

SECURITY
"NATHAN FEARED NO ONE"

2 Samuel 12 New King James Version (NKJV)

Nathan's Parable and David's Confession

12 Then the Lord sent Nathan to David. And he came to him and said to him: "There were two men in one city, one rich and the other poor. ²The rich *man* had exceedingly many flocks and herds. ³But the poor *man* had nothing, except one little ewe lamb which he had bought and nourished; and it grew up together with him and with his children. It ate of his own food and drank from his own cup and lay in his bosom; and it was like a daughter to him. ⁴And a traveler came to the rich man, who refused to take from his own flock and from his own herd to prepare one for the wayfaring man who had come to him; but he took the poor man's lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him."⁵ So David's anger was greatly aroused against the man, and he said to Nathan, "As the Lord lives, the man who has done this ^ashall surely die! ⁶And he shall restore fourfold for the lamb, because he did this thing and because he had no pity."⁷ Then Nathan said to David, "You *are* the man! Thus says the Lord God of Israel: 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. ⁸I gave you your master's house and your master's wives into your keeping and gave you the house of Israel and Judah. And if *that had been* too little, I also would have given you much more! ⁹Why have you despised the commandment of the Lord, to do evil in His sight? You have killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword; you have taken his wife *to be* your wife and have killed him with the sword of the people of Ammon. ¹⁰Now 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.' ¹¹Thus says the Lord: 'Behold, I will raise up adversity against you from 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. ¹²For you did *it* secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel, before the sun.'" ¹³So 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. ¹⁴However, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme, the child also *who is* born to you shall surely die." ¹⁵Then Nathan departed to his house.

Security provides the foundation for strong leadership. When we feel insecure, we drift from our mission whenever troubles arise. We must feel secure, or when people stop liking us, when funding drops; when morale

dips; or when others reject or criticize us, we will crumble. If we do not feel secure, fear will eventually cause us to sabotage our leadership.

Imagine what might have happened had Nathan lacked security. Consider the odds stacked against him. He knew he had to come front David in his sin, yet David had covered up everything so well; no one knew what had happened. That meant Nathan could expect no moral support. Further, the popular David had led Israel to prominence among the nations, and most Israelites would side with David if he put up a fight. Finally, from a technical viewpoint, David hadn't done anything illegal to Uriah. He had set up the man to be killed in the battle by the Ammonites, but it wasn't his spear or sword that took Uriah's life. Nathan had to feel utterly secure in his plan of attack or it would backfire.

What enabled Nathan to demonstrate secure leadership?

1. Nathan had God's truth behind him. He didn't have to stand alone against David.
2. Nathan had a relationship with David. Their friendship created a bridge that allowed Nathan to do what God called him to do.
3. Nathan's identity depended upon his divine call, not his popularity. Nathan determined to speak God's truth regardless of the popular reaction.
4. Nathan understood his personal mission. He operated out deep conviction.
5. Nathan was humble and broken. He had nothing to lose, for he had died to personal ambition.

Common Symptoms of Insecurity:

The following symptoms indicate feeling of insecurity:

1. Comparison. We compare ourselves with others and keep score.
2. Compensation. We feel like a victim and must compensate for our losses.
3. Competition. We become self-consumed and try to outdo others for attention.
4. Compulsion. We feel driven to perform in order to gain other's approval.
5. Condemnation. We judge others or ourselves, resulting in self-pity or conceit.
6. Control. We feel we must take charge, protect our interests, and manipulate.

Four Keys to Security:

To reduce personal insecurities, build the following four ingredients into your life:

1. Identity. Establish your identity in Christ, not in performance.
2. Brokenness. Allow God to break you of self-sufficiency and self-promotion.
3. Purpose. Discover and practice your God-given purpose in life, not someone else's.
4. Give and receive the blessing. Learn to affirm others and receive affirmation.

Notes:
