

# The Sermon Connection

## Connecting Sunday's Teaching to Everyday Living

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The Sermon Connection is a weekly handout to help you apply Sunday's sermon content to your everyday life. It is designed to give you additional insights and practical tools for applying the teaching throughout the week.

The application, reflection and connection questions may also serve as a springboard for discussion in your small group, your family time, or in one-on-one conversations.

### The 5 Marks of a Growing Disciple Experiencing Christ-Like Relationships Sermon by Calvin Brown July 9, 2017

Pastor Calvin continued our series this week focusing on the “5 E’s” at Destiny Church. The “5 E’s” are qualities that we believe will be apparent in any believer who is growing as a disciple of Jesus. They are:

- Embracing Intimacy With God
- Experiencing Christ-Like Relationships
- Exercising Our God-given Gifts
- Extending Our Grace Stories
- Engaging Our Circle of Influence

It has been said that power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely! Lack of accountability might seem freeing; however, we can find ourselves in some precarious positions without some measure of accountability. As the hymn goes, “Jesus sought me when a stranger, Wandering from the fold of God; He, to rescue me from danger, Interposed His precious blood. Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, Prone to leave the God I love; Here's my heart, O take and seal it; Seal it for Thy courts above.”

We often think of Christ-Like Relationships as nice, friendly, and joyful. However, true, Christian relationships will encounter times when loving confrontation takes places or hard words need to be delivered for correction. Praise God for His word, which teaches, rebukes, corrects and trains us in righteous. Praise God for His Spirit who sanctifies us. But, praise God also for friends who love us enough to keep us accountable and correct us when we need it. Praise for Christ-Like Relationships!

King David demonstrated tendencies that we all possess and have the potential to display: complacency, lust, lying, manipulation, deception, self-deception, and self-gratification. David displayed each of these traits/behaviors in his episode with Bathsheba, Uriah and others. And, without the accountability and confrontation orchestrated by the Lord through Nathan, David would have gone on to live a self-deceived and miserable life! Oh, the blessing and pain of a friend who loves us enough to tell us the hard truth!

Calvin showed how our sinful tendencies are just like David's. But, God used Nathan to bring David back to his senses. This story should cause us to invite others to speak into our lives, while showing us how to love others by speaking into their lives as well.

E-CHECK: Experiencing Christ-Like Relationships

## **READING AND REFLECTION:**

Read 2 Samuel 11-12:14 with your sermon notes in hand. Review Calvin's observations about the relationship between Nathan and David. Note any additional observations you make during your study time.

Look up the following cross references: Proverbs 18:24; 27:6; Ephesians 4:15. How would you apply these to the passage in 2 Samuel?

## **PERSONAL APPLICATION:**

Consider the sinful tendencies/traits David displayed. Which one do you struggle with most?

Consider the sinful tendencies/traits David displayed. Do you have a friend whom you need to challenge concerning those traits in their life?

Who plays the role of "Nathan" in your life?

Who could play the role of "Nathan" in your life?

Have you ever had a "Nathan" type conversation/encounter as the receiver? As the deliverer?

## **COMMUNITY CONNECTION:**

Ask a spiritually-minded friend this question: "Are you aware of a trait, behavior, or relationship in my life that is hindering me from being more like Christ?" You can rephrase the question in such a way that better suits you; however, the objective is to invite them to speak into your life and say what you need to hear, but that which they might not feel comfortable with saying without permission to do so.

## **KEY POINT:**

Speak the truth in love and be willing to receive the truth in love.

## **RESOURCES:**

One-Year New Testament Bible (Available at the Information Table on Sunday mornings)

As Kingfishers Catch Fire: A Conversation on the Ways of God Formed by the Words of God by Eugene H. Peterson

Fierce Conversations: Achieving Success at Work and in Life One Conversation at a Time by Susan Scott (Secular author)