



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Lookin' for a Leader Series, Lesson 18

Lesson Title: David Repents

Take Home Point: Confess sin and bring your broken heart to God.

Warm-Up:

When you were a child, did you ever get caught doing something wrong? What was your response when you were caught? Did you lie about it, try to blame someone else, get defensive, or just refuse to talk? I have to admit, I certainly tried all those at one time or another. Sometimes it worked; sometimes it didn't! These are all methods used by children (and adults, too!) to avoid accepting responsibility for their actions. Sometimes it's possible to "get away with it" when dealing with other people, for example, parents or teachers or spouses. But there are always two who know the truth – the one who committed the wrong, and the God who knows all. As the saying goes, "The problem with lying is that you have to remember what story you told, and to whom!"

Read: 2 Samuel 12 and Psalm 51

Observation (What happened?):

What was David's immediate response to Nathan's confrontation and rebuke?

What were the consequences of David's sin?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

How do you think David felt when Nathan told him what had happened and what would happen?

Describe the progression of David's heart in Psalm 51.

Insight:

There are two interesting comparisons to be made between this Bible event and others. First, compare David's response to being caught in sin with that of Saul's (review 1 Samuel 15). David immediately and readily admitted his sin; Saul denied he had disobeyed the Lord or done anything wrong. David prayed that God might change his mind about the consequences; Saul gets violent with Samuel and seeks honor among the people but not with God. Second, compare the progression in David's heart that culminated in his sin (remember last week's lesson?) with the progression of spiritual restoration in Psalm 15. He moves from confession to request for forgiveness, then to an appeal for complete fellowship, and finally to praise and worship. God wants a relationship with us based on honest and open communication – the kind of communication David demonstrated.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

What sin do you need to confront and confess? Why not do it right now so the Lord can restore the joy of your salvation?

How do you know you are forgiven and restored when you confess your sin to the Lord?

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