

We meet King David after a “come to Jesus” talk with the prophet Nathan. David has sinned. He committed adultery with Bathsheba, and in an effort to conceal his sin, David sent Bathsheba’s husband Uriah to front line of battle to assure his death (2 Samuel 11). Bathsheba became pregnant as a result of the affair. David deceived others by marrying Bathsheba, and then he claimed a premature delivery. God then sent Nathan to set the king straight. Sounds like a soap opera, doesn’t it?

It Is Good To Have A Nathan

I would hope that David would have eventually repented of his sin. Thankfully, God expedited the process by sending Nathan, and Nathan did not sugar-coat the message. David had been blinded by his sin. He had fallen so deep into the abyss of sin that he was unable to see truth. What a sobering moment this must have been for David!

Our “Nathans” boldly stand with us amidst the darkness of our sin to shine the light of God’s truth. They help us face the reality of our sin and walk with us to find a place of repentance. But it is possible that our Nathan will not be a friend or even someone we know.

Read Galatians 6:1a.

What is the role of a Nathan?

Think of time God sent a Nathan directly to you. Write the initials of this person, and then pause to pray for them.

The Reality Of Our Sin

Nathan’s hard words shook David to the core. As his offenses came to light, so did the reality of the one he had offended. David had seduced Bathsheba into the sin of adultery. He had murdered Uriah. His sin *involved* two other people, but ultimately, his sin was against God.

As fallen humans, our propensity is to not take sin seriously, especially if we don’t see direct harm or consequences of our sin. Such an approach to sin numbs us to the reality of our sin. We fail to experience the heartache or express genuine sorrow associated with repentance. David’s numbness is tangible when He says, “*Against, you, you only, have I sinned and done evil in your sight.*”

Read Proverbs 28:10.

What is the consequence of concealing sin? What is the result of confessing sin?

In Psalm 51, what verses indicate David was no longer numb to his sin?

Dare to Ask

There is such freedom in repentance. As we read David's words, we can feel refreshment arrive as remorse departs. We can experience the same renewal when we dare to ask God to specifically reveal our sin. Our heartache is healed, and our brokenness is mended as we give Him permission to search our hearts.

If you don't know where to start, here is a great Dare-to-Ask Prayer:

Search me oh Lord, and investigate my life, O God. Find out everything about me. Cross-examine and test me. Get a clear picture of what I'm about. See for yourself whether I've done anything wrong—then guide me on the road to eternal life.

(Psalm 139:22-24-The Message)

How do you feel about asking God to be specific in revealing your sin?

The Joy Robber

Let's face it. Sin is fun. If it weren't, we would not sin. There is a rush as well as a temporary joy that accompanies rebellion. The idea of throwing caution to the wind and doing what we want to do regardless of the consequences seems like a good idea in the moment. But eventually, the weight of sin subdues the momentary pleasures. Pausing under its weight, we realize that the real joy we once knew is stolen from us each time we surrender to sin. David is feeling weight!

What does David ask God to restore?

I love that we serve a God who will not only forgive our sin but also restores the joy we are so willing to trade for the temporary pleasure of sin.

The Power Of Restored Joy

Read Psalm 51:13

What does David say he will do when his joy is restored?

The beauty of a new heart, restored salvation, and willing spirit will be contagious. As we live in the fullness of Christ, we His splendor (Is.60:3) and become a light to the lost world. And others will yearn for our light. Let's dare to ask God the hard questions about our sin. God will use what we hear to bring freedom to our life, and then He will use our life to bring others that same freedom.