

Nathan: The Man Who Rebuked a King

INTRODUCTION.

- A. King David was described as a man after God's own heart. (I Samuel 13:14; Acts 13:22) Although King David did have his weak and embarrassing moments, he died a faithful man of God.
- B. King David was not alone in his efforts. He had a prophet by his side to guide him and correct during his reign over Israel. This prophet's name was Nathan.
- C. While there is not much information given in the Bible about the prophet Nathan, what we do know enables us to see a faithful man of God who spoke where God spoke and who was unafraid to rebuke a king for his sins.
- D. Follow along as we take a journey back in time and examine the service of Nathan the prophet.

I. NATHAN WAS A PROPHET IN DAVID'S ROYAL COURT.

- A. As a prophet in David's royal court, Nathan bore the responsibility of representing the will and wishes of God.
- B. One such occasion records David consulting Nathan about David building a house for God. At first, Nathan approves of David's idea. However, God told Nathan that the builder of His house would be David's son. (II Samuel 7)
- C. Nathan also bore the responsibility of correcting the king when he sinned. Nathan exercised this responsibility when David committed adultery with Bathsheba. (II Samuel 12:1-25)
- D. Much later in David's reign, we see Nathan helping Bathsheba to restore David's kingdom to Solomon instead of Adonijah. (I Kings 1:8-53)
- E. As a prophet in David's royal court, Nathan bore part of the responsibility of making records for the king. (I Chronicles 29:29; II Chronicles 9:29)
- F. One more reference for Nathan gives Nathan partial credit for setting up the order for the use of instruments in the house of the Lord. (II Chronicles 29:25)

II. LESSONS LEARNED FROM NATHAN THE PROPHET.

- A. Nathan was faithful to deliver God's messages to King David.
 - 1. Elders have a responsibility to faithfully deliver God's message to the local church.
 - a. Acts 20:28 - ". . . to shepherd the church of God. . ."

- (1) shepherd (feed, kjv) - poimaino {poy-mah'-ee-no} - 1) to feed, to tend a flock, keep sheep 1a) to rule, govern 1a1) of rulers 1a2) to furnish pasture for food 1a3) to nourish 1a4) to cherish one's body, to serve the body 1a5) to supply the requisites for the soul's need
 - (2) The elders bear the responsibility of tending to the spiritual needs of the local church. They are to make certain that the "flock" is being spiritually fed or nourished, none of the members are going astray, and that the members are kept safe from outside dangers.
- b. I Peter 5:2 - "*Shepherd the flock of God which is among you. . .*"
 - c. Hebrews 13:17 - "*. . . for they watch out for your souls, . . .*"
2. Preachers and teachers have a responsibility to faithfully deliver God's message to the learners.
 - a. James 3:1-2 - "*. . . let not many of your become teachers, . . . stricter judgment.*"
 - b. II Timothy 1:13 - "*Hold fast the pattern of sound words. . .*"
 - (1) pattern (form, kjv) - upotuposis {hoop-ot-oop'-o-sis} 1) an outline, sketch, brief and summary exposition 2) an example, pattern 2a) for an example of those who should hereafter believe 2b) to show by the example of my conversation that the same grace which I had obtained would not be wanting also to those who should hereafter believe
 - (2) There is a pattern, outline, or sketch to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. When those sound words of Christ are taught, they are to be taught according to how they were given Jesus Christ.
 - (3) To hold fast the pattern of sound words, we must always use scriptures in the same manner and context as did Jesus and His apostles. By so doing we will be "rightly dividing the word of truth." (II Timothy 2:15)
 - c. II Timothy 2:2 - "*. . . things that you have heard. . . commit these to faithful men. . .*"
 - d. II Timothy 4:1-5 - "*Preach the word! . . . do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.*"

- e. Galatians 1:6-9 - Remember the warning not to preach a perversion of the gospel.
- 3. Every Christian has a responsibility to faithfully deliver to the lost and to other Christians the message of God's word.
 - a. I Peter 4:11 - *"If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God."*
 - (1) oracles - *logion {log'-ee-on}* - 1) a brief utterance, a divine oracle (doubtless because oracles were generally brief) 1a) in the NT, the words or utterances of God 1b) of the contents of the Mosaic law
 - (2) If anyone speaks of Bible things, they are to speak as the words or utterances of God. From where do we learn these words or utterances of God? From the Bible or scriptures. Paul reminded Timothy that all scriptures came by inspiration of God. (Cf. II Timothy 3:16)
 - (3) The same Greek word is used in Hebrews 5:12. *"For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; . . ."*
- B. Nathan rebuked King David for his sins with and against Bathsheba and Uriah.
 - 1. Elders have a responsibility to rebuke the sinner.
 - a. Hebrews 13:17 - *". . . for they watch out for your souls, . . ."*
 - b. Acts 20:28-31 - *". . . men will rise up, speaking perverse things, . . . therefore watch. . ."*
 - 2. Preachers have a responsibility to rebuke the sinner.
 - a. I Timothy 5:20 - *"Those who are sinning rebuke in the presence of all, . . ."*
 - b. II Timothy 4:2 - *". . . Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching."*
 - 3. Spiritual Christians have a responsibility to rebuke the sinner.
 - a. Galatians 6:1-4 - *". . . if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, . . ."*
 - b. James 5:19-20 - *". . . if anyone . . . wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, . . ."*

4. The local church, as a whole, has a responsibility to mark or note those who have departed from the path of God's word.
 - a. II Thessalonians 3:6,14-15 - ". . . *that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly. . .*"
 - b. I Timothy 6:3-5 - "*If anyone teaches otherwise . . . From such withdraw yourself.*"
 - c. Romans 16:17-18 - ". . . *not those who cause divisions and offenses, . . .*"

CONCLUSION.

- A. While there may not be much information in the Bible about the prophet Nathan, there is enough for you and I to learn two great lessons.
 1. Always speak as God tells you to speak through His word.
 2. Always be willing to correct a brother who is sinning, in the spirit of humility.
- B. Please examine your life today. If you are ready to come to the Lord today, then do so without delay. If you are a Christian but you have been weak in your exercising of God's word, then turn back to the Lord and be strengthened.

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