

**I Need a Hero - Old Testament Characters
That Teach Us New Testament Truths
(Part 9) Nathan, a man who stood up to sin
(2 Sam. 12:1a)**

Introduction: There are several men in the Bible named Nathan, but none so popular as the prophet that served in King David's court. Nathan is most famous for the things he said in his counsel to King David. It is through these events and the things Nathan said, that give us a glimpse into this Old Testament character and that we learn some New Testament truths. He is a hero that can teach us how to stand up with courage in our day and time. Let's listen and learn as we take a closer look at the things Nathan said to King David.

I. The things Nathan said about David's scheme: (2 Sam.7:1-17) After David had become well settled, his thoughts turned toward building a more permanent place for the Lord to dwell in among His people.

A. It was a good plan – The problem was neither David nor Nathan had consulted the Lord to see if this good plan was God's plan.

We often do the same thing – come up with good and noble plans that we just know are going to bless God's socks off. We talk to everyone else but God, and get their input, but we forget one especially important step – we forget to consult God!

B. It wasn't God plan – God told Nathan, to tell David, this is what "I" have planned. (God's plan was vastly different from David's)

1. God's plans were bigger than David – (v.5-7) God doesn't need us to orchestrate our own plans, He needs us to be open and obedient to His plans for us!
2. God's plans included David – (v.8-17)

Even when we are thinking and planning to do good and noble things, we need to remember, we are still thinking in earthly terms and God is thinking in eternal terms – (Prov.3:5-6)

Nathan had to have the courage to counsel king David not to put his own agenda ahead of God's.

II. The things Nathan said about David's sin: (2 Sam.12:1-15)

At least a year has passed since David's sins of adultery and murder have been committed and David is still covering up. (Ps. 32 and 51) give us a glimpse into David's life during this period.

A. God sent Nathan on a divine assignment – (v.1-6)

1. God was displeased with David (11:27b) (Rom. 2:15; Heb.12:5-11)
2. Nathan is obedient to the Lord and confronts the king in a crafty way, (he tells him a story).

B. God sent Nathan with Divine authority Immediately after revealing the character in his story, he said – "*Thus saith the Lord...*"

1. Nathan has exposed David –The question arises; Can a Christian sin? – yes! And if you chose to try to hide it, you can be sure your sin will find you out! (Num.32:23) Can a Christian sin? – yes, and when we do, we despise God (God said so Him-self (v.9-10).

2. Nathan exposed every detail of David's sin.
 - a. Failure can be fatal – David had pronounced a strong judgement when he thought he was hearing a real case from the kingdom –
 - b. Failure doesn't have to be final – But, there is a great price to be paid.

Nathan had the courage to confront King David about his sin. And thank God he did, because David's sin had to be exposed before God's forgiveness could be extended. And Nathan was concerned enough for the king, his friend to be obedient to God and stand up to sin

III. The things Nathan said about David's sons: (2 Sam. 12:24, 25; 1 Chor. 28:5,6; 1 Kg. 1:17)

The child David had with Bathsheba died and David mourned and would not be consoled – and no doubt, after a considerable time had past, they had another child (2 Sam. 12:24,25)

A. David is made aware of God's will – (2 Sam.12:24,25)

B. David was aware of God's will – (1 Chor. 28:5,6)

C. David needed to act on God's will – (1 Kg. 1:17) Thank God Nathan was a man of action and he had the courage to counsel King David to act concerning the Lord's will. (Js. 4:17)