

# The Psalms of Ascents

## Week 4 – Saturday

2 Sam. 12:13-14

After all that, David still considered that what he had done was a small matter; he still had not yet concerning about what he had done. Then God sent the prophet, Nathan, to see David (2 Samuel 12). Nathan was wise and did not immediately rebuke David. He told David a story of two men in a city, a wealthy man and a poor man. The wealthy man had many cattle and sheep but the poor man only had one lamb. He cared for this lamb like a pet; it grew up with his children. They ate together and slept together with the lamb just as if it was one of his children. It was very dear to the poor man. One day a guest came to visit the wealthy man but he did not want to take any of his flock or herd to prepare something for his guest. Instead, he took the lamb from the poor man and slaughtered it to prepare a meal for his guest. What was David's reaction to this story? He was very angry with the rich man and swore that the man who did this would be put to death. He would also need to repay the lamb fourfold because had done this thing and had no pity. Then Nathan took David's words. You can say that Nathan was very wise; this is something that we need to learn. If you want to point out someone's fault, you need to be very wise. On this occasion David committed a great sin, but we need to learn from Nathan. If he would have come to David and started to yell at him, perhaps David would have put him in prison. Nathan was filled with wisdom. When David said, "The man who has done this shall surely die!" then Nathan said to David, "You are the man!" Then Nathan told David how he was like the rich man. Verses 9-10 say, "Why 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. Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house." So 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. However, 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'" (vv. 13-14). After David heard this, he fasted for seven days; he was beseeching the Lord for the sake of this child. He lay on the ground but after seven days, the child died. Then David rose up, bathed, changed his clothes, worshipped the Lord, and began to eat. His servants asked him, "What is this that you have done? You fasted and wept for the child while he was alive, but when the child died, you arose and ate food" (v. 21). David answered, "While the child was alive, I fasted and wept; for I said, 'Who can tell whether the Lord will be gracious to me, that the child may live?' But now he is dead; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me" (vv. 22-23). This is the portion that describes how David sinned and how God struck him.