

Resolved: Common People/Uncommon Courage - Nathan

He who listens to a life-giving rebuke will be at home among the wise. (Prov. 15:31)

Nathan: the courage to confront...

*...the thing David had done displeased the LORD. The LORD sent Nathan to David.
(2 Samuel 11:27-12:1)*

Courageous confrontation involves...

- **A thoughtful and relevant approach** – “When he came to him, he said, ‘There were two men in a certain town, one rich and the other poor. The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cattle, but the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb he had bought. He raised it, and it grew with him and his children...It was like a daughter to him. Now a traveler came to the rich man, but the rich man refrained from taking one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare a meal...Instead, he took the ewe lamb that belonged to the poor man and prepared it for the one who had come to him.’” (vv. 1b-4)
- **Exposing the heart’s hypocrisy** – “David burned with anger against the man and said to Nathan, ‘As surely as the LORD lives, the man who did this deserves to die! He must pay for that lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and had no pity.’” (vv. 5-6)

When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. (Psalm 32:3-4)

- **Calling out the sin clearly** – “Then Nathan said to David, “You are the man!” (v. 7a)
- **Addressing the consequences** – “Why did you despise the word of the LORD by doing what is evil in His eyes?...Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised Me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.” (vv. 9-10)

☞ **The goal of confrontation: repentance** – “Then David said to Nathan, ‘I have sinned against the LORD.’” (v. 13)

Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity...and you forgave the guilt of my sin. (Psalm 32:5)

Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. (Luke 3:8)

☞ **The fruit of confrontation: redemption** – “After he had washed, put on lotions and changed his clothes, he went into the house of the LORD and worshipped...Then David comforted his wife Bathsheba, and he went to her and lay with her. She gave birth to a son, and they named him Solomon. The LORD loved him; and because the LORD loved him, he sent word through Nathan the prophet to name him Jedidiah.” (vv. 20, 24-25)

Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins. (James 5:20)