

“9 Months of Selah!”

I. INTRO:

- A. **Sun morning Prayer:** now mtg upstairs in our library.
- B. **This Tues Night:** Men/sons, if you are planning on going, thinking about going, to Mammoth June 23-26 on the *Father-Son Outdoor Adventure*. Please join us Tues night 7pm in the upper room. I want to share my heart on the changes this year & why I think its important ministry.
- C. **This Wed Night:** Please come out & meet David Eubank, from the FBR’s.
 - 1. A former US Army Ranger himself. Founded & directs the FBR’s.
 - 2. This is whom I met & worked with back in November hiking into Burma.
 - 3. He is a man who is truly is a warrior, a servant, humble, a terrific storyteller.
 - 4. He will be speaking & updating us on whats happening in war zones of Burma.
- D. **Memorial Day:** We’d like to commemorate & honor those **having served**, or are **presently serving**, in one of our branches of the armed forces.
 - 1. Please stand. **Pray for:**
 - a) We 1st acknowledge those who have **given their lives** for our freedom, esp for their families. We are thankful for our brave & courageous men & women who serve.
- E. **Outline:** David’s **Trial**(1-6); **Verdict**(7-9); **Pardon**(10-15).
 - 1. As we focus again on David’s terrible sins, that led to terrible consequences, we must remember the big picture of this 50 year old king.
 - a) David was a **great man**, who served a **great nation**, who loved a **great God**.
 - b) **62 chapters** of the **OT** are devoted to his biography.
 - c) **59 references** in the **NT** call our attention to this man...after his fall & restoration.
 - (1) These far exceed any biblical character!
 - 2. But here was that time in David’s life where when the **red light** went on, on his dashboard, saying, **“Take notice! There’s trouble under the hood!”**
 - a) Instead of pulling over & checking under the hood; he just reached into the glove box, pulled out a hammer, & knocked out that pestering **red light** on the dash!
 - b) But ignore the problem long enough & be guaranteed *your internal motor* IS heating up!

II. 9 MONTHS OF SELAH!

- A. **TRIAL!** (1-6)
- B. For about a year David **hid** his sin & **suffered** under the chastening hand of God.

1. Not only **adultery**, but *hypocrisy, deception, murder, & a cowardly cover-up*.
2. What was evil 3000 years ago is evil today!
3. **Chastening** proves God's loves us; **Our yielding** proves our love to Him!

C. Have you ever **held onto sin** for a time?

1. David did, then later writes a song about its **internal torture**.
 - a) *Lest you think* his life that year was enjoyable, sippin lemonade on his patio, taking long walks on the beach w/his new young bride, free of guilt!
 - b) No way, it was **sleepless nights, tossing & turning**. (he had no joy Ps.51:12)
2. **See Ps 32:1-5**(esp.3,4) Augustine fav Ps. Inscribed it on wall next to bed b4 died to meditate on it better.
 - a) (3) God cannot & will not ignore sin...thus he brings pressure upon us! (Phys & Emot)
 - (1) **Example: Like a festering sore, it needs either *pressure* or a *lancing*.**
 - (a) God will lovingly **apply pressure** till you pop & get the gunk out!
 - b) (4) **High Fever?** Or maybe the analogy of a **sponge**. **Hand of pressure on it, then dried out**
 - c) (5) God's forgiveness is **so quick** that it looks like he didn't even have time to verbalize the words, **I will confess, not, I did** confess.
3. **David found himself in a straightjacket of *guilt* - his *conscience*.**
 - a) Greek Philosopher **Polybius** once said, **There is no witness so dreadful, no accuser so terrible as *the conscience* that dwells in the heart of every man.**
 - b) **David conscience did not leave him alone; but he did not return to God till the Good Shepherd *sought* His wandering sheep.**

D. Let's note a couple of important things:

1. **1st**, Nathan didn't burst in shouting accusations at the king. **God wanted him *restored*, not shot down!**
 - a) **God doesn't *settle His accounts* at the end of the month or, for that matter, each year. But He does settle!**
2. **2nd**, don't miss the specifics of **confrontation & repentance** so we can keep sin from shattering the spirits of others & ourselves.

E. Why did Nathan's story work?

1. We are all more proficient at **judging others** than ourselves!
2. **Beware:** the sentence you pass on others will be passed on you.
 - a) Mt.7:1,2 **Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.**

F. **VERDICT!** (7-9)G. (7-9) The **application** was as bold as the **parable** was skillful.

1. He guided the king to condemn his own sinful actions.
2. **The prophet had to perform spiritual surgery.** It wasn't an easy task, but it's obvious that he prepared carefully for his encounter.
 - a) Prov.27:6 **Faithful are the wounds of a friend.** [Lit.in Heb] *Trustworthy are the bruises caused by the wounding of one who loves you.*
3. **As a former shepherd,** David would pay close attention to a story about the theft of an **innocent lamb**;
As a king, he was obligated to see that *poor families* were **given justice.**
4. Compare **eat, drink, lay** (vs.3) to Uriah's speech in 11:11 (**eat, drink, lie**).
5. (4) But Nathan finally got a reaction when he mentioned the rich man **stealing & killing** the lamb, w/that David became unglued. (**see took & prepared**)
6. **Uriah** was the **poor man**, **Bathsheba** was the **little ewe lamb** he had stolen.
7. The **traveler** whom the rich man fed represents the **temptation & lust** that visited David on the roof **& then controlled him.**
 - a) If we **open the door**, **sin** comes in as a **guest**; **but** soon becomes our **master!**
 - b) Gen.4:7 NLT **But if you refuse to do what is right, then watch out! Sin is crouching at the door, eager to control you. But you must subdue it and be its master.**

H. (7) Then quickly, Nathan unsheathed the *sharp-edged words of truth* & with one quick thrust, Nathan said simply *four 3-letter words*, **You are the man!**

1. **David stuck his whole head in the noose.** All Nathan had to do was give it a pull. And that is exactly what he did in 4 words, **You are the man!**
2. **Although pained by Nathan's lancing words,** David must have felt a gush of relief. **Finally,** the **festering sins** were in the open.
3. Such relief when the blister is lanced. *Infection leaves.* Healing follows.

I. **PARDON!** (10-15)J. (10-12) Since God's **mercies** were so conspicuous, his **sin** was more aggravated, thus the **chastisement/consequence** so serious.

K. (13,14) His confession was brief, but truly sincere. (It's amplified in Ps.51)

1. His words very few...**but** that's a good sign of a broken spirit. **Where there is no excuse, no rationalizing, no blameshifting, no calling the sin something else, no disguising its seriousness, no searching for a loophole, no human weakness pleaded.**
2. He came to himself, **& instantly forgiven & restored.**

3. **Note:** there is no gap, no interval between 13a & 13b; between the broken sob & the divine response.
 4. “Many,” says Augustine, “are disposed to **fall** like David; but not, like David, to **rise again**. The fall of David has been recorded, that those who have not fallen may be kept from falling, & that those who have fallen may rise again.”
- L. (13b) **Grace, Grace, Grace!** - **The law** said both David & Bathsheba should die.
1. Lev.20:10 **The man who commits adultery with another man’s wife, he who commits adultery with his neighbor’s wife, the adulterer and the adulteress, shall surely be put to death.**
 2. **But in His grace**, God forgave their sins;
But in His government, He permitted them to reap what they had sown.
 3. 1Jn. 1:9 is a great promise, **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** But, its not an excuse for sin.
 - a) **Remember**, there are **sad consequences** of *forgiven sin!*
- M. (14) The **sword of violence** he had used against Uriah, would now pierce his own family.
- N. **David paid 4-fold for his sins:** (from vs.6 & from Ex.22:1) **So, the baby died, & his sons Absalom & Amnon & Adonijah were killed.**
- O. (15) **Nathan’s mission is complete.** End of confrontation. Nathan turns around, walks to the door, opens it, steps through, closes it - & David is left alone. (maybe when he wrote Ps.51?)

P. APPLICATION:

Q. **4 principles** to remember from **Nathan**:¹

1. **Base the charges on absolute truth!**
 - a) Take time to get all the facts before you point your finger.
2. **Wait for God’s timing!** [would you ever counsel someone to wait 9-12 months to confront?]
 - a) **See the first words...Then the Lord sent Nathan to David.**
 - b) Confronting a person too early, while emotions are turbulent, can do more harm than good. Wait for God’s go ahead.
 - c) Prov.25:11 **Timely advice is lovely, like golden apples in a silver basket.**
3. **Use wise wording!**
 - a) Nathan didn’t accuse David right away; he softened his heart w/a word picture.
 - b) Plan your words carefully before you talk with them.

¹ Charles Swindoll David, pg.140

4. Go with courage!

a) No one like to be confronted. *We always run the risk of straining a relationship or even losing a friend.* But the risk is well worth the reward when the person is restored. *Prov.27:6 Faithful are the wounds of a friend.*

R. *This is such a beautiful story* to learn about God's forgiveness, of someone 3000 yrs ago, someone I don't know. *But* now apply "*The Lord has also put away your sin*" to that person who has violated **your families** trust. Or, to someone who has cheated on **a friend** of yours. *Not so easy...changes the whole story!*