

Sunday Sept. 16, 2007.

LEARNING TO OVERCOME FEAR: THE CASE OF NATHAN AND DAVID

Text: 2 Samuel 12: 14.

Introduction:

We have identified four important lessons from the video we have just watched and the case that best captures the lessons and how they were applied is the one we have just read.

Lessons

1. Nathan must have been greatly distressed when the Lord revealed to him what David did. The way the crime and sin were committed was craftily done and incisively uncovered. But it is very difficult to cover our sins from the all-knowing God. When Nathan got to know about this sin, he must have had compassion on the King. He must have wondered: why did he do such a thing. After all, he had access to every young woman that pleased him. But that is the nature of sin and the nature of man in his depraved state. I can also suggest that he prayed about the situation and pleaded that God should forgive David and give him the heart to return to the Lord in repentance. This brings out the heart of compassion on the part of Nathan.

2. Nathan was very close to David. That was a weakness rather than strength. If you are in doubt, how can you explain not been able to share the gospel with our family members and our friends. However, Nathan after praying allowed the weakness of his closeness to the king to become his strength. Through that closeness, he was able to speak to two things that would touch David and would make him surrender to the Lord in repentance:

- (a) David's nature as a Shepherd. David had that background and that was something he could not easily overlook. His passion for the sheep manifested in his Psalms 23: 1.
 - (b) David's passion for justice. David's passion for equity was also used here. This was a trend that ran through his life and conduct. See Ps. 7: 8.
 - (c) Nathan also used the opportunity of speaking to the king to reach out to him by providing a case that required the intervention of the king. David easily fell into the trap. That required a lot of wisdom and prudence in the use of facts and message that Nathan had at his disposal. When he had reached David's conscience, he did not fail to deliver the message of the Lord (Vs. 7-12).
 - (d) Nathan's approach was not argumentative or confrontational. He utilized the opportunity to use facts. Facts and not arguments are what we need to use. Arguments will only engender needless debate that would not lead to repentance or at the very least the acknowledgment of guilt. See also the case of the Samaritan woman in John Chapter 4. Jesus left the place of argument but used facts to elicit the godly sorrow that can lead to repentance.
3. Through the chilling story of the wicked man who killed the ewe lamb of the poor man, Nathan was able to reach to the conscience of David and it worked immensely and produced godly repentance from David who had already been convicted of his sin through the way Nathan reached out to him.

Conclusion: As we seek to obey the Lord in the area of evangelism, let us pray to the Lord to grant us the wisdom and the power of the Holy Spirit in order to lead the sinners back to the Lord.