



THE WOMEN IN MATTHEW ONE

LED BY MARY LOWMAN

May 7, 2024
Bathsheba

Matthew 1:1 – 6

² Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, ³ Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was *Tamar*, Perez the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram, ⁴ Ram the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, ⁵ Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was *Rahab*, Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was *Ruth*, Obed the father of Jesse, ⁶ and Jesse the father of King David. David was the father of Solomon, ***whose mother had been Uriah's wife...***

What Matthew records is not Christ's *biological* ancestry but his *legal* one. A major purpose of Matthew's gospel was to present Jesus of Nazareth as the Messiah *to the Jews*.

The fourth woman in Matthew's genealogy of Jesus Christ is not referred to by her name but by her first marriage to Uriah. Of course, everyone knows that this is Bathsheba. Why didn't Matthew simply use her name, as he did with the other four women in this genealogy?

The story of Bathsheba is really a story of King David and his "besetting sin" and how Bathsheba was caught up into his web of sin. This story is in 2 Samuel 11.

"In the whole of the Old Testament literature there is no chapter more tragic or full of solemn and searching warning than this." (G. Campbell Morgan)

2 Samuel 11:1 – 5 – A not-so-sudden fall

In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king's men and the whole Israelite army. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem.

² One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, ³ and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, "She is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite." ⁴ Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her. (Now she was purifying herself from her monthly uncleanness.) Then she went back home. ⁵ The woman conceived and sent word to David, saying, "I am pregnant."

There are several things to note here:

- David should not have been on that rooftop.
- David makes his first grave mistake—to continue looking at Bathsheba.

However, David's failure to avoid temptation did not begin on the night he saw Bathsheba.

Genesis 2: 24: That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.

This was God's plan from the beginning, but it seemed too limiting; too restrictive. So, a new normal of multiple wives became common.

Bathsheba Was Taken

What was Bathsheba's part in this affair? Was she a willing participant? Could she have refused if she wanted to?

Why was she bathing on the roof – in the open? Was this normal?

Some want to argue that Bathsheba was complicit but there is not indication of that. The Bible says the messengers were sent to “get her. The original Hebrew words for “get her” mean to seize, take captive, etc.

David's sin was not that he saw Bathsheba. His sin was in choosing to keep looking at her.

Matthew 6:22 – 23: The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

What you take in through your eyes has more impact on you than what you hear or read. Unhealthy eyes are undisciplined eyes.

David's many wives did not satisfy his lust, because you can't satisfy lusts of the flesh. You must flee sinful lusts.

1 Corinthians 6:18: Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body.

And flee means to run away swiftly—to vanish.

Is sexual sin more sinful than other sins? For a Christian, it is a particularly devastating sin because it is a sin against our bodies, and our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 6:19 – 20: Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

Think of Joseph, who was more severely tempted to commit sexual sin even than David was here. But what did Joseph do?

David looked at Bathsheba and said *beauty* but God saw this as *ugly*.

Some time passes; it looks like David got away with his one-night stand. But then he gets this simple message from Bathsheba: “I am pregnant.” But David learns again that you can choose your sin but you can't choose the consequences.

Bathsheba was a victim of David's lust, and now she is bearing the consequences of that union. What can she do?

2 Samuel 11:6 – 13 – Caught in the Trap of Sin

⁶ So David sent this word to Joab: “Send me Uriah the Hittite.” And Joab sent him to David. ⁷ When Uriah came to him, David asked him how Joab was, how the soldiers were and how the war was going. ⁸ Then David said to Uriah, “Go down to your house and wash your feet.” So Uriah left the palace, and a gift from the king was sent after him. ⁹ But Uriah slept at the entrance to the palace with all his master's servants and did not go down to his house.

¹⁰ David was told, “Uriah did not go home.” So he asked Uriah, “Haven't you just come from a military campaign? Why didn't you go home?”

¹¹ Uriah said to David, “The ark and Israel and Judah are staying in tents, and my commander Joab and my lord's men are camped in the open country. How could I go to my house to eat and drink and make love to my wife? As surely as you live, I will not do such a thing!”

¹²Then David said to him, “Stay here one more day, and tomorrow I will send you back.” So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the next. ¹³At David’s invitation, he ate and drank with him, and David made him drunk. But in the evening Uriah went out to sleep on his mat among his master’s servants; he did not go home.

David tries to hide his sin but you can never hide sin. Your sin and mine is never hidden before God and only hidden with difficulty from our conscience.

“As soon as ever we are conscious of sin, the right thing is not to begin to reason with the sin, or to wait until we have brought ourselves into a proper state of heart about it, but to go at once and confess the transgression unto the Lord, there and then.” (Spurgeon)

What happens to you when you keep unconfessed sin in your heart?

Uriah proved to be a man of integrity, whose first loyalty was to the king’s interests rather than to his own pleasure. And keep in mind, Uriah was a Hittite, not even a Jew.

2 Samuel 11:14 - 27

In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it with Uriah. ¹⁵In it he wrote, “Put Uriah out in front where the fighting is fiercest. Then withdraw from him so he will be struck down and die.”

¹⁶So while Joab had the city under siege, he put Uriah at a place where he knew the strongest defenders were. ¹⁷When the men of the city came out and fought against Joab, some of the men in David’s army fell; moreover, Uriah the Hittite died.

¹⁸Joab sent David a full account of the battle. ¹⁹He instructed the messenger: “When you have finished giving the king this account of the battle, ²⁰the king’s anger may flare up, and he may ask you, ‘Why did you get so close to the city to fight? Didn’t you know they would shoot arrows from the wall? ²¹Who killed Abimelek son of Jerub-Besheth? Didn’t a woman drop an upper millstone on him from the wall, so that he died in Thebez? Why did you get so close to the wall?’ If he asks you this, then say to him, ‘Moreover, your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead.’”

²²The messenger set out, and when he arrived he told David everything Joab had sent him to say. ²³The messenger said to David, “The men overpowered us and came out against us in the open, but we drove them back to the entrance of the city gate. ²⁴Then the archers shot arrows at your servants from the wall, and some of the king’s men died. Moreover, your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead.”

²⁵David told the messenger, “Say this to Joab: ‘Don’t let this upset you; the sword devours one as well as another. Press the attack against the city and destroy it.’ Say this to encourage Joab.”

²⁶When Uriah’s wife heard that her husband was dead, she mourned for him. ²⁷After 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.

David never intended to murder someone when he called for Bathsheba that night. Here’s the truth:

“Sin will take you farther than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and cost you more than you want to pay.” (R Zaccharias)

Bathsheba Suffered Greatly

- She suffered the loss of her husband. She mourned his death and now she is a pregnant widow.
- David sends for her and marries her. It must have seemed to be the only option she had.
- Then she suffers the death of that baby.

2 Samuel 12:7 ff

Then Nathan said to David, “You are the man! This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. . . Why did you despise the word of the LORD by doing what is evil in his eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. ¹⁰Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.’”

¹³ Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD."

Nathan replied, "The LORD has taken away your sin. You are not going to die. ¹⁴ But because by doing this you have shown utter contempt for the LORD, the son born to you will die."

¹⁵ After Nathan had gone home, the LORD struck the child that Uriah's wife had borne to David, and he became ill. . . ¹⁸ On the seventh day the child died. . .

¹⁹ David noticed that his attendants were whispering among themselves, and he realized the child was dead. "Is the child dead?" he asked.

"Yes," they replied, "he is dead."

²⁰ Then David got up from the ground. After he had washed, put on lotions and changed his clothes, he went into the house of the LORD and worshiped.

²⁴ Then David comforted his wife Bathsheba, and he went to her and made love to her. She gave birth to a son, and they named him Solomon. The LORD loved him; ²⁵ and because the LORD loved him, he sent word through Nathan the prophet to name him Jedidiah.

Notice the harsh words Nathan says to David: "But because by doing this you have shown utter contempt for the Lord. . ." Here's the definition of contempt:

Contempt: the feeling that a person or a thing is beneath consideration, worthless, or deserving scorn.

And Nathan said David showed *utter* contempt—that takes it to an even more disgraceful level!

As Christ-followers we need a more realistic understanding of how God sees the sin in our lives. We let ourselves off the hook far too easily.

What are some ways we excuse sin in our lives?

Bathsheba's Redemption

We see that Bathsheba not only had another son, but God himself loved this child and told the prophet to name him Jedidiah, which means "beloved by the Lord." Evidently her relationship with David was good and he respected her:

1 Kings 2:19: When Bathsheba went to King Solomon to speak to him for Adonijah, the king stood up to meet her, bowed down to her and sat down on his throne. He had a throne brought for the king's mother, and she sat down at his right hand.

And she was included in the genealogy of Jesus. She remained faithful to God and was a strong and courageous woman. She was the mother of Solomon, who became a great king.

So, here's another disgraceful woman - a woman who was part of a disgraceful event she never chose. And she gave birth by King David to Solomon who was an ancestor of Jesus Christ.

Would you have chosen Bathsheba? Why not one of David's other wives, like Abigail, who was such a terrific lady?