

HEART OF DAVID

Drawing Strength from God 9:

Repenting after Hearing God's Heart – David and Bathsheba

2 Samuel 12:1-14 The LORD sent Nathan [the prophet] to [King] David. When he came to him, he said, “There were two men in a certain town, one rich and the other poor. ² The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cattle, ³ but the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb he had bought. He raised it, and it grew up with him and his children. It shared his food, drank from his cup and even slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him.

⁴ “Now a traveler came to the rich man, but the rich man refrained from taking one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare a meal for the traveler who had come to him. Instead, he took the ewe lamb that belonged to the poor man and prepared it for the one who had come to him.”

⁵ David burned with anger against the man and said to Nathan, “As surely as the LORD lives, the man who did this must die! ⁶ He must pay for that lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and had no pity.”

⁷ Then Nathan said to David, “You are the man! This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. ⁸ I gave your master’s house to you, and your master’s wives into your arms. I gave you all Israel and Judah. And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more. ⁹ Why did you despise the word of the LORD by doing what is evil in his eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. ¹⁰ Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.’

¹¹ “This is what the LORD says: ‘Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity on you. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will sleep with your wives in broad daylight. ¹² You did it in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel.’”

¹³ Then David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the LORD.”

Nathan replied, “The LORD has taken away your sin. You are not going to die. ¹⁴ But because by doing this you have shown utter contempt for the LORD, the son born to you will die.”

Our concern for what other people think of us makes it terribly difficult to admit it when we do wrong.

David went to the extreme of murdering someone to hide his sin.

David did not confess his sin until he was caught red handed.

Usually, we blame shift, make excuses (which we think of as explanations or justifications), and lie (distort the truth or play word games) rather than take full responsibility.

Genesis 3:12 [Adam] said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

Genesis 3:13 Then the Lord God said to [Eve], “What is this you have done?”
The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

Exodus 32:21-24 [Moses] said to Aaron, “What did these people do to you, that you led them into such great sin?”

²² “Do not be angry, my lord,” Aaron answered. “You know how prone these people are to evil. ²³ They said to me, ‘Make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don’t know what has happened to him.’ ²⁴ So I told them, ‘Whoever has any gold jewelry, take it off.’ Then they gave me the gold, and I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf!”

Exodus 32:4a [Aaron] took [the gold earrings the people] handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool.

1 Samuel 15:19-21 [The prophet Samuel asked King Saul,] “Why did you not obey the Lord? Why did you pounce on the plunder and do evil in the eyes of the Lord?”

²⁰ “But I did obey the Lord,” Saul said. “I went on the mission the Lord assigned me. I completely destroyed the Amalekites and brought back Agag their king. ²¹ The soldiers took sheep and cattle from the plunder, the best of what was devoted to God, in order to sacrifice them to the Lord your God at Gilgal.”

Maybe we don’t want to let others see our brokenness, or perhaps we are reluctant to admit to ourselves how broken we are.

David owned his sin and repented without blame shifting, making excuses, or lying.

David took full responsibility.

To experience true repentance, we need to understand the offensiveness of our offense rather than just come up with a formula for apologizing.

David’s first crime was against mankind, and God shared an illustration to help him understand his offense.

David had a second great offense, and it was against God.

When we sin, we can find life and restoration through heart-felt repentance.

If we can understand how our sin affects other people and God, it will help us experience healing and a deeper relationship with God.