

## *Can I Be Forgiven?*

*Scripture: Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. ~Psalm 51:2*

Remember the message about David & Bathsheba, wife of Uriah? Did you know David was considered a man after God's own heart? This story happened in **II Samuel 12**. He was supposed to be out at battle, but he decided to stay home. He did follow through with what he was supposed to do, and it led him to getting into trouble. David saw a woman and decided he wanted to have inappropriate relations with her. He called for her to come to the palace. While her husband was away in battle, David revealed he had watched her bathe on the porch. He invited her to a nice, fancy dinner. After wining and dining her, he made an advance towards her and subsequently overpowered her. He sent her home after that one nightstand, and shortly afterwards David found out Bathsheba was pregnant. When he found out about it, David tried to cover it up by calling Uriah home and pleading for him to go be with his wife. When Uriah wouldn't do it, David ultimately had him killed. Yet, somehow we still today know that David was a man after God's own heart and know his story ended well. But how is that possible? Will the Lord ever forgive me for something really bad?

Do you have old clothes that were stained from work? Maybe there is an inkblot or paint that just won't go away completely, no matter how many times it's been through the wash. Maybe grass stains on kids clothing. The frustrations of not being able to get something clean can be overwhelming at times. But that is what it is like when sin is over our lives and in our hearts. No matter how hard we try, we are still are unclean and need the help of a stain remover, Jesus Christ. What David did was an abomination toward the Lord. He wanted something (someone) that didn't belong to him. He brought dishonor to the Lord. Do you think that David deserved to be forgiven after all that the Lord had done for him? No, **BUT NO ONE DOES!** We try and make excuses for our actions, but no matter how hard we try, we won't have one that will suffice. We certainly don't have any bargaining chips to offer the supreme, holy God of all creation. However, God is gracious. He will forgive us for every sin, except blaspheming the Holy Spirit,—no matter how big it is or others think it is! People may talk about you, judge you, treat you differently, but God will always welcome you back with open arms. However, to be able to forgive us, the blame and the punishment sin had to be achieved and secured. The only person that could do that was the perfect Lamb of God, Jesus Christ. He loved us so much that He chose to be nailed to a cross so that His blood can wash away our sin and make our hearts white as snow.

*Prayer: Lord, please forgive for my sins and all that I have done wrong. Thank you for sending your Son, Jesus, to pay for my punishment of sin. I am not worthy of you, but I am grateful you were gracious and loving towards me. In Jesus name, Amen!*

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