

Confrontation The Gift Nobody Wants (2 Sam 11,12)

1. Dietrich Bonhoeffer said “Nothing can be more cruel than the leniency which abandons others to their sin. Nothing can be more compassionate than the severe reprimand which calls another Christian in one's community back from the path of sin. *Do you agree with this statement?*
2. We all want to know the truth about ourselves. Yet in some respects we really just don't want to know. *What are some areas we would rather not know about?*
3. We All Need Truth-Tellers. We all have weak spots and blind spots. We need someone to warn us when we may be getting off track. Someone to help us question our motives & examine our consciences.
Do you have somebody like this?
4. Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, “One who because of sensitivity and vanity rejects the serious words of another Christian cannot speak the truth in humility to others. Such a person is afraid of being rejected and feeling hurt by another's words. *Do you agree that there is a connection here?*
5. After David committed adultery with Bathsheba he lived in hypocrisy and hiddenness for some time pretending to worship, while inside he carried the secret guilt of murder and adultery. Is it easy to live a lie in this way?
6. The Prophet Nathan gives much thought and prayer as to how he will approach King David and get beyond his hardened heart. What can we learn from his approach? 2 Sam 12
7. We can be just like David - get all fired up about somebody else's sin and forget about our own. Do you know people like this?
8. Some people quickly put their finger on people's failings without being able to see anything good. They pass judgment in a spirit of arrogant superiority, which they cover up by saying. I am a prophet. What burns deeply in the heart of a true prophet is not just anger, but love.
Discuss meaning. Above all else, guard your heart, for it affects every thing you do.
Are you open to receive the biblical wisdom God speaks into your life?

9. It takes enormous courage to be a Truth-Teller. Speaking painful truth can produce chaos. We might be rejected or accused of meddling in somebody else's business. It is much easier to trade truth for peace & avoid conflict.
Discuss.

10. Jesus was never frightened about asking the tough questions. He said to people "Why do you call me Lord if you don't do what I say?"
Asking a key question is a good entry point - it puts the ball in their court.
Discuss. Examples?

11. *Prov 4:20 Pay attention, to my words. Let them penetrate deep within your heart, for they bring life & radiant health to anyone who discovers their meaning. Above all else, guard your heart, for it affects everything you do.*
Are you open to receive the biblical wisdom God speaks into your life?