

Day 26

Confession and Forgiveness

2 Samuel 12:1-20

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." 2 Samuel 12:13

David lusted after Uriah's wife, Bathsheba, and had an affair with her while Uriah was away at war. David tried desperately to conceal his sin when she became pregnant. He even arranged to have Uriah killed in battle. Then, assuming that his cover-up was successful, he married Bathsheba, and she gave birth to their son.

"But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord" (2 Samuel 11:27). God sent Nathan to confront David about his sin, and, when David confessed, to pronounce God's forgiveness.

How quickly we might judge David for his devious acts! And yet we too fall into similar patterns. We crave something desirable—the ideal marriage, a fancy home or car, financial prosperity, physical beauty, success, or winning a fight. We act on our craving, elevating desire into a demand. When we don't get what we want, we judge others and punish them. Then we cover up our sin and think no one will be the wiser. We sometimes even convince ourselves we haven't sinned.

Whether we sin publicly or privately, God knows our sin and is displeased with us. But his wrath and judgment were put on Christ for our benefit: "For our sake [God] made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Like David, we confess that we have sinned against God. As God forgave David, he forgives us for Jesus' sake.

Thank you, Father, for your mercy and love shown to me through your Son Jesus. Grant me your Spirit that I may acknowledge my sins to you and receive your forgiveness. Amen.

*Adapted from Forgiveness to Forgiver: 52 Weeks of Daily Devotions
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Write or type your answers. Writing your answers helps you to meditate more deeply on the question, organize your thoughts, and provide a visible way for you to review and reflect on how this devotion applies to your specific situation.

1. What godly desires have you turned into demands?
2. When these demands were not met, how did you punish those who didn't fulfill your demands?
3. Identify the specific sins of fears, cravings, and misplaced trust that you acted upon. Write a prayer of confession.
4. Read 1 Peter 2:24. Write a prayer of thanksgiving for God's forgiveness of your sins.