**Brookside Training :: Conflict’s Secret Weapon**

**Nathan & David - 2 Samuel 11-12**

**March 2016**

**Idea:** To influence people to see what you see they must feel what you feel.

**INTRODUCTION**

**We can all see “it” in someone else. The “it” is something that needs to start, stop or change.**

* No matter how different we are, we all have something in common. I have it in common with each of you, and you have it in common with everyone else in this room.
  + We are just meeting each other, but we already know a lot about each other.
  + You have people in your life that you wish would do things differently.

**Transition:** *Just because we can see “it” does not mean we are willing to “deal” with it.*

**TENSION**

**Dealing with “it” is difficult because they can’t/won’t see it.**

* Shared perspective is easy
* Speaking up costs something

**It can be so difficult that we do anything to avoid it.**

* Cost is too high
* Some stuff, avoid, or share
* We act passive aggressively
* Sometimes we send someone else
* We manage or cope until we can’t

**At times, it becomes unavoidable.**

* A decision has to be made
* You may get to the point that you can’t stuff any longer
* We can see what is coming
* No one else.

**Transition:** *What if...What if there was a technique….Would you be interested in that?*

**There is a technique that can make these conversations more successful.**

* It requires no special talent or gifting
* It can be used by anyone and in any situation
* It actually works in the real world, though not perfectly

***Transition:*** *Technique is not new, we can see used in the life of King David*

**David and Bathsheba *2 Samuel 12***

11.27…*the thing David had done displeased the LORD.*

**God was displeased**

* God chose this leader
* David abused power
* How is God feeling?

12.1 *The LORD sent Nathan to David.*

**God sent Nathan to confront this sin.**

* Nathan was a prophet.
  + Prophets functioned as messengers or liaisons between God and the people or the king. If God had a message for David he would typically send it through the prophet.
  + At some point God had made it clear to Nathan that he was to go to David and confront him on his adultery, murder, and deceit.
* Stakes were highest
  + Nathan was dealing with life and death.
* Nathan’s dilemma
  + How does one bring this up?
  + If you were in Nathan’s shoes, you have to wonder, how does one bring this type of thing up in a conversation with the king?

**Nathan’s challenge was to get David to see “it” the way God saw “it.”**

* The facts were not the problem
  + Back to Nathan…’How do I share some very difficult information with David that will bring about a change in his perspective, and not get killed while doing it?’
  + Nathan knew that God wanted David to see his behavior as God did.
  + He knew that David knew the facts of the situation, just like God did.
* David was hardened by justification
  + He also knew that David had hardened his heart and justified his behavior at some level.
* How to re-engage David’s heart
  + In order to change his perspective he would have to **get David to feel about those facts the way God felt.**

***Critical Question****:* How do I get David to see what he did the way God sees it?

*…12.1 When he came to him, he said, “There were two men in a certain town, one rich and the other poor.*

*12.2 The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cattle,*

*12.3 but the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb he had bought. He raised it, and it grew up with him and his children. It shared his food, drank from his cup and even slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him.*

*12.4 “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 for the traveler who had come to him.*

*Instead, he took the ewe lamb that belonged to the poor man and prepared it for the one who had come to him.”*

*12.5 David burned with anger against the man and said to Nathan, “As surely as the LORD lives, the man who did this must die!*

*12.6 He must pay for that lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and had no pity.”*

*12.7 Then Nathan said to David, “You are the man!”*

**Nathan understood some things about how people (and David) worked.**

* **Facts & Feelings: Feelings are greater than facts**
  + All of us are facts and feelings
  + Feelings are more powerful than facts
  + Nathan knew the power of emotions
* **Nathan knew David personally**
  + Met him as a shepherd
  + Knew he cared for sheep
    - **Nathan’s Story**
      * + Nathan’s fictional parable
* To do this, he used his knowledge of who David was to tell a story that would surface those feelings.

*This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul.*

*12.8 I gave your master’s house to you, and your master’s wives into your arms. I gave you the house of Israel and Judah. And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more.*

*12.9 Why did you despise the word of the LORD by doing what is evil in his eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites.*

*12.10 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.’*

**Nathan makes the connection**

*12.13 Then David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the LORD.” Nathan replied, “The LORD has taken away your sin. You are not going to die.*

**David Repents**

* David could see what God saw because he could feel what God felt.

**APPLICATION**

**There are facts and feelings in every situation that involves an “it.”**

**The key is to find equivalent feelings in others and attach them to the facts.**

* What do they feel about *that* that I feel about *this*?

**When people feel what you feel, they can begin to see what you see.**

* For people to see what you see they must feel what you feel.

**What worked for Nathan, works for me, and works for humans.**

**For people to see what you see they must feel what you feel.**

**PURPOSE OF COMMUNITY**

**Where are the Nathan’s in your life?**

**Small Groups are one of the best places to meet people who can see what you can’t.**

**We need Nathan’s in our life to grow.**

**Don’t limit your growth. Get a Nathan. Join a group.**

**PRAYER**