

Discussion Guide -- “Repentance”

Week of July 22, 2018

Read 2 Samuel 12:1-23; Psalm 51

- Nathan had a tough job: confront the king’s sin. Nathan was wise and didn’t do it in a “head on” fashion. There’s a good lesson here: head-on confrontation is not always the best approach. Be wise in how you approach people.
- Why was David so angry (2 Sam. 12:5-6)? Do you suppose his emotional response helped him to see his own sin in a different light and actually realize the gravity of what he had done?
- David repented of his sin (2 Sam. 12:13a). He later wrote Psalm 51 as his prayer of confession. As you think about the story of David’s sin in 2 Sam. Ch. 11-12, what aspect of the prayer in Psalm 51 stands out the most to you?
- Even though David’s sin was terrible, God was willing to forgive David (2 Sam. 12:13b). In fact, as soon as David confessed his sin, Nathan said “the Lord has forgiven you.” Instantly! David didn’t have to do anything to pay penance or atone for his sin. Does this surprise you?
- We have all messed up. We have all sinned. The story of David’s sin, confession, repentance and forgiveness is a message of hope to all of us. If God was willing to forgive David, He is willing to forgive us as well.
- As we read further in 2 Samuel 12 we find a dark side to this story. Even though David was forgiven, there were still certain consequences for his sins. While we might not understand why God allowed all of these consequences, the story does give a sharp warning: even when God forgives us, there may still be terrible consequences for bad choices. So, be careful! Be wise!