

“THOU ART THE MAN”

Nathan Confronts David

Text: II Samuel 12:1-25

God’s chosen prophet speaks truth to God’s chosen king. The chickens come home to roost. Dr. Lewis Sperry Chaffer said, “Secret sin on earth is open scandal in Heaven.” But this becomes open scandal on earth as well.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, “Silence in the face of evil is itself evil: God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is evil. Not to act is to act.”

I. THE MESSAGE TO THE SHEPHERD

II Samuel 12:1-6

It should be pointed out that the Lord sent Nathan unto David. David never forgot his shepherding instincts; he was evermore the shepherd-king. God knows who we are, and He knows how to get our attention. Not only did the shepherd neglect his calling, he, like the wayward lamb, wandered far, far away. Isaiah 53:6a: “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way....”

- A. God in His wisdom makes a contrast. “...One rich, and the other poor....” “...Many flocks and herds.... One little ewe lamb...” (II Samuel 12:1, 2).
- B. God in His wisdom makes a comparison. “...It did eat of his own meat, and drank of his own cup, and lay in his bosom...(II Samuel 12:3b). “...Shall I then go into mine house, to eat and to drink, and to lie with my wife?” (II Samuel 11:11b).
- C. David unaware pronounces judgment of death and pay-back fourfold. “...The man that hath done this thing shall surely die: And he shall restore the lamb fourfold...” (II Samuel 12:5b, 6a).

II. THE MESSAGE TO THE KING

II Samuel 12:7-12

Nathan delivers the message:

- A. Identification: “...Thou art the man” (II Samuel 12:7b). F. W. Krummacher, in his book on David, commented on Nathan’s address to David, “If ever a word from human lips fell with crushing weight, and with the illuminating power of a gleam of lightening, it was this, when Nathan said, ‘You are the man.’” Hebrew: “Athah iysh.” You are the man about whom we are talking. It’s not a parable after all. It’s a true story of you, David.
- B. Denunciation: II Samuel 12:7, 8: God declares, in essence, “I called and anointed you. I delivered you. I gave to you and I was willing to give you more. I made you who you are today.”
- C. Degradation: II Samuel 12:9: God tells David through Nathan, “Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the Lord...” (II Samuel 12:9a). Psalm 50:17: “Seeing thou hatest instruction, and castest my words behind thee.” In other words, God is telling David, you have thrown my words to the wind. Although you killed Uriah by proxy, the sword was virtually in your hand. You have added disgrace to your murder by using the enemy to do your dirty work. You stole another man’s wife. Uriah was one of your mighty men, honorable and patriotic. He was laying his life down for the kingdom and his king.
- D. Adjudication: II Samuel 12:10-12: Here God informs David that the sword will

never leave his house. I will bring to your house what you inflicted on Uriah's. What you did in secret, I will allow to happen to you in public.

III. THE MESSAGE TO THE PENITENT

II Samuel 12:13-14

A. The Confession

II Samuel 12:13: "And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die."

B. The Offence

II Samuel 12:13a: "And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the Lord..." Psalm 51:1-4.

C. The Guilt

Psalm 32:1-5

D. The Consequences

II Samuel 12:14: We can choose the path we take in life, but we cannot choose the consequences.

IV. THE MESSAGE TO THE PARENT

II Samuel 12:15-23

II Samuel 12:23: "But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me."

A. God is too good to be unkind; too wise to make a mistake.

Psalm 119:68a: "Thou art good, and doest good...."

Nahum 1:7: "The LORD is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him."

The Lord is never arbitrary in His dealings with humankind. Although part of the discipline in David's life included the taking of the little one. God had heavenly plans for the little one. We see that illustrated in the death of Jeroboam's child. The prophet said to Jeroboam's wife in I Kings 14:12, 13: "Arise thou therefore, get thee to thine own house: and when thy feet enter into the city, the child shall die. And all Israel shall mourn for him, and bury him: for he only of Jeroboam shall come to the grave, because in him there is found some good thing toward the Lord God of Israel in the house of Jeroboam." We observe that God had something very special for that little one in his heavenly home.

B. Little ones who are not accountable will be in heaven.

Deuteronomy 1:39: "And as for your little ones, who you said would become a prey, and your children, who today have no knowledge of good or evil, they shall go in there. And to them I will give it, and they shall possess it."

Romans 7:9: "For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died."

Isaiah 7:15, 16

V. THE MESSAGE TO THE FORGIVEN

II SAMUEL 12:24, 25

"And David comforted Bathsheba his wife, and went in unto her, and lay with her:

and she bare a son, and he called his name Solomon: and the Lord loved him. And he sent by the hand of Nathan the prophet; and he called his name Jedidiah, because of the Lord.”

The name Solomon is from the Hebrew word, *Shalom*, which means “peace.” Solomon’s reign was one of peace.

Something precious takes place soon after the birth of Solomon; the Lord sends a message through Nathan that God will personally know Solomon as Jedidiah, which means “Beloved of the Lord.”

The presence of Solomon on the earth was a testament that God wasn’t through with David or his house. The greatest days for Israel were yet to come. Solomons’ birth is a reminder that after chaos comes peace. John 14:27: “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”

And we are reminded that God loves us and still has plans for us. Matthew 12:20: “A bruised reed shall he not break, and smoking flax shall he not quench, till he send forth judgment unto victory.”

CONCLUSION:

Compare these two Bible verses:

II Samuel 12:7a: “And Nathan said to David, Thou art the man....”

John 19:5: “Then came Jesus forth, wearing the crown of thorns, and the purple robe. And Pilate saith unto them, Behold the man!”

Christ became “that man” for David, for me and for you. Therefore let us “...Behold the Man....” Hebrews 12:2: “Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith....” Isaiah 45:22: “Look unto Me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.”

John Owen, a great Puritan English theologian, said that he often preached forgiveness without really knowing what it meant in his heart, until a certain conversation that he had. And then, God brought to his attention Psalm 130:4: “There is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared.”

-Pastor Pope-