

Message #4**I Kings 1:11-37**

I am a big proponent of keeping your mouth shut. I am a big proponent on listen more and talk less. Most people love to hear themselves talk, but the mark of wisdom is less words, not more words. The Scriptures are filled with passage after passage that says, “guard your speech.” If the wrong person learns about things, they can and will open their mouth and spread the gossip. They want you to know that they know. So I am a big proponent of keeping your mouth shut. If you learn about something, keep it to yourself.

But there are times when someone else must be notified. The purpose of the notification is not to gossip, but to prevent something from happening that is not right.

I have told this story before, that when President Obama was president, I received a letter from a religious fanatic who was threatening an assassination. I could have just kept quiet, but I truly believed my responsibility was to contact the Secret Service, which I did. I ended up turning the letter over to them.

There are times when God’s people cannot just sit quietly and passively and let evil people get away with the evil. There are times when God’s people must rise up and take action.

We live in a fallen world and it is being governed by those who are not too interested in God or His word. Most of God’s people spot this, but they also realize they are not in much of a position to do much about it.

But there are those who are in position to do something about it and when the situation occurs, they need to act because the entire program of God and will of God lies in the balance.

THERE ARE TIMES WHEN IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT CERTAIN KEY PEOPLE OF GOD TAKE SPECIFIC, DECISIVE ACTION TO INFORM KEY PEOPLE ABOUT A PLOT TO DO THAT WHICH IS CORRUPT AND EVIL.

There may be a time when God will permit you to learn about something that is a major threat to the entire operation of God. When that happens, right people need to be notified so something can be done. This is not a matter of gossip; this is a matter of godliness.

The final outcome will be determined by God, but God’s people do have a responsibility at times to stand up and speak up for what is right. That is what happens here.

HISTORICAL FACT #1 – Nathan speaks to Bathsheba. 1:11-14

Nathan was “the prophet” of God and he knew the word and will of God. He helped David organize music for sacred worship (II Chron. 29:25-26). In fact, it is stated that Nathan is “the prophet” in this chapter 9 times (1:8, 10, **22, 23, 32, 34**, 38, 44, 45).

Nathan knew the shenanigans of Adonijah was not the will of God. He also knew that he, plus Zadok the priest, Shimei and Rei, and the mighty men of Israel, plus Benaiah, and Solomon himself had not been invited to the big party.

This was an intentional snubbing, because Adonijah knew they would not support him. This was like their big Adonijah rally meeting and the key people closest to David and closest to God were not invited, especially Nathan, who was the prophet of God.

Nathan knew that Bathsheba would be in a unique position to talk with David. Bathsheba was the wife of David and the mother of Solomon. Now this is fascinating because it was Nathan who had confronted David with the Bathsheba episode (II Sam. 12:1-15). Many years had transpired and Nathan was now on David's side and Bathsheba's side. Both David and Bathsheba had dealt with their sin and now Nathan had a good relationship with both.

We can learn a good lesson from this. If the sin has been faced and if the sin has been addressed and forgiven, then let it go. God is in the business of forgiving sinners and restoring sinners and Nathan obviously knew that and is a great example of that here. Sometimes in a church the people just keep bringing up the past. Get over the past and go on for the glory of God.

Nathan went to Bathsheba and gave her five messages:

Message #1 - Nathan asks Bathsheba if she has heard what Adonijah had done. **1:11a**

Nathan was not sure whether Bathsheba had heard what was happening, but he was sure that up to this point she had not told David.

Specifically what Adonijah had done was crown himself as the next king. He wanted Bathsheba to know that Adonijah, who was the son of Haggith, was declaring himself to be king.

Message #2 - Nathan informs Bathsheba that King David knows nothing about it. **1:11b**

Notice the respect that both he and Bathsheba have for David. They identify him as "David our Lord." David was unaware of what was happening. The leaders and people around David had apparently sheltered David from the facts of this.

Message #3 - Nathan tells Bathsheba that he will give her life saving council. **1:12**

Now Nathan really puts a lot of weight on what he is about to tell Bathsheba by saying my counsel to you will save your life and Solomon's life. If Adonijah got in power, their lives would be in jeopardy.

Message #4 - Nathan tells Bathsheba to go to King David and tells her exactly what to say. **1:13**

Nathan tells Bathsheba to remind him that he swore an oath to her that Solomon would be the next king. That oath was most likely given in **II Samuel 2:24-25**. In fact, nothing like this happened to any other son of David, where Nathan the prophet gave a special name to the son.

We do know David did swear an oath concerning Solomon because he admits he did this in **verse 30**.

Now either Bathsheba had told Nathan about this oath, or more than likely, God revealed it to Nathan. Either way, David had previously sworn an oath that Solomon would be the next king.

Then Nathan said once you have reminded David of what he promised, then ask David why has Adonijah become king when you have promised that Solomon will be the next king?

Message #5 - Nathan tells Bathsheba what he will do. **1:14**

He says that after Bathsheba has said this to David, he would come in and confirm exactly what she told him.

So what Nathan said is that he would come in the room and confirm the fact that David had made an oath before God that Solomon would be the next king and that Adonijah was out telling people he was the king.

HISTORICAL FACT #2 – Bathsheba obeys Nathan and goes in to see David. **1:15-21**

We are given great details and facts as to what Bathsheba did:

Fact #1 - Bathsheba went to see David in the bedroom. **1:15a**

It is clear that David was bedridden at this point, when she went in to see him.

Fact #2 - David was very old. **1:15b**

At the time Bathsheba went to see King David, he was 70 years old. He became king when he was 30 and he reigned for a total of 40 years, which makes him 70 (II Sam. 5:4-5).

A few year before this David had offered Barzillai great remuneration for helping him and Barzillai refused because he was very old at age 80 (II Sam. 19:35).

So 70 was not the ultimate age, but when you have lived the life David lived, he was old and worn out.

Fact #3 - Abishag the Shunammite was ministering to the King. **1:15c**

This shows how weak King David was. He apparently had round the clock care. Also Bathsheba would have seen her when she went in and perhaps it reminded her of years past when she was a young, beautiful woman just like Abishag.

Fact #4 - Bathsheba came before the king humbly, not pushy or proudly. **1:16a**

It is significant to see that Bathsheba comes in unannounced whereas when Nathan shows up he will be announced (**1:23**). Obviously being his wife, she did not have to be announced.

She appeared before David and bowed down and prostrated herself before him. She is honoring King David. She realizes who he is. She realized all God had done with him and through him. Notice the text says she did this “before the king.” There were not multiple kings in her mind, there was one king.

Fact #5 - David asks her what she wants. **1:16b**

David is still able to think and Bathsheba did not typically come to see him, so she asked him what she wanted.

Fact #6 - Bathsheba reminds David that he swore to God that Solomon would be the next king. **1:17**

Nathan had told Bathsheba to remind him that he swore an oath to her (**1:13**), but she adds you swore an oath to “the LORD your God” that Solomon will be the next king who will sit on my throne. So this oath was not some light promise he made to Bathsheba, this was an oath before God.

Fact #7 - Bathsheba informs David that Adonijah had made himself king without David’s knowledge. **1:18-19**

Bathsheba said there is something you need to know and that is Adonijah has made himself king and has put on a huge extravaganza, including Abiathar the priest and Joab the military commander but he did not invite Solomon, who is truly your servant.

Fact #8 - Bathsheba reminds David that all Israel is waiting for him to name the next king. **1:20**

Think about the weight of this. The entire nation Israel was dependent upon David’s selection. Put the wrong guy in power and it will ruin and destroy the entire nation. David needed to make this choice.

Fact #9 - Bathsheba says that if David dies she and Solomon will be considered offenders. **1:21**

As soon as David dies, if Solomon is not king, both Bathsheba and Solomon will be in “mortal danger.”

HISTORICAL FACT #3 – Nathan the prophet appears to David while Bathsheba is speaking.
1:22-27

As Bathsheba is speaking with David, one of the officials came in and informed David that Nathan the prophet was there. Now apparently at this point Bathsheba left the room because she will be called back in later (**v. 28**). Nathan came in and then following there are four prophet actions he takes:

Prophet Action #1 - Nathan prostrated himself before the King. **1:23**

Nathan is the prophet of God and yet he realizes the position of David. He respects him and what God had done with and through David.

Prophet Action #2 - Nathan asks David if he has sanctioned Adonijah being David's replacement king. **1:24**

Nathan respectfully addresses David as "My lord, the King." Nathan asks David a point blank question here. He doesn't beat around the bush. He gets to the point. Have you said that Adonijah will be the next King?

Prophet Action #3 - Nathan explains why he is asking David this. **1:25-26**

He says let me give you eight reasons why I am bringing this up. Do you know what he has done today?

(Reason #1) - Adonijah has sacrificed an abundance of oxen, fatlings and sheep. **1:25a**

(Reason #2) - Adonijah has invited all of the kings' sons. **1:25b**

(Reason #3) - Adonijah has invited all the commanders of the army. **1:25c**

(Reason #4) - Adonijah has invited Abiathar the priest. **1:25d**

They are all eating and drinking and saying, "love live King Adonijah."

(Reason #5) - Adonijah did not invite me - your servant. **1:26a**

(Reason #6) - Adonijah did not invite Zadok the priest. **1:26b**

(Reason #7) - Adonijah did not invite Benaiah son of Jehoiada the military man. **1:26c**

(Reason #8) - Adonijah did not invite Solomon your servant. **1:26d**

Prophet Action #4 - Nathan again asks David if he has made this decision. **1:27**

Nathan says did you authorize this? Is this your doing?

HISTORICAL FACT #4 – David responds to Bathsheba and Nathan. **1:28-37**

There are four responses David has to all of this that shows his mind is as sharp as can be:

Response #1 - David asks for Bathsheba to come before him. **1:28**

It took courage for her to go in before David and share what she did. This time when she went in she came in before David and stood and did not bow.

Response #2 - David tells Bathsheba that he will fulfill his vow and make Solomon king that day. **1:29-31**

David presents a touching message to Bathsheba:

(Message #1) - The LORD who lives redeemed my life from all distress. **1:29**

(Message #2) - Surely I will keep my vow to you before the LORD the God of Israel. **1:30a**

(Message #3) - Solomon your son will be the next king of Israel and sit on my throne. **1:30b**

(Message #4) - Solomon will become king today. **1:30c**

When Bathsheba heard this she bowed down and prostrated herself before David and said, “May my lord King David live forever.” What a perspective this wife has for her husband.

Response #3 - David asks Zadok, Nathan and Benaiah to come before him. **1:32-36**

Zadok was the high priest. Nathan was the prophet of God. Benaiah, who was the son of Jehoiada, was the military man.

Response #4 - David tells them exactly what to do. **1:33-35**

David’s mind was as sharp as can be. He may have been physically worn down, but his mind was still sharp. He gives them six messages:

(Message #1) - Take my servants. **1:33a**

These servants are identified as the Cherethites and Pelethites (**1:38**). These servants were David’s personal loyal guard.

(Message #2) - Have my son Solomon ride my own mule. **1:33b**

By Solomon riding David's mule, people would realize this is the son who has David's favor.

(Message #3) - Bring him down to Gihon. **1:33b**

This was the other spring of water that would show the people they were at the wrong spring. God's blessings were not at "En rogel," they were at Gihon. This would be the place of the public anointing of Solomon.

(Message #4) - Have Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him king over Israel. **1:34a**

God says my priest and my prophet will anoint him. This is not just about some priest and military guy supporting him, this is an official anointing.

(Message #5) - Have a trumpet blown and say, "Long live King Solomon." **1:34b**

This was an installation trumpet blast and with the blast announce that Solomon is the king.

(Message #6) - Follow him up as he literally sits on my throne. **1:35**

Then bring him up and follow him up to my throne and have him sit on it and be king for "I have appointed him."

All will see that you have anointed him and I have appointed him to be the king and ruler over Israel and Judah.

HISTORICAL FACT #5 – Benaiah responds to King David. **1:36-37**

Benaiah is a tough military fighter and he loved this. In fact, his response is recorded in God's word:

Response #1 - Benaiah responds Amen. **1:36a**

Apparently he just blurted out an Amen.

Response #2 - Benaiah asks that God would agree to King David's words. **1:36b**

He asks that the LORD, the God of my lord agree to bless Solomon.

Response #3 - Benaiah asks God to be with Solomon as He was with David. **1:37a**

Response #4 - Benaiah asks God to make Solomon's throne even greater than David. **1:37b**

The games are over. God has sovereignly put His king into office. But behind the scenes were two people who knew God's will and word and they went to David and reminded him.