



Second Samuel Pursuing the Heart of God

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“David and Bathsheba: A King Goes Astray”

2 Samuel 11-12

June 10, 2018

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Theme: In these chapters, David makes a number of disastrous choices, starting with his decision to stay back from the battles in which he’s been engaged. He succumbs to temptation and uses his power to force himself on Bathsheba, the wife of one of his soldiers. Then to cover up his sin, he sends that soldier, Uriah, into the heat of battle, and Uriah is killed. When Nathan, the prophet of God, confronts David covertly—in a parable—David speaks words that condemn his own actions of rape and murder. David repents and throws himself on God’s mercy. God immediately and graciously forgives David. The story concludes with David suffering the consequences of his sin (his first son with Bathsheba dies), and with David experiencing restoration: Solomon is born and David returns to lead Israel to victory in his rightful place as their military king.

Outline:

1. David, Away from Battle, Sees and Takes Bathsheba (11:1-5)
2. David Sends Uriah to His Death (11:6-25)

3. David Takes Bathsheba as His Wife (11:26-27)

4. Nathan Confronts David's Evil Actions, and David Repents (12:1-14)

5. David and Bathsheba's Son Dies, and They Mourn (12:15-25)

6. David Returns to His Role as Military Leader (12:26-31)

Takeaways:

1. The author of Samuel highlights the transformative grace of God: God forgives David in spite of the horrendous evil he perpetrates.

2. We should be careful in putting any leader on a pedestal: David is not a hero to emulate in this story. Instead, we should look to the theological emphasis of God's concern for justice for those who are harmed and voiceless.

Next Cove:

June 17, 2018

Amnon and Tamar, Absalom Kills Amnon

2 Samuel 13:1-39