

Repentance, Forgiveness, and Sin's Consequences

Does God still punish us for our sins, even though through Jesus he has already forgiven all our sins? We may ask ourselves this question when confronted by the fallout of our own sins. As we continue our study of the story of David and Bathsheba, the Bible helps us understand the relationship between the consequences of sin, our repentance, and God's forgiveness. In 2 Samuel 12, God sends his prophet Nathan to confront King David about his sins. As we study their exchange, we witness God's mercy in action and discover important differences between punishment and consequence in the light of Jesus Christ in the New Testament.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- Do you think there is a difference between a punishment and a consequence? Why or why not?
- What happens when we give or receive forgiveness?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [Repentance, Forgiveness, and Sin's Consequences](#)

READ [2 Samuel 12](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- In segment 1, hosts Darrell Delaney and Scott Hoezee discuss King David's self-deception. Darrell said, "When we rationalize, we tell ourselves rational lies." Have you ever deceived yourself through rationalization?
- Is there anyone you trust to hold you accountable like Nathan did for David? Does anyone look to you for their accountability?
- After Nathan confronts him, David confesses, saying "I have sinned against the Lord" ([2 Samuel 12:13](#)). Reflect on what Darrell observed about David's words: "Not only have we broken relationship and fellowship with whoever we sinned against, we have broken, first and foremost, our relationship and fellowship with the God who calls us to live holy according to his standards." What does this truth stir up in you when you hear it spoken?
- We know that God does not punish us for our sins, but forgives us because, through his death, Jesus bore the punishment for our sins. Why is it still important for us to understand God's behavior in stories like David and Bathsheba? Why does it matter for our faith that we take the time to recognize his mercy and the differences between punishment and consequences?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Genesis 3:8-13](#), [James 2:8-11](#), [Psalm 51](#), [Romans 6:23](#), [Isaiah 53:4-6](#), [Romans 5:1-10](#), [Hebrews 12:4-11](#), [Matthew:1:6](#)

CONCLUSION

As Scott and Darrell close the episode, they remind us that even though we are forgiven through Jesus, God is not obligated to stop the natural consequences of our actions. But God can bring good out of the bad as he brought us Jesus through David's son, Solomon. These stories ultimately give us hope. Where in your life has God brought something beautiful from a sinful situation? Give him glory and praise for who he is and how he has worked in the midst of your life.

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