was enjoying his Christian life yet unknown to him was the big blow of life. He was living joyfully but two years before his release in jail, his wife got killed. He cried for justice but was helpless. All he could do was to mourn over the death. After his release, he testified that God prepared him for those uncertainties of life. He could have killed again or he could have killed himself but because of Christ, he received peace. I was stuck when he said, "If God didn't lock me inside the cell, I could have never enjoyed his gift of freedom.” Now he is a missionary to the squatter areas in Metro Manila and God has been using him powerfully.

### These kinds of stories are endless. There were lots of people that were transformed by God for his glory. The bible recounts stories of redemption. Stories of Abraham, Jacob, Elijah, Hosea and many more in the Old Testament. In the New Testament were the twelve disciples, Apostle Paul, and Onesimus.

(We now know how God respond to a repentant sinner. Basically the text tells us this. . .)

# Conclusion

### God can turn a mess into a message (MI).

### God is love so he wants us corrected. God is merciful so he wants us justified. He cleans us and molds us to a person he wants us to be (MI restated).

### Exhortation: We all are sinners but that will not stop God in using us if we surrender to him. So what should we do?

#### Confess you sin to God today.

##### We have imperfections and that’s for sure but trust God that he can turn a mess into a message. Just like this story of David, he is the man after God’s own heart because he surrendered to God. God is also patient to him. It took a year or so before God revealed his sins. So if we have hidden sins today, my challenge is for you to surrender to God.

##### Why are you so afraid? Nothing is hidden from him. He will surely reveal them. Surrender to God so you may experience the life of freedom through his disciplinary action. Yes, it’s painful but it’s worth it, it’s liberating. Why are you so afraid? God will bless by restoring what you had lost and will give you victory and direction. God can turn a mess into a message.

##### This is my challenge to all of us today. Examine yourself today. Are you hiding any sins? If so, tell it to the Lord right now, he waits patiently for you.

#### Tell your struggles to your accountability partner so that he/she may help and pray for you.

#### Thank God today that despite of your sins, you are still alive today. So he has a purpose in you.

### Surrender to him because God can turn a mess into a message (applied MI).

# Study Questions (Step 1)

# Context: What did the author record just prior to this passage?

### There was a battle between the Israelites and Ammonites at Rabbah but David didn’t lead his soldiers instead he sent Joab the commander and all the soldiers while he remained in Jerusalem.

### David committed sin by impregnating Bathsheba, the wife of his good soldier Uriah.

### David concealed his sin by putting Uriah at the frontline of the battle thus ended the poor man’s life.

### The Israelites had not yet won the battle against the Ammonites.

# Purpose: Why is this passage in the Bible?

### To trace the kingship of David in Israel and the historical figure that Israelites conquered the land of Ammonites.

### To show the genealogy of the next king Solomon by the wife of a Hittite man.

### To show God’s loving kindness to Israel and to David himself despite of his treachery.

# Background: What historical context helps us understand this passage?

### The previous chapters are records of David’s favor of God and of people. The people praise him for his compassion to sick, needy, and the poor. He was living righteously before God but then during the war against the Ammonites, David stayed home and there he sinned the greatest sin of adultery with the wife of his soldier. Because of his desperation to conceal his sin, he covered it by murdering Uriah, the wife of Bathsheba.

### This passage is critical to the coming of Messiah for he will be in the lineage of David. It was fulfilled by Jesus Christ written in the gospels (Matt 1 and Luke 3).

# Questions

### 1. Who was Nathan?

Nathan was a prophet, the spokesman of God at the royal court and a worthy successor to Samuel.[[1]](#footnote-1)

### 2. It seems that the parable has nothing to do with David’s adultery and murder. Why Nathan did tell it?

What this case demonstrates is that adultery and murder were only the end results of a more serious crime: abuse of power. David is formally indicted by the divine tribunal (God speaking through the prophet) not only for taking another man’s wife but for believing that he could take whatever he wanted and being dissatisfied with what God had given him.[[2]](#footnote-2)

### 3. What is the implication of David’s fasting?

The act of fasting is designed as a process leading to purification and humbling oneself before God.[[3]](#footnote-3)

### 4. What is the meaning of Jedidiah?

 It means beloved of Jehovah.[[4]](#footnote-4)

### 5. What is the evil that would be raised up in the house of David?

The disaster announced is clearly the rebellion of Absalom—as the reference to public cohabitation with David's wives makes clear—and the rape of Tamar and the murder of Amnon that lead up to it. But further "evil" from the house of David will persist to his deathbed, as Absalom's rebellion is followed by Adonijah's usurpation.[[5]](#footnote-5)

### 6. What is the significance of the seventh day?

Seven days were the customary period of mourning. In this instance, David enacts a regimen of mourning, in an effort to placate God, before the fact of death.[[6]](#footnote-6)

### 7. What is the “royal city” v.26?

This verse refers to a citadel, while the next refers to the water supply. It is generally assumed that the water supply for ancient Rabbah was the powerful spring by the city.[[7]](#footnote-7)

# Tentative Subject/Complement Statements

Text

# Possible Illustrations

### Text

# Possible Applications

### Text

# Older Outlines of This Sermon Text or Outlines by Others (Books, Commentaries, etc.)

### Text

**God’s Deal on Repentance**

***2 Samuel 12***

**Exegetical Outline (Steps 2-3)**

# Exegetical Idea (CPT): The response of God to David’s repentance was discipline through the death of his child, and blessing by giving another child and victory over the enemy.

# I. The means by which God revealed David’s sins of adultery with Bathsheba and murder of Uriah was through a parable from the prophet Nathan (1-12).

## The means by which God revealed David’s sin was through a parable (1-4).

## The means by which God revealed David’s sin was through the prophet of God named Nathan (5-12).

# II. The response of David to his sin was repentance (13-17).

# III. The response of God to David’s repentance was discipline through the death of his child, and blessing by giving another child and by giving victory over the enemy (18-31).

## The response of God to David’s repentance was discipline through the death of his child (18-23).

## The response of God to David’s repentance was blessing by giving another child and by giving victory over the enemy (24-31).

### The response of God to David’s repentance was blessing by giving another child (24-25).

### The response of God to David’s repentance was blessing by giving victory over the enemy (26-31).

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**Purpose or Desired Listener Response (Step 4)**

The listeners will ask for God’s cleansing.

**Sermon Outline** (Cyclical inductive form)—Steps 5-6

# Introduction

### Interest: Charles Spurgeon once asked a young maid “How do you know you are saved?” The young maid replied “I now sweep under the mats.”

### Need:

#### Do you have unresolved issues with God?

#### Are you hiding sins to look good in the sight of others?

#### Why are you afraid of confessing your sins?

### Subject: How does God respond to you when you agree with his view of your sin?

### Background: David sinned the greatest sin of adultery with Bathsheba and murder of Uriah.

### Preview: The passage we are going to look today will give us three ways God deals a repentant sinner.

### Text: 2 Samuel 12

(No one is perfect. Everyone sins but God’s desire for his children is for us to offer our lives for his glory so every sin we make is a signal that we need God’s pruning.)

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## Illustration: Apostle Paul was once a murderer.

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(We now know how God respond to a repentant sinner. Basically the text tells us this. . .)

# Conclusion

###  God can turn a mess into a message. (MI).

### Exhortation/Application

We all are sinners but that will not stop God in using us if we surrender to him.

a. Confess you sin to God today.

b. Tell your struggles to your accountability partner so that he/she may help and pray for you.

c. Thank God today that despite of your sins, you are still alive today. So he has a purpose in you.

1. Gordon J. Wenham, J. Alec Motyer, D.A. Carson, and R. T. France, *New Bible Commentary* (Illinois: InterVarsity, 1994), 376. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. John H. Walton, Victor H. Matthews, and Mark W. Chaval, *The IVP Bible Background Commentary* (Illinois: InterVarsity, 2000), 339. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. *The IVP Bible Background Commentary*, 339. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. W. E. Vine, *Vine’s Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words* (New Jersey: Revell, 1981), 35. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Robert Alter, *The David Story* (New York: W. W. Norton, 1999), 299. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. *The David Story*, 300. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. *The IVP Bible Background Commentary*, 339. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)