

Nathan: The Courage to Confront

2 Samuel 11-12

In today's truth-is-relative culture, few are comfortable with calling someone else into account; yet this is precisely what God's Word calls us to do as Christians. We are to "*admonish one another with all wisdom*" (Col. 3:16). Colin Brown in the Dictionary of the New Testament defines admonition: "*To exert influence upon another (by life and word) to guide him/her into obedience of God's will as revealed in Scripture. It consists of reminding, warning, counseling, correcting, reproof, and rebuking a person with the intention that he/she will carry it out.*" Chip Ingram, President of Walk Thru the Bible says, "**Admonition is God's antibiotic for the church; done Biblically, it is the most loving thing you can do . . . for all concerned.**" But how is it to be done? The prophet Nathan had a huge challenge before him when God made him aware of David's sins with Bathsheba: How do you face the head of a nation with the double accusation of adultery and murder - if you value your own life? His story provides for us a perfect example of how to confront others.

I. INTRODUCTION: How do I respond when my friend falls off the dock?

II. EXPOSITION:

A. Background for the Confrontation: David's sin with Bathsheba – 2 Samuel 11

Two keys: David was at the height of his success – Too much leisure time!

"Good and evil both increase at compound interest." C.S. Lewis

B. Caring Enough to Confront:

1. God's Choice of Nathan: Three Factors to Remember

- *Have I been an encourager and have I demonstrated a positive love?*
- *Am I going as a loving brother or a "speck-picking" critic? (Matthew 7:1-5)*
- *Have I committed this action to the Lord so that I have the conviction of His guidance?*

2. The Method God Uses to Confront: Indispensable Principles for Restoration

- *A Full knowledge of the facts*
- *A wise sense of timing*
- *Careful wording*
- *Holy boldness*
- *Direct people to the truth of Scripture*
- *A ministry of forgiveness*
- *An affirmation of love*

III. CONCLUSION AND APPLICATION

(This outline is provided to assist you in understanding and applying this morning's message. Fourth in a series of messages by Pastor Doug Hornok on "Lesser Knowns...Better Known". This message is available online at www.MidvalleyBible.org. MBC 7/19/2015)