



Sons of Saint Joseph tm

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SOSJ Accountability 4: Our Need for correction Saturday, September 14th, 2024

Samuel: 12: 1-15

And the LORD sent Nathan to David. He came to him, and said to him, "There were two men in a certain city, the one rich and the other poor. 2 The rich man had very many flocks and herds; 3 but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. And he brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children; it used to eat of his morsel, and drink from his cup, and lie in his bosom, and it was like a daughter to him. Now there came a traveler to the rich man, and he was unwilling to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the wayfarer who had come to him, but he took the poor man's lamb, and prepared it for the man who had come to him." Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man; and he said to Nathan, "As the LORD lives, the man who has done this deserves to die; and he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity." Nathan said to David, "You are the man. Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you out of the hand of Saul; and I gave you your master's house, and your master's wives into your bosom, and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah; and if this were too little, I would add to you as much more. Why have you despised the word of the LORD, to do what is evil in his sight? You have smitten Uri'ah the Hittite with the sword, and have taken his wife to be your wife, and have slain him with the sword of the Ammonites. Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.' Thus says the LORD, 'Behold, I will raise up evil against you out of your own house; and I will take your wives before your eyes, and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun. For you did it secretly; but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun.'" David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." And Nathan said to David, "The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die. Nevertheless, because by this deed you have utterly scorned the LORD, the child that is born to you shall die." Then Nathan went to his house.

Questions

1. A simple prophet confronts a powerful king and accuses him of a very serious crime. In our own lives have there been times when we needed to correct someone in an awkward moment and did? What was their reaction? Any times where we did not correct someone and regretted it?
2. David's response to the question is immediate repentance. Humility is key to acceptance of correction. In times when we have been corrected in a major way, what have been our responses? Have there been moments where we greatly profited from a major correction?
3. How is Christ the ultimate model in correcting others in order to bring them closer to God? When have I refused correction? What happens when one refuses correction?
4. Sports and military are worlds where correction is crucial for success; this parallels the supernatural world. Political correctness can inhibit parents and teachers in correcting children. What can families do to counteract this trend? How can we prevent children from the danger of pride rooted in developing an erroneous defense mechanism that sees all correction as unjust criticism? (Don't spend too much time on examples, but more on solutions!)