

# The Life of David Facebook Live Bible Study

Lesson 5, November 20, 2019

## Read 2 Samuel 11 & 12

### Read 2 Samuel 11:1 - 4

In that part of the world, wars were normally fought in the spring. David should have been out at the battle, but he remained behind.

David's sin did not begin when he saw Bathsheba. David's practice of adding wives showed a lack of romantic restraint and an indulgence of his passions. This matter of Bathsheba was simply the climax of something that had been going on in his life for twenty years.

How can a believer fall into such terrible sin? A man after God's own heart? The fact is, there is no such thing as a spiritual blowout; there are only slow leaks. No one is walking closely with Jesus on Monday and on Tuesday is seduced by a beautiful woman—or man.

Did Bathsheba know she could be seen from the King's rooftop? Did she know he was home and not on the battlefield? We don't know those answers. There is not one word in Scripture about Bathsheba's part in this adulterous act.

David's sin was not in *seeing* Bathsheba. David's sin was in *choosing* to keep his eyes on her. It wasn't so much that David wanted Bathsheba; it was that he would not be satisfied with what he had.

Do you think David would have sent for Bathsheba if she had been old or overweight or not so pretty? It was her beauty that tempted him. Jesus said:

**Matt 6:22:** "The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light."

What you choose to look at has more lasting impact on you than what you hear. That's why we have to be so protective of what we allow in through our physical eyes.

Think of another man of God who was truly tempted to commit adultery—Joseph. That woman was beautiful and she was powerful. But Joseph fled, leaving his outer garment behind him.

*1 Corinthians 10:13: No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.*

You and I have to FLEE temptation. If you never take the first step toward temptation, you won't be led into sin.

*Proverbs 4:25 – 27: Let your eyes look straight ahead; fix your gaze directly before you. Give careful thought to the paths for your feet and be steadfast in all your ways. Do not turn to the right or the left; keep your foot from evil.*

David didn't think about the destruction this illicit pursuit of pleasure would directly or indirectly result in:

- An unwanted pregnancy.
- The murder of a trusted friend.
- A dead baby.
- His daughter raped by his son.
- One son murdered by another son.
- A civil war led by one of his sons.
- A son who imitates David's lack of self-control, leading him and much of Israel away from God.

The same kind of ruin comes of adultery today. Think about all the children who go to bed every night without daddy in the house because of adultery.

The fact that Bathsheba was purifying herself confirms that she had recently had her period and was NOT already pregnant. When she sent word to David that she was, she was appealing to him to take the necessary steps to avoid the consequences of their sin. The law required that both adulterer and adulteress should be put to death.

### Read 2 Samuel 11:6 - 11

David did what most unrepentant sinners do: he tried to hide his sin. But God is never involved in cover-ups. Our hidden sin hinders our fellowship with God and others and is a barrier to spiritual life and power.

As soon you are conscious of sin, don't reason with the sin or try to rationalize it, but confess the sin to the Lord, there and then.

Uriah was a man of integrity, who had a passion for the glory of God, and he would not indulge himself while his men were in the battle.

### Read 2 Samuel 11:12 - 17

David tries again to get Uriah to sleep with his wife, by getting him drunk. But he still did not go to her. So, David has to come up with another cover-up plan. David commanded the death of Uriah, just as surely as if he had killed him personally.

Once Uriah was killed in battle, David then married Bathsheba when her period of mourning was over.

### Read 2 Samuel 12:1 - 14

Nathan confronts David a year after David's sin. If you read Psalm 32, you will get a picture of the intense conviction during this time and that all the joy in David's life had evaporated away. David knew the stress and agony of living a double life. He found no relief until he repented.

Someone has said, "David was in that terrible place where he had too much sin in him to be happy in God, but he had too much of God in him to be happy in sin."

Much has been written about whether David was guilty of rape or not. Nathan uses an illustration of a rich man having power over a poor man, where the rich man took the one precious lamb from the poor man for his own needs, having no pity on the poor man. Nathan describes an imbalance of power here, and he tells David, “You are the man!” You are the one who used your power over the weak – both Bathsheba and Uriah

We see abusive power in our culture today—everywhere you look. People use their positions of power, however they achieved them, to “lord it over others,” as Jesus put it.

David’s story is a cautionary tale about the way that power can corrupt even the noble. And that same power that a king had earlier used to defend the vulnerable could be turned to exploit the vulnerable.

Power is a gift from God, but the temptation to use it for our own selfish gain is ever-present and endlessly enticing. Those entrusted with power must look to the Son of God, Jesus Christ, as the shining example for the faithful practice of power.

The good news about this last story of David and his sin is that God always, always, always offers us forgiveness and repentance.

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*Psalm 32: 1~2 Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the one whose sin the LORD does not count against them and in whose spirit is no deceit.*

*Psalm 32:5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD. And you forgave the guilt of my sin.*

The Christian Working Woman ~ PO Box 1210 ~ Wheaton IL 60187-1116

Office: 630.462.0552

E-mail: [tcww@christianworkingwoman.org](mailto:tcww@christianworkingwoman.org)

Website: [christianworkingwoman.org](http://christianworkingwoman.org)