

David & Bathsheba

2 Samuel 11:1–12:25



February 13, 2011

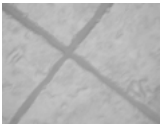


bible verse

Committing to memory

Psalm 51:10

Create in me a clean heart, O God;
and renew a right spirit within me.



story lesson

Bible story

David got lazy. We do not know why. He just did. Maybe it was because of his wealth, or fame. Who knows.

One spring evening (when kings were supposed to go off to war) David was out walking on his rooftop. From there he saw a beautiful woman bathing. And so he sent someone to find out who this attractive woman was. Then they told him: Bathsheba, Uriah the Hittite's wife. Then he sent messengers to bring her to him. And they slept together. Bathsheba went home, conceived and sent word to David telling him that she was pregnant. Uh-oh.

And yet, David had a remedy, a plan. He had his commander, Joab, send Uriah home. If he could just get Uriah to spend the night with his wife, then no





one would ever know (other than David, Bathsheba, and God). Uriah came home, and as any good soldier would do, he slept outside the palace where the master's servants were. The next night, David encouraged Uriah to sleep with his wife. Uriah refused, citing good manly, soldierly reasons. David tried to get him drunk and trick him into sleeping with his wife, but even under inebriation, Uriah still did not go home.

And yet, David had a remedy, a plan. He sent word back to Joab, through Uriah as the messenger carrier, to put Uriah on the front lines and when the fighting gets rough, to pull back and let Uriah fall.

And that is exactly what happened. Joab sent word back that Uriah had perished. David had had Uriah the Hittite killed to cover up his adultery.

"When Uriah's wife heard that her husband was dead, she mourned for him. After the time of mourning was over, David had her brought to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing David had done displeased the Lord" (2 Samuel 11:26-27).



The prophet Nathan came before David with a word from the Lord. Nathan told David a story of a rich man stealing a beloved ewe lamb of a poor man to feed to a traveler when he had his own lambs he could have used. David was furious! Who would dare do such a thing in his kingdom! He deserves to die! Nathan pointed a finger at David and said, "You are the man!!" (2 Samuel 12:7). The prophet continued to give David the Lord's word:



"I gave you 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. Why did you despise the word of the Lord by doing what is evil in his eyes? ... Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity upon you. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will lie with your wives in broad daylight. You did in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel ... the son born to you will die" (2 Samuel 12:8-9, 11-12, 14).

David acknowledged and repented of his sin. The child became ill and David pleaded with God for the child. Nevertheless, the child died on the seventh day. The servants were afraid to tell David, but he found out anyway.

David then comforted his wife, Bathsheba, and lay with her. She conceived again and gave birth to a son. 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" (2 Samuel 12:24-25).

The books of the Bible are literally organized and crafted and not always internally in chronological order. Here in this area of 2 Samuel, we are now entering a section of

David's mistakes. Prior to this section, all his good things were mentioned. It has been literally organized to show the link between David's heart for God and the Davidic Covenant. Now the text is able to show the bad side of David and key insights into his mistakes and how he is able to show how to be forgiven when your heart is right and how one is supposed to respond to his/her mistakes.

David wrote Psalm 51 during this ordeal. It is his prayer or lament to God on behalf of his sin.



life application

Making it real

Covering Up Sin

It is human nature to not want to get caught doing something wrong. And when we do get caught we are generally more sorry that we got caught than for actually doing the sin. But the Bible is clear: be sure that your sin will find you out (Num 32:23).

Coveting What Someone Else Has

David had everything, and yet he still wanted more. Why? Again, contribute it to human nature. We want what the Jones' have. We are not satisfied with what we do have or what the Lord has provided us with. We want more. Contentment is the corrective for this. We must be like Paul: "I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation...I can do everything through him who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:12-13).

Forgiveness Given / Consequences Applied

David committed a great sin. One that was worthy of death. However, because he responded with humility and acknowledged and repented of the sin, God forgave him and spared his life. God does forgive us of our sins. Jesus' once for all sacrifice on the cross on our behalf tells us this (Hebrews 10). And so, great! We are forgiven. But... There are consequences for our behavior that are naturally or supernaturally applied. In David's case, his son was stricken with an illness and died. There was a consequence applied. Usually, when you sin there are natural consequences that happen regardless of forgiveness. Obeying and not sinning helps you to avoid most negative consequences that otherwise would be applied if you did not obey and sinned.

Purity

This story undergirds the notion of purity in our lives. Not just sexually, but with our minds, motives, and intentions as well. We must resist the craving of sinful man, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life (1 John 2:16).



questions

remembering

- 1. In the spring what do kings usually do? Where do they go?** Off to war
- 2. Who did David have a relationship with that he wasn't supposed to?**
Bathsheba
- 3. Why wasn't David supposed to have a relationship with Bathsheba?** Because she was married to Uriah the Hittite
- 4. What did David do to Uriah?** He had him killed
- 5. Who confronted David and told him that what he did was wrong?** The prophet Nathan
- 6. What did David do when he was confronted with his sin?** He asked for forgiveness



coloring sheet

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