

## God's Severe Mercy 2 Samuel 12

Why are we tempted to cover up our sin rather than to confess it?

David sought to hide what he had done. Then, when David assumes his "problem" is safely behind him, Nathan appears with a message from God.

### 2 Samuel 12:1-7 (ESV)

1And the LORD sent Nathan to David. He came to him and said to him, "There were two men in a certain city, the one rich and the other poor. 2The rich man had very many flocks and herds, 3but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. And he brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children. It used to eat of his morsel and drink from his cup and lie in his arms, and it was like a daughter to him. 4Now there came a traveler to the rich man, and he was unwilling to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the guest who had come to him, but he took the poor man's lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him." 5Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man, and he said to Nathan, "As the LORD lives, the man who has done this deserves to die, 6and he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity." 7Nathan said to David, "You are the man!"

1. Why do you think Nathan tells David a story rather than confronting him directly about his sin?
2. Why is it so difficult for us to be objective about our own sin?
3. What common thought do you find in 2 Samuel 12:9 and John 14:21?
4. When we sin, how do we display contempt for God and his Word?
5. At what point did David admit his sin?

6. We normally assume that God disciplines us for our benefit. Is God's treatment of David an example of beneficial discipline, or is God demanding a penalty for David's sin?
  
7. Why is David's confession in verse 13 the only proper response, or hope, when you face your own guilt?
  
8. Forgiveness wipes out the guilt but not the consequences of sinful choices. What consequences did David's sin bring?
  
9. David wrote Psalm 51 after Nathan confronted him about his sin. What six requests of God did David make?
  - 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.
  - 4.
  - 5.
  - 6.

### **Reflection and Action**

Summarize main ideas and offer specific steps to apply

Effective confrontation

Genuine repentance

### **1 John 1:8-10 (ESV)**

8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.