

FINDING OUT “YOU ARE THE MAN!” 2 SAM. 12:1-7a

Pray, witness, listen...repeat...

Why don't we see **our** guilt? Why do we never get to **our** issues?

I. The **tendency to identify with the good guy & not the bad guy!**

2 Samuel 12:1 And the LORD sent Nathan unto David. And he came unto him, and said unto him, There were **two men in one city**; the one rich, and the other poor.

2 Samuel 12:2 The **rich man** had exceeding many flocks and herds:

2 Samuel 12:3 But the **poor man** had nothing, save one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and nourished up: and it grew up together with him, and with his children; it did eat of his own meat, and drank of his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was unto him as a daughter.

2 Samuel 12:4 And there came **a traveller** unto the rich man, and he spared to take of his own flock and of his own herd, to dress for the wayfaring man that was come unto him; but took the poor man's lamb, and dressed it for the man that was come to him.

2 Samuel 12:5 And **David's anger** was greatly kindled against the man; and he said to Nathan, As the LORD liveth, the man that hath done this thing shall surely die:

Now that you know the story – **who** was **most similar** to David? The Rich

Thoughts (David doesn't walk, jog, or run but sprints full-tilt / all in):

- We are the good guys – of course!
- We certainly see ourselves / identify as Good!
- We almost **never** see ourselves as bad
- **If** we see ourselves as bad → it is only relative bad: bad but **not** as bad / bad but not bad

“If the lesson you get from Jesus hanging with sinners is you should hang more with sinners you're confused on who you are in the story.”

R. C. Sproul Jr.

A **simple / transforming suggestion**: **Read / hear** every Biblical story through the eyes of all the participants.

Matthew 26:20 Now when the even was come, he sat down with the twelve. **Matthew 26:21** And as they did eat, he said, Verily I say unto you, that **one of you shall betray me**. **Matthew 26:22** And they were exceeding sorrowful, and began every one of them to say unto him, **Lord (κύριε), is it I?** **Matthew 26:23** And he answered and said, He that dippeth his hand with me in the dish, the same shall betray me. **Matthew 26:24** The Son of man goeth as it is written of him: but woe unto that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! it had been good for that man if he had not been born. **Matthew 26:25** Then Judas, which betrayed him, answered and said, **Master (ραββί), is it I?** He said unto him, Thou hast said.

Matthew 20:20 Then came to him the mother of Zebedee's children with her sons, worshipping him, and desiring a certain thing of him. **Matthew 20:21** And he said unto her, **What wilt thou?** She saith unto him, Grant that these **my two sons** may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other on the left, in thy kingdom.

Matthew 20:22 But Jesus answered and said, Ye know not what ye ask.... Matthew 20:24 And when the ten heard it, they were moved with indignation against the two brethren.

II. The tendency to judge others & not judge ourselves

[The tendency to judge others long before judging ourselves]

2 Samuel 12:5 And David's anger was greatly kindled against the man; and he said to Nathan, As the LORD liveth, the man that hath done this thing shall **surely** die: 2 Samuel 12:6 And he shall **restore the lamb fourfold**, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity.

Thoughts:

- It's easier to see others' sins!
- It's far easier to condemn others' sins

2 tests:

1. The bad breath test
2. The white shirt test

- It is so much easier to magnify others' sins

2"x4" & the toothpick!
& well...his life!!!

David: He took the guys favorite...all I did was take the man's wife...,

Matthew 7:1 Judge not, that ye be not judged.

Matthew 7:2 For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.

Matthew 7:3 And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?

Matthew 7:4 Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye?

Matthew 7:5 **Thou hypocrite**, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.

I call this the "Bill Clinton" principle:

III. The tendency to be **harsher & rasher** with others than with ourselves

2 Samuel 12:5 And David's anger was greatly kindled against the man; and he said to Nathan, As the LORD liveth, the man that hath done this thing shall surely die: 2 Samuel 12:6 And he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity. 2 Samuel 12:7 And Nathan said to David, **Thou art the man**.

Luke 6:35 But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil.

Luke 6:36 Be ye therefore merciful, **as** your Father also is merciful.

Luke 6:37 Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven:

Luke 6:38 Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. **For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.**