

How Does God Break a Hard Heart?

Focus: How God uses His Law to confront sin and bring us to repentance.

Key Verse: “*You yourself are the man!*” — 2 Samuel 12:7

Text: NAS 2020

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: From **Part 2** of this series, Jesus told us: **Luke 13:3** “...unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.” // Do you know someone who is living in sin without repentance? **What** about you? If yes, **what** is the solution? **How does God break a hard heart?**

David had been a man after the LORD’s own heart (1Sa. 13:14). But, many years later, *his heart became hard!*

1. **David’s Sins:** 2 Samuel 11:1–27

- a. **Adultery:**¹ ...in the spring, at the time when kings go out to battle, ...David sent Joab [his army commander]... and all Israel... But David stayed in Jerusalem [he was in the wrong place at the wrong time].² **Now at evening time David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the king’s house, and from the roof he saw a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful in appearance.**³ **So David sent servants and inquired about the woman. And someone said, “Is this not Bathsheba..., the wife of Uriah the Hittite [one of David’s mighty men – 1Ch. 11:41]?”**⁴ **Then David**

sent messengers and had her brought, and when she came to him, he slept with her; and... she returned to her house. ⁵ But the woman conceived... [*Then David tried to cover up his sin, 11:6-13*]. // David did not confess; instead, *he made things much worse!*

- b. Murder: ¹⁴ ...David wrote a letter to Joab... ¹⁵ ...
“Station Uriah on the front line of the fiercest battle and pull back from him, so that he may be struck and killed.” ¹⁶ So it was as Joab kept watch on the city, that he stationed Uriah at the place where he knew there were valiant [*courageous*] men. ¹⁷ And the men of the city went out and fought against Joab, and some of the people among David’s servants fell; and Uriah the Hittite also died. // David ✦planned it and ✦ordered it! **David murdered Uriah!**

2. **David’s Admission and Sorrow: 2 Samuel 12:1–9, 13**

- a. Nathan’s Story: ¹ Then the LORD sent Nathan [*a prophet of God and trusted advisor*] to David. And he came to him and said, “There were two men in a city, the one wealthy and the other poor. ² The wealthy man had a great many flocks and herds. ³ But the poor man had nothing at all except one little ewe lamb Which he bought and nurtured; And it grew up together with him and his children. It would eat scraps from him and drink from his cup and lie in his lap, And was like a daughter to him. ⁴ Now a visitor came to the wealthy man, And he could not bring himself to take *any animal* from his own flock or his own herd, To prepare for the traveler who had come to him; So he took the poor man’s ewe lamb and prepared it

for the man who had come to him." // The LORD had given David much, **yet he wasn't satisfied.**

- b. The Anger: ⁵ Then David's anger burned greatly against the [wealthy] man, and he said to Nathan, "As the LORD lives, the man who has done this certainly deserves to die! ⁶ So he must make restitution for the lamb four times over, since he did this thing and had no compassion." // Sadly, David had slipped into spiritual blindness and **deadness.**
- c. The Revelation: ⁷ Nathan then said to David, "You yourself are the man! This is what the LORD, the God of Israel says: 'It is I who anointed you as king over Israel, and it is I who rescued you from the hand of Saul. ⁸ I also gave you your master's house and *put* your master's wives into your care, and I gave you the house of Israel and Judah; and if *that had been* too little, I would have added to you many more things like these! ⁹ Why have you despised the word of the LORD, by doing evil in His sight? You have struck and killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, you have taken his wife as your wife, and you have slaughtered him.... ¹³ Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." // God brought His truth through Nathan to break David's hard heart!

3. **God's Powerful Word of Law:** *Notice what it does...*

- a. **Jeremiah 23:29** [The LORD said:] "**Is My word not... like a hammer which shatters a rock?**" // A rock is strong, **but God's word of Law is stronger!**
- b. **Psalm 38:4, 8** [David wrote:] "**...my guilty deeds have gone over my head; Like a heavy burden they weigh**

too much for me.... I feel faint and badly crushed; I groan because of the agitation of my heart.” // That describes **God’s work of Law** on a sinner’s heart!

- c. **Romans 3:19** “Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, so that every mouth may be closed and all the world may become accountable to God...”
- i. Many in the world ▶reject God’s Law **or** ▶live as if they are above God’s Law.
 - ii. For all who *maintain that position*, they will▶never hear God’s heartbreaking Law and▶remain closed to God’s heart-healing Gospel.
- d. **Hebrews 4:12** “...the word of God is living and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, even penetrating as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”
- i. God’s word ▶is powerful, ▶penetrates deep, and▶reveals the very intentions of the heart!
 - ii. Unfortunately, many are living without a true openness to God’s word.
 - iii. For all unrepentant ones, let us use **every possible means** to get them into God’s word of **Law – to break**, and **Gospel – to heal!**

Let Us Pray: Father in heaven, please keep working by the HS to break many hard hearts; then heal them through Jesus!

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