15. Nathan Tells a Story

Introduction: The previous story told about how David, in order to cover up the affair between him and Bathsheba, had Bathsheba's husband sent to the most dangerous place in the battle, allowing the enemy kill him. Afterward, he brought Bathsheba to the palace. (2 Samuel 11)

God did not like the kind of bad things that David had done. God sent one of His messengers, Nathan, to see David. (2 Samuel 11:27; 12:1)

Nathan arrived at David's place and decided to tell him a story. This story went like this: "In a city, there are two men. One is a rich man, he has a lot of cattle and sheep; another is a poor man, he only has one sheep. One day a guest visited the rich man's home. He does not want to pick from his own cattle and sheep to serve his guest. So he grabs the poor man's sheep to serve his guest." (2 Samuel 12:1–4)

After David heard this story, he was very angry. He said, "This man deserves to die, he did such a terrible thing. He did not even have a little pity on others. He must give back four times to the poor man." (2 Samuel 12:4–6)

Nathan told David, "This man is you. God asked me to tell you this: 'In the past, I made you king. I gave you this whole kingdom. If this is not enough, I can give you more. Why have you done such a bad thing?' (2 Samuel 12:7–8)

You killed your own soldier, and stole his wife. From now on, your household will always have enemies fighting you. What you have done in secret, I will reveal it in broad daylight.'" (2 Samuel 12:9–12)

David told Nathan, "I have sinned against God." (2 Samuel 12:13)

Nathan said, "God has already forgiven you. You will not die because of this. But your son must die." (2 Samuel 12:13–14)

After Nathan went home, God caused Bathsheba and David's son to become very sick. David pleaded for God to heal his son. But seven days later, the son died. (2 Samuel 12:15–18)

David comforted Bathsheba, asking her not to be so sad. Later, they had another son named Solomon. God liked this son very much. (2 Samuel 12:24)