

#6 - 7/8/2018 - 2 Samuel 11-12 - Accountable**I. Always Be Ready! [1 Peter 3:13-16a](#)...**

¹⁵ *sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;* ¹⁶ *and keep a good conscience* [NASB]

"sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts" To "sanctify Christ as Lord" in our hearts is to turn everything over to Him, and to live only to please Him and glorify Him. It means to fear displeasing Him rather than fear what men might do to us. It is a daily attitude of faith that obeys God's will and Word in spite of our circumstances--good or bad. ^A
^B One evidence that Jesus is Lord is being ready to witness to others about Him and seek to win them to Jesus.

"always being ready to make a defense to everyone" when we have an opportunity to respond to someone about our faith in Jesus. Have a prepared heart by daily bible study, meditation on the scripture and prayer, a brief statement of your faith, memorized scripture and with a card or tract. ^C

"who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you," Every Disciple should be able to give a reasoned defense of his hope in Jesus, especially in hopeless situations. A crisis creates the opportunity for witness; because when a believer behaves with faith and hope, the unbeliever may listen. Disciples are not to argue with lost people, but present to the unsaved an account of what we believe and why we believe it, in a loving manner. The purpose is not to win an argument but to win lost souls to Christ.

"yet with gentleness and reverence ^{16a} and keep a good conscience " provide a witness for the grace and hope of Jesus; yet not with arrogance, self-righteousness or a know-it-all attitude. We are witnesses, not prosecuting attorneys! We must be sure that our lives back up our defense.

Always be ready and keep a clear conscience!

Notes: A- [Matthew 6:33, Romans 12:1-2](#); B- [John 4:31-34](#); C- Examples to have with you include tracts such as [Got Life, How to have peace with God?](#) or the [Life or Death--Red Card](#).

II. David committed multiple sins that resulted in Bathsheba becoming his wife - 2 Samuel 11:

¹ *Then it happened in the spring, at the time when kings go out to battle, that David sent Joab and his servants with him and all Israel, and they destroyed the sons of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David stayed at Jerusalem.*

David did not fulfill his role as commander of the army but stayed at Jerusalem. As a result he was bored and restless.

² Now when evening came David arose from his bed and walked around on the roof of the king's house, and from the roof he saw a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful in appearance. ³ So David sent and inquired about the woman. And one said, "Is this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" ⁴ David sent messengers and took her, and when she came to him, he lay with her; and when she had purified herself from her uncleanness, she returned to her house. ⁵ The woman conceived; and she sent and told David, and said, "I am pregnant."

In the wrong place David sinned by lusting after Bathsheba and then having sex with her. A lot of people in the palace knew the not so well kept secret. Bathsheba was pregnant. So David thought he could cover up his sin by sending for Uriah. Uriah was one of David's top 37 warriors.

⁶ Then David sent to Joab, saying, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." So Joab sent Uriah to David. ⁷ When Uriah came to him, David asked concerning the welfare of Joab and the people and the state of the war. ⁸ Then David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house, and wash your feet." And Uriah went out of the king's house, and a present from the king was sent out after him. ⁹ But Uriah slept at the door of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and did not go down to his house. ¹⁰ Now when they told David, saying, "Uriah did not go down to his house," David said to Uriah, "Have you not come from a journey? Why did you not go down to your house?" ¹¹ Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah are staying in temporary shelters, and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are camping in the open field. Shall I then go to my house to eat and to drink and to lie with my wife? By your life and the life of your soul, I will not do this thing." ¹² Then David said to Uriah, "Stay here today also, and tomorrow I will let you go." So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the next. ¹³ Now David called him, and he ate and drank before him, and he made him drunk; and in the evening he went out to lie on his bed with his lord's servants, but he did not go down to his house.

But Uriah was more honorable than David and refused to go in and have sex with his wife even when David got Uriah drunk. Having failed in the attempt to cover up his sin David continues to compound his sins by having Joab murder Uriah in the battle.

²³ The messenger said to David, "The men prevailed against us and came out against us in the field, but we pressed them as far as the entrance of the gate. ²⁴ Moreover, the archers shot at your servants from the wall; so some of the king's servants are dead, and your servant Uriah the Hittite is also dead."

²⁶ Now when the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she mourned for her husband. ²⁷ When the time of mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house and she became his wife; then she bore him a son. **But the thing that David had done was evil in the sight of the LORD.**

David thought he had covered up his sins and everything was ok. But, we can never escape the consequences of our sins.

III. Nathan confronts David - 2 Samuel 12:1-4

¹ Then the LORD sent Nathan to David. And he came to him and said, "There were two men in one city, the one rich and the other poor." ² "The rich man had a great many flocks and herds." ³ "But the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb which he bought and nourished; and it grew up together with him and his children. It would eat of his bread and drink of his cup and lie in his bosom, and was like a daughter to him." ⁴ "Now a traveler came to the rich man, and he was unwilling to take from his own flock or his own herd, to prepare for the wayfarer who had come to him; rather he took the poor man's ewe lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him."

Nathan's parable communicated a simple truth that could be applied to the sin in David's life. Nathan meant for each of these details about the poor man and his lamb to provoke King David's sympathy for the victim and outrage for the sin and set the stage for David's confession.

The poor man's attachment to his one lamb was that of a family member with his children. The rich man's conduct clearly was terrible. Nothing could justify such behavior. Israel's law demanded that poor, vulnerable people be protected and not exploited^A. As king, David was especially accountable for protecting his vulnerable citizens. He was not to allow such clear violations of God's law, much less commit them!

Believers should expect to be confronted by the Holy Spirit about their sins. The confrontation may arise from: self-examination using the Bible and OT & NT commandments^{A1}, Bible study^B, the inner voice of conviction by the Holy Spirit guiding you into truth about your sin^C, or other concerned believers, preachers or teachers^D. God will not stand by silently when His children fall into sinful behavior.

Today we have the Bible, the Holy Spirit, preachers and teachers to confront us; God does not let us get away with sin? If we do not confront ourselves through self-examination; we make it more likely that someone else will confront us?

Notes: A- [Exodus 23:6-7, Deuteronomy 15:7-11](#); A1- [Psalm 139:23-24](#); B- [2 Timothy 3:16-17](#); C- [John 16:13b](#); D- [James 5:19-20](#);

IV. David Pronounces Judgment on the Rich Man - 2 Samuel 12:5-6..⁵ Then David's anger burned greatly against the man, and he said to Nathan, "As the LORD lives, surely the man who has done this deserves to die." ⁶ He must make restitution for the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing and had no compassion."

The king was furious and expressed his feeling that the rich man in Nathan's story [vv.1-4] deserved to die v.5. However, David had not ordered the rich man to be executed. Instead, he pronounced an official judgment based on the law of Moses. Exodus 22:1 indicates that a thief must make restitution of "four sheep for the sheep." David knew the Law of God.

David sentenced the rich man to pay four lambs to the poor man in restitution for the one lamb that was taken and slaughtered. David said the rich man had been guilty of

showing no pity toward a fellow Israelite in need; he **"had no compassion"**. David desired to inflict greater punishment on the guilty man. Nevertheless, he would confine his verdict to the stipulations of the law. In doing so, David showed mercy to a sinner despite his emotional desire to put the rich man to death.

Perhaps you can relate to the saying %Justice we want for others; mercy we want for ourselves.+Pointing out the sins of others comes easy to us. Admitting our own sins is far more difficult. As believers, we need to recognize that trying to hide our sins from God is impossible. Yet we should also be grateful that in Jesus, God provides undeserved mercy to us. ⁹ *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness"* [[1 John 1:8-10](#)].

How can using moral stories from scripture or life help in confronting sinful behavior by others?

V. God Announces Punishment for David - 2 Samuel 12:7-12..⁷ *Nathan then said to David, "You are the man! Thus says the LORD God of Israel, 'It is I who anointed you king over Israel and it is I who delivered you from the hand of Saul.*

Nathan said **"You are the man!"** and reminded that the Lord had appointed David king over Israel and delivered him when Saul hunted David to kill him. v.7

⁸ *I also gave you your master's house and your master's wives into your care, and I gave you the house of Israel and Judah; and if that had been too little, I would have added to you many more things like these!*

The Lord gave David his position as king over Israel and would have given him more if that was too little.

⁹ *Why have you despised the word of the LORD by doing evil in His sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword, have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the sons of Ammon.*

The Lord then turned to naming David's sins. [1] Despising the Word of the Lord, [2] doing evil, [3] murdering Uriah, and [4] taking his wife to be your wife. [vv.9-10]

¹⁰ *Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house,...* ¹¹ *Thus says the LORD, 'Behold, I will raise up evil against you from your own household; I will even take your wives before your eyes and give them to your companion, and he will lie with your wives in broad daylight.* ¹² *Indeed you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel, and under the sun.'*

Then Nathan turned to David's punishment. [vv.10-12] *"The sword will never depart from your house."* The punishment levied in v.10 related to David's breaking the sixth commandment **"You shall not murder"** ^A; the consequences in vv.11-12 related to David's breaking the seventh and eighth commandments **"You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal."** ^B

David had committed adultery, murder and stole another man's wife after using his position to take advantage of her. By committing this sin, **David sowed the seeds of**

evil upon his own family and Israel. One of David's sons raped his sister ^C, another son killed that son ^D, Absalom almost succeeded in taking the kingdom from David by the sword ^E and violated his wives "So they pitched a tent for Absalom on the roof, and Absalom went in to his father's concubines in the sight of all Israel." [[2 Samuel 16:22](#)]. David had sought to keep his sins secret, but the consequence of his sins would be in broad daylight for all Israel to witness. Bathsheba's grandfather committed suicide, ^F An unknown number of Israelite soldiers that followed Absalom or David during the rebellion died and there was turmoil in Israel ^G, and the physical illness of David ^H. Read 2 Samuel 11-19 for full context.

God ultimately exposes all human sin--not keeping His commandments. "Be sure your sin will find you out" [[Numbers 32:23c](#)] and there can be consequences even for forgiven sin.

Notes: A- [Exodus 20:13](#); B- [Exodus 20:14-15](#); C- [2 Samuel 13:1-23](#); D- [2 Samuel 13:24-29](#); E- [2 Samuel 15, 18](#); F- [2 Samuel 17:23](#); G- [2 Samuel 18:1-16](#); [2 Samuel 19](#); H- [Psalm 32:3](#);

VI. David Responds to Nathans Confrontation of his Sin - 2 Samuel 12:13-14...

¹³ *Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." And Nathan said to David, "The LORD also has taken away your sin; you shall not die.*

David immediately confessed that he had sinned against the Lord. According to the law David deserved to die for his sins [[Leviticus 20:10; 24:17](#)]. David later wrote a more complete description of his confession and God's response in Psalm 51, including the admission that God was right in passing sentence on David [[Psalm 51:4](#)]. David came to God with the sacrifice of "a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, O God" and God did not despise his sacrifice. [[Psalm 51:16-17](#)] David's confession of guilt, sacrifice and acceptance of divine punishment was unlike Saul's when Samuel confronted Saul about his sin. Saul lied to Samuel and the Lord and the Lord said your kingdom will not go to your descendents. [[1 Samuel 15](#)] But, Nathan announced that the Lord had taken away David's sin and had shown mercy regarding David's punishment.

¹⁴ *However, because by this deed you have given occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also that is born to you shall surely die."*

Nathan had already declared that David would face disastrous consequences in his family because of his sinful actions. One more consequence would be that the child born as a result of David's adultery would die as an infant. Even though God forgives us for our sins when we confess and repent, those sins may still result in consequences in this life.

May we never imagine that God's grace somehow gives us a license to keep sinning [[Romans 6:1-2,15-16](#)]!

Read [Psalm 51:1-19](#). Meditate on each verse and reflect how the words apply to you. Confess and repent of any sin in your life. If you have never received Christ as your Lord and Savior, pray and do so now.

VII. Summary/application 2 Samuel 11-12:

1. David thought he had covered up his sins and everything was ok. But, we can never escape the consequences of our sins.
2. Today we have the Bible, the Holy Spirit, preachers and teachers to confront us; God does not let us get away with sin? If we do not confront ourselves through self-examination; we make it more likely that someone else will confront us?
3. How can using moral stories from scripture or life help in confronting sinful behavior by others?
4. God ultimately exposes human sin--not keeping His commandments-- which are not a burden if you love Jesus [[1 John 5:3](#), [John 14:15](#)]. “Be sure your sin will find you out” [[Numbers 32:23c](#)] and there can be consequences even for forgiven sin.
5. May we never imagine that God’s grace somehow gives us a license to keep sinning [[Romans 6:1-2,15-16](#)]!
6. Read [Psalm 51:1-19](#). Meditate on each verse and reflect how the words apply to you. Confess and repent of any sin in your life. If you have never received Christ as your Lord and Savior, pray and do so now.
7. Who was Bathsheba? She was the wife of Uriah the Hitite, the daughter of Eliam and the granddaughter of Ahithophel. Ahithophel was David's chief counselor. [[1 Chronicles 27:33-34](#), [2 Samuel 16:23](#)] Eliam and Uriah were both one of David's 37 mighty men out of 800,000 soldiers. [[2 Samuel 23:4,34,39](#),] The fact that Uriah's house was close enough for David to see Bathsheba indicates their closeness. How could David have sinned against Bathsheba and these 3 men so close to him? How can we sin by despising God and sin against Him by not keeping His [New Testament commandments](#)? Do we even acknowledge or recognize we are ignoring many of His direct commands?
8. Memory verse: 2 Samuel 12:13 *Then David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the Lord.” And Nathan said to David, “The Lord also has taken away your sin; you shall not die.*
9. **[Always Be Ready and keep a clear conscience!](#) 1 Peter 3:15-16a...**¹⁵ *sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness*

and reverence; ¹⁶ and keep a good conscience [NASB] **Memorize in the Bible Version you prefer--for many versions click [here](#) and see below!**

1 Peter 3:15-16a...¹⁵ *But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:*¹⁶ *Having a good conscience* [KJV]

1 Peter 3:15-16a...¹⁵ *But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;*¹⁶ *Having a good conscience* [NKJV]

1 Peter 3:15-16a...¹⁵ *but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,*¹⁶ *Having a good conscience* [ESV]

1 Peter 3:15-16b...¹⁵ *Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it.*¹⁶ *But do this in a gentle and respectful way.*¹⁶ *Keep your conscience clear.* [NLT]

1 Peter 3:15-16a...¹⁵ *But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,*¹⁶ *keeping a clear conscience,* [NIV]

1 Peter 3:15-16a...¹⁵ *simply concentrate on being completely devoted to Christ in your hearts. Be ready at any time to give a quiet and reverent answer to any man who wants a reason for the hope that you have within you.*¹⁶ *Make sure that your conscience is perfectly clear,* [Phillips]

1 Peter 3:15-16b...¹⁵ *but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, ready at any time to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.*¹⁶ *Yet do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience,* [CSB]

1 Peter 3:15-16b...¹⁵ *Through thick and thin, keep your hearts at attention, in adoration before Christ, your Master. Be ready to speak up and tell anyone who asks why you're living the way you are, and always with the utmost courtesy.*¹⁶ *Keep a clear conscience before God* [MSG]

1 Peter 3:15-16a...¹⁵ *But in your hearts set Christ apart [as holy—acknowledging Him, giving Him first place in your lives] as Lord. Always be ready to give a [logical] defense to anyone who asks you to account for the hope and confident assurance [elicited by faith] that is within you, yet [do it] with gentleness and respect.*¹⁶ *And see to it that your conscience is entirely clear,* [AMP]

1 Peter 3:15-16a... ¹⁵ *But dedicate your lives to Christ as Lord. Always be ready to defend your confidence in God when anyone asks you to explain it. However, make your defense with gentleness and respect.* ¹⁶ *Keep your conscience clear.* [GW]

1 Peter 3:15-16b... ¹⁵ *But have reverence for Christ in your hearts, and honor him as Lord. Be ready at all times to answer anyone who asks you to explain the hope you have in you,* ¹⁶ *but do it with gentleness and respect. Keep your conscience clear,* [GNT]

1 Peter 3:15-16b... ¹⁵ *but honor the Messiah as Lord in your hearts. Always be ready to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.* ¹⁶ *However, do this with gentleness and respect, keeping your conscience clear,* [HCSB]