

NATHAN - GOD'S SPOKESMAN

Int.

1. Aim: To tell the story of Nathan's outstanding life and draw some valuable lessons for us.
2. Nathan the prophet is an outstanding character of the O.T. - "Thou art the Man"
2 Sam.12:7
 - a. He was a prophet - or spokesman for God
 - (1) The word prophet in the Hebrew comes from a verb meaning "to bubble forth" like a fountain - the word means one who announces or pours forth the declarations of God.¹
 - (2) It was his responsibility to deliver any message which Jehovah wanted spoken to the king or anyone
 - (3) The prophets in the O.T. lived among the people and declared unto the people the principles of righteousness which God had ordained for their instruction and guidance.
 - b. Nathan lived in the days of David and Solomon - II Sam. 7
 - c. Nathan even wrote a history of the acts of David - I Chr. 29:29
3. Nathan first appears in the consultation with David about the building of the temple -- II Sam. 7 -- After a vision from Jehovah Nathan advised against the building of the temple at that time.
4. The most memorable event in the life of Nathan occurred in connection with David who was the King!

¹Smith's Bible Dictionary - Internet Version from Prophet

Discussion**I. THE PROBLEM WITH DAVID - II Sam. 11**

- A. The Sin -
 - 1. Saw Bathsheba - lusted - sent for her
 - 2. Committed sin with her
 - 3. She was with child -
- B. The attempted Cover-up -
 - 1. Brought Uriah home
 - 2. Made Him drunk
 - 3. But finally had him murdered
- C. This displeased God - II Sam. 11:27 b "But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD."

II. NATHAN'S PARABLE - II Sam. 12:1-9

- A. God Sent Nathan
- B. Parable
 - 1. Rich man and poor man
 - 2. Rich man had many flocks but poor man had only 1 lamb
 - a. The Orientals were fond of pet animals
 - b. A dog was considered unclean
 - c. So they often would have a sheep, or a goat as a pet²
 - 3. Rich man had a guest - he killed the lamb of the poor man for food

² P. 287 Pulpit Commentary - on II Sam. 12

C. David's Reaction

1. David became angry with the man - he is worthy of death -
2. This man who stole a lamb from another man and killed it and ate it is worthy of death
3. Punishment should be death and restoration 4 fold. -
4. This is in line with what we read in Ex. 22:1 "If a man shall steal an ox, or a sheep, and kill it, or sell it; he shall restore five oxen for an ox, and four sheep for a sheep."

D. THOU ART THE MAN

1. Nathan then explained - you are the one who has done this deed
 - a. David had no suspicion that he was the rich man who had acted in such a way toward the poor man Uriah
 - b. One of the most effectual means of convincing a man of sin is by setting it before him as existing in another person.³
2. You have been blessed by God:
 - a. King - I anointed thee king
 - b. Delivered from Saul
 - c. Have wives
 - d. Would have given you whatever you needed.

³P. 305 Pulpit Commentary - II Sam.

3. You have despised the commandment of The Lord -
 - a. "Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in his sight? thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife to be thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon." 2 Sam. 12:9
 - b. You lusted after another man's wife
 - c. You committed sin with her
 - d. Then had her husband slain or killed - you murdered him

4. Penalty - v. 10 & 11
 - a. Sword shall not depart from thy house
 - b. Evil from thy family
 - c. Wives shall be given unto thy neighbor

5. David's confession - v. 13
 - a. "And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die."
1 Samuel 12:13
 - b. "I have sinned"
 - c. Forgiven - not die - but the child shall die

III. LESSONS WE CAN LEARN FROM NATHAN

A. He was very courageous

1. He was talking to the King when he said "thou art the man"
 - a. It is a very dangerous thing to tell princes of their sins, and especially when that prince is an absolute monarch, and his sins adultery and murder.⁴
 - b. He was taking his life in his own hands
 - c. Nathan knew that David had plotted the murder of Uriah
2. Some prophets would have decided to keep their mouth shut and said nothing
3. He was a man that was not afraid to do God's will
4. Heb. 11:32 - Nathan could be included in that number of the prophets
5. We must be courageous to do God's will at all times in all places in all circumstances.
 - a. Don't be ashamed of the gospel - Rom.1:16
 - b. 1 Cor. 16:13 NKJV **Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong.**
 - c. 1 Cor 16:13 (KJV) **Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.**
 - d. ESV **"Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong"**
 - e. It takes bravery and courage to stand up and do what is right - there are sometimes others will laugh or ridicule - we could even loose friends or family because we refuse to do evil - but it is the courageous thing to do good.

⁴Page 287 "Pulpit Commentary" on II Sam.

B. Nathan was a man of Love

1. It took love on his part to tell David about his sin
2. Heb. 12:6-10
3. To say nothing would equal hatred - because he being a prophet of God knew that sin would cause David to loose his soul - and if he did not warn him then he did not love him.
4. But Nathan was a man of love, so he spoke to David.
5. We cannot say we love someone and not tell them the truth.
 - a. Love demands that we teach them what is right.
 - b. We cannot allow people to remain in sin if we know the remedy for sin!

C. Nathan was uncompromising

1. This could have been a temptation for Nathan to white-wash and coverup some of David's sins
2. He could have decided that it was all right for the king to do this because after all he was the main leader of the people
3. He like Peter knew "...that God is no respecter of persons." Acts 10:34
4. So Nathan could not and did not compromise the truth
5. Many today want to compromise with the Denominational world - agreeing to part error and part truth will not be acceptable to those who "contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints." Jude 3 NKJV
6. We cannot just try to please others, we must please God.

D. A Parable is effective

1. It is especially effective to get an unwelcomed truth before one who needs to be taught
2. David evidently thought that Nathan was presenting a genuine case for David's judgment. It was probably common for David to hear complaints from the poor who had been mistreated by the rich.
3. This parable got David to commit himself about the principle involved before he realized that he was the offender.
4. David passed judgment on himself
5. The parable was effective because David admitted he had sinned - v. 13
 - a. No one will repent of a sin which he will not admit that he has committed
 - b. David knew he had sinned, but he did not confess it until Nathan pointed out his sin to him with this parable.
6. David did not get mad at Nathan and raise his hand against him - as he might have done - but he just admitted his sins.
7. Later in his life David's wife Bathsheba had other children and they named the 3rd son Nathan.
8. Nathan could see David's sin for what it really was - it would be great if we could see our self as others see us, and even better if we could see our self as God sees us.
9. We can use parables in order to teach an unwelcomed truth. We can be "wise as serpents, and harmless as doves" Mt. 10:16
10. 1 Pet. 3:15

Conclusion

1. Nathan was a faithful prophet or spokesman for God
2. He was and is a good example for any of us to follow
 - a. He was courageous
 - b. He was a man of love
 - c. He was uncompromising
 - d. He used a parable to convict David - and show him his sin
3. Romans 15:4 "For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope."

Bibliography

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