

GAME OF THRONES

THE REIGN OF DAVID

A Word of Judgment, A Word of Forgiveness

Key idea:

God sends David a word of judgment and forgiveness, detailing the consequences for his sin, but also assuring Him of God's love and covenant mercy that will prevail in the end.

Key text:

2 Samuel 12:1-25

The LORD sent Nathan to 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 deserves to 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 the house of 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 upon you. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will lie 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 made the enemies of the LORD show utter contempt, the son born to you will die."¹⁵ After Nathan had gone home, the LORD struck the child that Uriah's wife had borne to David, and he became ill.¹⁶ David pleaded with God for the child. He fasted and went into his house and spent the nights lying on the ground.¹⁷ The

elders of his household stood beside him to get him up from the ground, but he refused, and he would not eat any food with them. ¹⁸On the seventh day the child died. David's servants were afraid to tell him that the child was dead, for they thought, "While the child was still living, we spoke to David but he would not listen to us. How can we tell him the child is dead? He may do something desperate." ¹⁹David noticed that his servants were whispering among themselves and he realized the child was dead. "Is the child dead?" he asked. "Yes," they replied, "he is dead." ²⁰Then David got up from the ground. After he had washed, put on lotions and changed his clothes, he went into the house of the LORD and worshiped. Then he went to his own house, and at his request they served him food, and he ate. ²¹His servants asked him, "Why are you acting this way? While the child was alive, you fasted and wept, but now that the child is dead, you get up and eat!" ²²He answered, "While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept. I thought, 'Who knows? The LORD may be gracious to me and let the child live.' ²³But now that he is dead, why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I will go to him, but he will not return to me." ²⁴Then David comforted his wife Bathsheba, and he went to her and lay with her. She gave birth to a son, and they named him Solomon. The LORD loved him; ²⁵and because the LORD loved him, he sent word through Nathan the prophet to name him Jedidiah.

Key points:

1. After it appeared that David had sinned with no consequences, the Lord sends Nathan the prophet to David.
2. David responds to Nathan's parable with indignation, anger, and judgment at the rich man who abused power and privilege, declaring the man deserved to be put to death and would have to pay severely for his sin.
3. The Lord revealed that David was the guilty man, and that he had despised God, His Word, and all He had done for David, and that his sin would have severe consequences.
4. David quickly repented and confessed his sin, and received God's word of forgiveness and assurance that David would not be put to death as he deserved. However, there would still be consequences for David's sin.
5. The birth of Solomon to David's wife Bathsheba shows that God was still going to fulfill His covenant with David, for His mercy triumphs over our sin and the destructive consequences it brings.

Questions for discussion/application:

1. What part of Sunday's text and teaching stood out most to you? Why?
2. Why does Nathan use a parable rather than directly confronting David regarding his sin? Why did this allow David to see the heinous nature of the sin, while he had not been able to realize his own sin?
3. How do you think David felt when he heard "YOU ARE THE MAN!" How do you feel when God's Word exposes your sin? Is there a sin that the Holy Spirit is exposing in your own heart of life this week?
4. Bret said, "At its core, sin is a despising of God, His Word, and His good gifts to us, preferring to follow our own wayward desires." Can you think of other examples of this in the Scripture? Can you think of an example of this in your own life?
5. How does God respond to David's repentance and confession of his sin? What does the Gospel tell you is God's response to your sin? Do you struggle to believe that God has really forgiven your sin? If so, why?
6. Even though God forgave David's sin, and did not put him to death as he deserved, there were still consequences for David's sin. Forgiveness does not mean there are no consequences for sin. Is this hard for you to understand? Does it seem to you that real forgiveness removes all future consequences? Why or why not?
7. What is the distinction between punishment for sin and being disciplined for sin? Does God punish us for our sin, or was all punishment borne by Christ? Does God still discipline us for our sin?
8. When you think of consequences and discipline for our sin, do you think this means God is removing His love from you? Does God remove His love from us for our sin?
9. When you experience continuing consequences for sin or God's discipline, does it tempt you to think that you are not really forgiven? Why or why not?
10. Can you think of someone with whom you can share what you have learned this week? Pray for them and ask God to open a door for you to share His Word this week.

Preview of next week:

Title: The King's Confession

Text: Psalm 51