



Christ Church of Atlanta  
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## Newsletter – December 2011 – Heather Werle

### Seeing Me

In a room filled with friends several years ago, one person caught my attention. The individual's words, gestures, actions and reactions were exaggerated like a cartoon, sticking out as different and awkward. They stuck out to me because I was seeing me. And it was embarrassing. I was watching someone with the same bad habit about which my closest friends had commented concerning my own life. I denied it, excused it and was convinced that it wasn't true. OK, maybe a little true. But not *really* true like they said it was true...and like it was something I actually needed to change. I was better than that, above that and not the type of person to do that.

Oh, but I was. And as I watched an acquaintance of mine practically mirror my bad habit, it was impossible not to miss. For the first time, I saw what my closest friends where so desperately trying to communicate for my own benefit.

We all have sin but none of us like to recognize it. Sometimes, it's sin of which we're completely aware. We know that we're not doing what we're supposed to do or doing something that we're not supposed to do...and nothing changes. It's too awkward or annoying to think about changing.

In the eleventh chapter of 2 Samuel, King David hits the grand slam of sin. It's one of those days that starts out with him not doing what he's supposed to be doing and snowballs in to an Olympic-size mess. If we had awards for the number of sins one could commit, he'd be a winner. King David kept on sinning in his attempt to "fix" the situation he got into by sinning in the first place. It kept getting worse. In the end of the chapter he sort of seemed to think that he got away with it, and God was not pleased.

Then comes chapter 12. Chapter 12 is where his friend Nathan has a conversation with him. Nathan tells David a story; David is quick to judge the horrible crime committed and announce a harsh judgment, on the man in the story, of course. It is obvious to him that there was a wrong that needs to be righted. But then the bomb drops, and Nathan holds up a mirror. He calls David out on his behavior and reminds David that he is the man in the story, the man who has sinned, the man who needs to repent, the man who is in the wrong.

Like David, it's easy for all of us to see when someone else has done something wrong. We are quick to recognize how awful a situation is when it's not our own, but when we are left to sort out our own messes, we justify, excuse and cover up.

This chapter reminds me that I need people in my life who see me more clearly than I see myself. Those friends from a few years back who were pointing out a bad habit in me loved me so much that they desperately wanted me to be living a better story, a story that I was hindering with my own bad habits. My story needed some editing, and God put Nathans in my life to help me make those changes. Without



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those people, I would have been stuck. I couldn't see me clearly without having someone point out what was so obvious to everyone else. And for that, I am so thankful. May God bless you with Nathans to guide you in writing a better story!

*- Heather Werle, Director of Youth Ministry Services*