
A Pathway to Intimacy

John 1:14

“No excuses”

One hot evening, a man stepped out onto the balcony of his home. Perhaps he had walked outside to gaze at the sunset, or to watch busy people return to their homes after a day at work. Certainly, he was not prepared for what he saw.

He likely did a “double-take” when he looked next door. Out on her balcony was his neighbor, bathing at dusk. It was her moment to relax at the end of the day, but her choice of a bathing spot was questionable. This man, known as King David, became preoccupied with this woman and with his own lust. His struggle may have been compounded by the fact that he wasn't doing what he should have been doing. It was the time for kings, like him, to be out fighting battles against his nation's enemies. Because he was not participating this time, he began to fight his own inward battle. When the whole episode was over, this man had committed adultery with the woman, concealed the matter from his staff and deceived her husband. Ultimately, he was party to the husband's murder.

Soon this information became public through his friend Nathan. David was crushed. He had no defense. He gave no excuses for his behavior. Instead, he allowed God to break him, and he became exposed to God. In the process, David wrote a song of brokenness—Psalm 51. In it, he reveals the path he took from brokenness to intimacy with God.

Reflection

Much of the time when spiritual leaders fail morally, they only repent when someone else has brought their sin to public attention. David could not have experienced intimacy with God in his state of denial and deception. Unfortunately, it took someone else to bring his denial to his attention.

Accountability and Application

- Are you hiding any secret sins right now? Are you pretending that all is well, when really you need a Nathan to give you some straight-talk?
- Are you willing to be honest about yourself?
- Can you find someone with whom you can be brutally honest? Will you share these secret sins before they ask, or will it take their confrontation to bring them to the surface?

Prayer: *Lord, search my heart. Show me if there are any dark places inside. Enable me to take initiative and confess whatever you show me. Bring me to the place where I desire intimacy with you more than I desire to protect my reputation.*

John 1:14 (NIV)

¹⁴The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.