

2 Samuel 11:5-27 - Thursday, February 12th, 2015

- Last week we left David having made the catastrophic decision to remain in Jerusalem instead of going into battle as kings did.
- This led to one particular evening when he couldn't fall asleep then gets up and notices Bathsheba bathing on the roof close by.
- In spite of the warnings David sends for her lies with her and she returns to her home, and it would appear he gets away with it.

5 And the woman conceived; so she sent and told David, and said, "I am with child."

- One has to wonder what David must have thought when he hears the news that Bathsheba is now pregnant with David's child.
- I suppose you could say that David is at the crossroads of a decision such that he can either confess his sin or cover up his sin.
- While we know David chooses the latter and seeks to cover it, it's important to understand that doing so will only make it worse.

- Had he just come clean and confess his sin at this point, he would have been the recipient of God's forgiveness and cleansing.

1 John 1:9 (NIV) If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

- It's hard to imagine but David not confessing and choosing to cover it up instead would bring about such horrific consequences.
- Namely, this unwanted pregnancy, then subsequently the death of this precious baby, not to mention the murder of one Uriah.
- If this weren't bad enough, his son rapes his daughter and one son murders another son, and a rebellion by his son Absalom.

Proverbs 28:13 Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

Charles Spurgeon - "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."

6 Then David sent to Joab, saying, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent Uriah to David. 7 When Uriah had come to him, David asked how Joab was doing, and how the people were doing, and how the war prospered. 8 And David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house and wash your feet." So Uriah departed from the king's house, and a gift of food from the king followed him. 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.

- This is interesting for a number of reasons not the least of which is David's "Plan A" cover up is met with utter and total failure.
- More specifically, the plan to get Uriah to have relations with his wife in order to cover up Bathsheba's pregnancy as being him.
- If you're anything like me you're probably wondering how it is that David would go as far as letting Uriah think it was his child.

Adam Clarke - "David's design was that he should go and lie with his wife, that the child now conceived should pass for his, the honor of Bathsheba be screened, and his own crime concealed. At this time he had no design of the murder of Uriah, nor of taking Bathsheba to wife."

10 So when they told David, saying, "Uriah did not go down to his house," David said to Uriah, "Did you not come from a journey? Why did you not go down to your house?" 11 And Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah are dwelling in tents, and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are encamped in the open fields. Shall I then go to my house to eat and drink, and to lie with my wife? As you live, and as your soul lives, I will not do this thing."

- Here we're told not just that Uriah didn't sleep with his wife, we're told why. How could he enjoy his wife while Israel is in battle?
- I can't imagine what went through David's mind when Uriah tells him, "as you live, and as your soul lives, I will not do this thing."
- Just the irony of it alone is unthinkable. Uriah will not sleep with his wife while David has no problem sleeping with Uriah's wife.

One commentator of this wrote, "David had expected and hoped that Uriah would prove to be like himself; instead he proved to be a man of integrity, whose first loyalty was to the king's interests rather than to his own pleasure."

12 Then David said to Uriah, "Wait here today also, and tomorrow I will let you depart." So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the next. 13 Now when David called him, he ate and drank before him; and he made him drunk. And at evening he went out to lie on his bed with the servants of his lord, but he did not go down to his house.

- Because Plan A and B have both failed, David now resorts to Plan C, which is to get Uriah drunk so his resolve is weakened.
- Perhaps David has underestimated the commitment and character of his faithful servant and loyal soldier who will not give in.
- As one said, David was drunk with lust and slept with Bathsheba, and hoped making Uriah drunk with wine would do the same.

Charles Spurgeon - "Here we find a common soldier austere and self-denying, while the renowned psalmist had become luxurious and wanton. ...What wickedness was this on David's part to lead honest Uriah into drunkenness! One sin draws on another as links of a chain. With all his cunning, David did not succeed in concealing his crime, and therefore, he went further still, and became guilty of murder to screen himself. 'How are thou fallen from heaven, thou beautiful star of the morning!' 'Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall!'"

14 In the morning it happened that David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it by the hand of Uriah. 15 And he wrote in the letter, saying, "Set Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retreat from him, that he may be struck down and die." 16 So it was, while Joab besieged the city, that he assigned Uriah to a place where he knew there were valiant men. 17 Then the men of the city came out and fought with Joab. And some of the people of the servants of David fell; and Uriah the Hittite died also.

- Couple of thoughts here, the first of which has to do with Joab who at this point has no idea as to why David wants Uriah killed.
- Instead of questioning why, he just carries it out, and actually does it differently than David wanted so it doesn't look so obvious.
- The reason I point this out is because Joab had an unquestionable trust in David and couldn't have imagined the real reason.

- This sort of dovetails into the second thought, which is Uriah's trust of David sending a letter with him to Joab in the battlefield.
- I'm of the belief that Uriah like Joab also had an unquestionable trust in David and could never have imagined he would do this.
- To me seeing David have Uriah carry a letter that's, in effect, his own death sentence is the height of coldness and wickedness.

Adam Clarke, "This was the sum of treachery and villany. He made this most noble man the carrier of letters which prescribed the mode in which he was to be murdered."

18 Then Joab sent and told David all the things concerning the war, 19 and charged the messenger, saying, "When you have finished telling the matters of the war to the king, 20 if it happens that the king's wrath rises, and he says to you: 'Why did you approach so near to the city when you fought? Did you not know that they would shoot from the wall?' 21 Who struck Abimelech the son of Jerubbesheth? Was it not a woman who cast a piece of a millstone on him from the wall, so that he died in Thebez? Why did you go near the wall?"—then you shall say, 'Your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.' " 22 So the messenger went, and came and told David all that Joab had sent by him. 23 And the messenger said to David, "Surely the men prevailed against us and came out to us in the field; then we drove them back as far as the entrance of the gate. 24 The archers shot from the wall at your servants; and some of the king's servants are dead, and your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also." 25 Then David said to the messenger, "Thus you shall say to Joab: 'Do not let this thing displease you, for the sword devours one as well as another. Strengthen your attack against the city, and overthrow it.' So encourage him."

- One might think that alas, David's plan has finally succeeded in muting the voice of Uriah who alone could testify against him.
- However, nothing could be further from the truth, as now, the enemy is rejoicing at David's fall, little by little, over the 20-years.
- In other words, David didn't go from lust to adultery to deception to murder overnight rather, it took place over a period of years.

One commentator said it best this way, "If not immediately confronted, one sin can take a wretched course. David indulged his sensual lusts for years and ignored God's warnings and ways of escape. He allowed temptation to turn into lust and lust to turn into adultery. When the consequences of his adultery threatened to expose his sin, he covered it first with deception and then with murder. Satan could never tempt David with the entire package at once, but he deceived him with it piece by piece."

26 When the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she mourned for her husband. 27 And when her mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD.

- This makes me wonder about Bathsheba. The question to me is; I wonder if she's relieved at the news of her husband's death?
- If you really think about it, she is complicit in this act of adultery and as such, would have been punished for this capital crime.
- Instead, she's seems to go from adulterous to victim and widow overnight, and with her, David is a hero instead of a murderer.

- Another question I have is; does Bathsheba know that David arranged for her husband to be murdered so he could cover it up?
- Some suggest that she did not know and just assumed he had become a casualty of war, which explains why she was relieved.
- This last sentence is of interest to me because it's the first time the Lord is ever mentioned in this sordid and salacious chapter.

- Actually, it's on this note that I would like to end our Bible study this evening, as I think it speaks to the grace and mercy of God.
- Let me explain, while it could be argued that this is too much information about a man of God, we have it recorded for a reason.
- This is not to show us how bad David was, it's to show us how good God is in spite of, and even in light of, how bad David was.

Charles Spurgeon - "Though we mourn over David's sin, yet we thank God that it was permitted, for if he had not so fallen he had not been able to help us when we are conscious of transgression. He could not have so minutely described our griefs if he had not felt the same. David lived, in this respect, for others as well as for himself."