

David and Bathsheba

Introduction

This story...foreshadows us

2 Samuel 11:1 (ESV) — 1 In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel. And they ravaged the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem.

David was living in the lap of luxury. Only one enemy left to conquer. Not much going on. I can send Joab and Rule from here. Rabbah is only 45 miles or so from Jerusalem. MAP1 You guys go and have a good time.

It was Springtime....Agricultural chores were done.....Heat of the summer not yet here. Time to manage the enemies. This Spring....Israel is united...the border had been expanded.MAP 2...the country was prospering and David was firmly established in the hearts and minds of the Israelites.

David was now about fifty years old, perhaps a few years older. He had been on the throne approximately twenty years. He had distinguished himself as a man of God, as a composer of psalms, as a faithful shepherd, as a valiant warrior on the battlefield, and as a leader of his people. He not only led the people in righteousness, he gave them the glorious music of the psalms.

But as we look at the next segment in the life of David we find him falling into a period of sin, and that sin had devastating consequences for his family, his reign, and his nation. Sin always bears consequences.

At this point, David's spiritual life was neglected- this often happens to all of us when we are successful. We begin believing our own hype.....we begin to loosen our dependance upon God.....and Satan lurks in the midst of that arrogance.

We are more vulnerable to attack when we are at the top of the mountain than when we are in the valley.

2 Samuel 11:2–3 (ESV) — 2 It happened, late one afternoon, when David arose from his couch and was walking on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful. 3 And David sent and inquired about the woman. And one said, "Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?"

The indulgent king, against God's Word [Deut. 17:14-17], already had a harem of wives and concubines. The simple fact is that sexual passion is not satisfied by a harem of women, it is increased. One of the lies of our promiscuous society is that if you indulge your sexual appetite you can satisfy it. It doesn't. Sexually permissiveness only increases it. Just like it did with David.

David knew who she was....She lived near him PHOTOS 1-6 I WILL GUIDE.....a place of honor....This is Bathsheba...daughter of Elam....Who is Elam?

Elam was one of David's most faithful advisors. He served as David's personal bodyguard
Elam's Dad.....Bathsheba's Grandfather was Ahithophel one of David's wisest mentors and
counselors. He was the most respected man in David's Cabinet

This is Bathsheba the wife of Uriah....Who is Uriah?

One of only 30 of David's most trusted and bravest Mighty Men and Warrior. But none
of this mattered to David in the midst of his lust.

At that moment David was too distant from God to listen to God. Completely out of
control he said yes to all the things to which he should have said no. The desire for
sexual pleasure with this women was more important than anything else.

2 Samuel 11:4 (ESV) — 4 So David sent messengers and took her, and she came to him, and he lay with
her. (Now she had been purifying herself from her uncleanness.) Then she returned to her house. Then
the plot thickens

2 Samuel 11:5 (ESV) — 5 And the woman conceived, and she sent and told David, "I am pregnant."

The punishment for adultery....is to take both of them out of the city gates and stone them. David
had serious problem...the men of Israel are always gone in the Spring. They are always at war.....do
you know what that means? No obviously pregnant women in the fall...No babies in
January....unless....

Now you see the problem. Bathsheba was a married woman who was going to be literally
showing.....what she and David had done. David shows us the first mistake of the Sin Cycle

OUR PLAN: I CAN MANAGE SIN BETTER BY COVERING IT UP

GOD'S TRUTH- IS SIN WE TRY TO COVER UP WILL GROW QUICKLY

David has to get Uriah to sleep with his wife....very soon.

2 Samuel 11:6–8 (ESV) — 6 So David sent word to Joab, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent Uriah
to David. 7 When Uriah came to him, David asked how Joab was doing and how the people were doing
and how the war was going. 8 Then David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house and wash your feet."
And Uriah went out of the king's house, and there followed him a present from the king.

Ok great...problem solved

2 Samuel 11:9–11 (ESV) — 9 But Uriah slept at the door of the king's house with all the servants of his
lord, and did not go down to his house. 10 When they told David, "Uriah did not go down to his house,"
David said to Uriah, "Have you not come from a journey? Why did you not go down to your house?" 11
Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah dwell in booths, and my lord Joab and the servants of
my lord are camping in the open field. Shall I then go to my house, to eat and to drink and to lie with my
wife? As you live, and as your soul lives, I will not do this thing."

How ironic is that answer? David thought nothing of the men in battle....or Uriah
specifically.....when he slept with her.....and now Uriah will not sleep with her until the battle is over

and the men have returned. In fact as David's Mighty Men they had sworn to avoid any distractions during times of war.

And - in other words – that's where you should have been too, my Lord - not messing with my wife! So David must now go to Plan B

2 Samuel 11:12–13 (ESV) — 12 Then David said to Uriah, “Remain here today also, and tomorrow I will send you back.” So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the next. 13 And David invited him, and he ate in his presence and drank, so that he made him drunk.

Let's keep him here and get him drunk...

2 Samuel 11:12–13 (ESV) — And in the evening he went out to lie on his couch with the servants of his lord, but he did not go down to his house.

At this point....David goes from bad to worse... David teaches us the next key lesson

OUR PLAN:- IF I COVER UP MY SIN I CAN LIMIT THE SCOPE OF DAMAGE

GOD'S TRUTH- SIN THAT IS HIDDEN ALWAYS GROWS AND DESTROYS

2 Samuel 11:14–21 (ESV) — 14 In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it by the hand of Uriah. 15 In the letter he wrote, “Set Uriah in the forefront of the hardest fighting, and then draw back from him, that he may be struck down, and die.”

16 And as Joab was besieging the city, he assigned Uriah to the place where he knew there were valiant men. 17 And the men of the city came out and fought with Joab, and some of the servants of David among the people fell. Uriah the Hittite also died.

2 Samuel 11:14–21 (ESV) — 8 Then Joab sent and told David all the news about the fighting. 19 And he instructed the messenger, “When you have finished telling all the news about the fighting to the king, 20 then, if the king's anger rises, and if he says to you, ‘Why did you go so near the city to fight? Did you not know that they would shoot from the wall? Why did you go so near the wall?’ then you shall say, ‘Your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.’ ”

2 Samuel 11:25 (ESV) — 25 David said to the messenger, “Thus shall you say to Joab, ‘Do not let this matter displease you, for the sword devours now one and now another. Strengthen your attack against the city and overthrow it.’ And encourage him.”

2 Samuel 11:26–27 (ESV) — 26 When the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she lamented over her husband. 27 And when the mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son.

David....a man after God's own heart.....is now a murderer. The blood of Uriah is on his hands....No one knows....problem solved....

David's next lesson for us OUR PLAN- NO ONE HAS TO KNOW Genius!...just one tintsey little problem.....

2 Samuel 11:27 (ESV) — But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD.

GOD'S TRUTH- I ALREADY KNOW

Isaiah 29:15 (ESV) — 15 Ah, you who hide deep from the LORD your counsel, whose deeds are in the dark, and who say, "Who sees us? Who knows us?"

Hebrews 4:13 (ESV) — 13 And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Luke 8:17 (ESV) — 17 For nothing is hidden that will not be made manifest, nor is anything secret that will not be known and come to light.

Someone knows....

It's a horrific story isn't it? This is David, the king after God's own heart and here he is, engulfed in this spiralling story of sex, intrigue and murder. Surely this isn't the same David we've been reading about for the last few weeks and months!

Well, yes it is! And it's all happened in the blink of an eye! So how does something like this happen? Well, like most sin, it happens little by little. It begins with a look that lingers, it involves the exercise of a little power, and it continues with a cover up, with a lie that grows and grows until murder is required to keep it quiet.

And God sends Nathan the prophet...to let David know....that his secrets are not secrets to God.

2 Samuel 12:9–12 (ESV) — 9 Why have you despised the word of the LORD, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and have taken his wife to be your wife and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. 10 Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.'

11 Thus says the LORD, 'Behold, I will raise up evil against you out of your own house. And I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun. 12 For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel and before the sun.' "

Do you remember that I said...If God spoke it He would do it? That his promises are true both good and bad? David is in the midst of one of those moments.

His sin is not secret.....His plan did not cover up what he had done. What he wanted to keep quiet and in the dark, God was going to reveal and bring into the light.

How does one respond when our sins are brought forth....when our lies are exposed? David teaches us.....there is only one thing that we can do that will please God and move this situation toward resolution.....OWN IT

2 Samuel 12:13 (ESV) — 13 David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD."

I have sinned....Not against Bathsheba...Not against Uriah...Not against the Nation of Israel...Not against Nathan....I have sinned against the LORD!

He didn't try to blame someone else for his sin... He didn't try to blame Bathsheba for bathing in the nude. He didn't try to blame Uriah for not sleeping with his wife. He didn't try to blame his wives for not meeting his needs He didn't try to blame Joab for allowing Uriah to die on the battle front AND he didn't try to blame God for allowing him to be tempted.

David did something that is rare in our society but is always God-honoring.....HE OWNED ALL OF WHAT HE HAD DONE....NO EXCUSES

No doubt at this point....David knew the punishment of this sin is death....He would be sentenced, convicted and sent to his death... The punishment in the law was clear....David knew that....He had broken at least 4 of the 10 Commandments.

You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, you shall not steal...

The only thing David can even remotely hope for is to die quickly and painlessly. God is a just God... this payment for this sin must be made..

So you know what Grace is? Grace is unmerited favor.....Grace is not getting what you deserve.....David in his sin....deserving death...is about to receive God's Grace

2 Samuel 12:13–14 (ESV) — 13 David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the LORD.” And Nathan said to David, “The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die.

The Lord has put away....The Lord has forgiven....You shall not die. Wow....Grace.....Unmerited favor from God....undeserving.....just a gift from God to David....

Remember God had made a covenant with David.....Remember God keeps His promises even if we don't keep ours.....God's covenant is His truth...His promise.....He would continue the Abraham covenant through David no matter what David did.

Ok but what about God's Justice....is he just going to ignore what David did? Is he going to just let the murder of Uriah go unpunished? If so....what about the Ten Commandments? David broke 4 of them....Is he above the law?

Not so fast.....David's sins are forgiven....He receives God's Grace.....because God will place the judgment on one who is innocent.... A substitute will pay for David's Sins....One who is so innocent that it seems unfair.

Do you remember when God sent his son to pay for our sins? How Jesus was completely innocent and not deserving of death? How we received the gift of God's Grace because Jesus paid for it? Warning...we are about to enter one of those familiar foreshadowing zones that we have seen so much....

2 Samuel 12:13–15 (ESV) — 13 David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the LORD.” And Nathan said to David, “The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die. 14 Nevertheless, because by this deed you have utterly scorned the LORD, the child who is born to you shall die.” 15 Then Nathan went to his house. And the LORD afflicted the child that Uriah’s wife bore to David, and he became sick.

The child...born out of this adulterous relationship....this innocent child who had nothing to do with anything.....is going to pay the price for your sin David.

Your sins are forgiven but the consequences are yours to live through. Yes you were repentant....Yes you confessed....Yes you asked for Forgiveness and yes.....The Lord has put away your sin and you shall not die.....But your sin...was put away...on your son.

2 Samuel 12:15–16 (ESV) — 15 Then Nathan went to his house. And the LORD afflicted the child that Uriah’s wife bore to David, and he became sick. 16 David therefore sought God on behalf of the child. And David fasted and went in and lay all night on the ground.

After several days...the child dies.

2 Samuel 12:20 (ESV) — 20 Then David arose from the earth and washed and anointed himself and changed his clothes. And he went into the house of the LORD and worshiped. He then went to his own house. And when he asked, they set food before him, and he ate.

Angry at God? No worshipping Him David knew who was responsible for his child's death...He knew the price that was paid for that sin....He knew God was a just God. When challenged on his behavior....David responds

2 Samuel 12:22–23 (ESV) — 22 He said, “While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept, for I said, ‘Who knows whether the LORD will be gracious to me, that the child may live?’ 23 But now he is dead. Why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he will not return to me.”

David foreshadows the promises of God.....My child...my innocent child is in the hand of God. I can't bring him back.....He cannot return to me....But one day....one day....I shall go to him. Because even though my sin was horrible...and my sin caused his death....God has forgiven me....and we will all be reunited one day.

Well, that could have been the end of the story couldn't it? David has sinned in the most terrible of ways. God has seen it, has sent Nathan to David to accuse him and to pronounce the judgement of God. And that judgement has been carried out in the death of David's son.

But then comes another one of those surprises that pop up in God's dealings with his people all the time.

2 Samuel 12:24 (ESV) — 24 Then David comforted his wife, Bathsheba, and went in to her and lay with her, and she bore a son, and he called his name Solomon.

Ok time out....This is Solomon? THE Solomon? The Son of David who would build the temple? The one who would be given the greatest wisdom ever known to man? The one who would become King Solomon? This is the Solomon who would be in the lineage of the Messiah?

Solomon came out of this adulterous relationship with Bathsheba? Are you kidding me?

God must have been furious with them....they are adulterers....they lied....David murdered....the first child of their relationship died....they caused that death Surely God is angry at them....Surely God can't possibly bless that relationship....Wait until God gets a hold of this mess...

2 Samuel 12:24 (ESV) — 24 Then David comforted his wife, Bathsheba, and went in to her and lay with her, and she bore a son, and he called his name Solomon. And the LORD loved him

And the Lord loved Him! Loved Him? How could God love him after all his parents had done? How could God bless David and Bathsheba? One son takes the punishment and it cost him his life and the others sons are blessed?

What do you think forgiveness means? God said..."The Lord has put away your sin." That is what it means.... Once your sins are forgiven....they are put away...not to be recalled....the punishment has been paid....the innocent have paid the price....your sins are forgiven.....God will not hold them against you again...

The justice of God was poured out on the substitute.....His wrath and anger against sin extinguished.....The consequence of David and Bathsheba's sin was death....and it was paid.

God said, because of what you have done, you child will die....He didn't say....Because of what you have done...your child will die and I will be up here in heaven every moment of your life looking for ways to make you miserable

If that were the case...then there was no reason for David's innocent son to die.

David's sin is great, but God's mercy is greater. It isn't that God has simply ignored David's sin. Rather David has repented, has turned away from his evil behavior and God responds to such repentance with forgiveness and mercy.

He sends Nathan to David this time with a word, not of accusation, but of encouragement. The child is to be called Jedidiah, which means "loved of the Lord".

You can imagine David at this moment feeling like he's a total failure; feeling like God has abandoned him because of his gross sinfulness. But God hasn't abandoned him. God continues to love him.

Also notice this....God does not tell David that he cannot be married to Bathsheba or that He will not bless their relationship. Instead....God uses their sin....forgives them of it and restores their relationship and blessings with each other and with Him

Why? Because David chose to Repent and to seek God's forgiveness and Grace. If David had not chosen to repent he would still be under the punishment of God and his relationship would not be blessed by God

So...if your first marriage involved sin....God does not tell you to leave your current spouse and go back. He acknowledges the new relationship. The question is...have you repented of that sin? Have you confessed it to God and asked for and received His forgiveness?

Are you struggling in your current relationship? Maybe it is because you are outside the blessing of God. Confess your sins....repent and restore your relationship with God....then and only then will He bless your new relationship.

So what do have here in this story.....

We have someone who is deeply loved by God....Chosen by God....anointed by God....who has been promised great things in the future and upon whom God has placed His Spirit.

God has made some promises to this person....That He will bless Him...that He will be with him...that He will never forsake him.....

He tells this person that His love for him and His promises for him are unconditional. That person can do nothing to keep God from keeping His promises.

Ands it looks like David's life is richly blessed....The Kingdom is united....The enemies are at bay....Everyone is on his side.....and thenwell...then....He takes a stroll on the roof....and sins against God.

The man after God's heart is now a murderer, liar, adulterer and coveter. He tries to hide it....goes to great extremes to cover it up....but when it is exposed.... He confesses....and repents.....He seeks God's forgiveness....

The punishment must be paid and someone takes David's place. The consequences of that sin will impact David for the rest of his life.... But his relationship with God is restored...and the blessings will flow.

This story foreshadows like all the others..... this time...it foreshadows our relationship with Jesus.

We too are deeply loved by God...we too have been chosen by God.....anointed by God.....promised great things by God....and have received the Spirit of God. We too have been given an unconditional promise wrapped in unconditional love. No matter what we do....God keeps His promises to us.

We like David do some incredibly stupid things....and sin against God. Our sins, like David's, carry consequences that can impact many people and even future generations.

A first born son has paid for our sins too....Jesus paid the price so that we can be forgiven. Gods' punishment, wrath, anger, justice and demand for restoration was poured out on Jesus....in our place.

How did David restore his relationship with God and receive God's forgiveness....grace and blessings?

He confessed what he had done...repented...and asked God for forgiveness. When God included the story of David and Bathsheba in the Bible....He was foreshadowing.....pointed to others to come....you and me.

Maybe there is a sin in your past....you know the sin that only you and God know about? The one you have been covering up....the one that turns your stomach when you think about it....so you just don't.

In fact, right now you are trying to put it out of your mind. God wants you to allow Him to shine a light on it.... Not so He can punish you....but that his mercy can flood over you in His forgiveness....

The story of David...is that God NEVER....NEVER gives up on us. You may give up on you...but He doesn't.

All He requires of you...is that you, like David,, confess....."I have sinned against the Lord" and show true sorrow and repentance.

When we turn back to him in repentance, when we ask for forgiveness, intending to live a godly life again, God's mercy reaches out to us with a message of love. David's relationship with God was restored because He repented.

The story of David is that God's Judgment and His Mercy are never that far apart.

If David could speak to us....I wonder what he would tell us this morning? If only we could really know what was going on inside of him after his sin was discovered.....if only he had written down to show us the heart God wants from us. when we sin.....

Fortunately we don't have to wonder.....David in the midst of his repentance over his sin with Bathsheba and immediately following the death of his son.....wrote Psalm 51

I want to close by reading that Psalm. God said David was a man after His own heart....Look at his heart in the midst of his guilt and sorrow...as he pours out what is left of him in a song.

Psalm 51

Psalm 51:1–6 (ESV) 1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! 3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. 4 Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. 5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother

conceive me. 6 Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

Psalm 51:7–12 (ESV) 7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. 8 Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice. 9 Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. 11 Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

Psalm 51:13–17 (ESV) 13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you. 14 Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness. 15 O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. 16 For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering. 17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Psalm 51:18–19 (ESV) 18 Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; build up the walls of Jerusalem; 19 then will you delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

Let's Pray