

“Lessons from the Life of David” – Pastor Jim Ruddy

Study # 35 – David and Nathan – 2 Samuel 11:1-12:9

I. THE TRANSGRESSION OF THE KING

A. THE SCOPE OF DAVID’S SIN 2 Sam. 11:2-14

1. COVETOUSNESS 2 Sam. 11:2

- Covetousness is the inordinate desire to possess what belongs to another. It is the ungoverned and selfish desire that threatens the basic rights of others. cf. Ex. 20:17
- David looked upon Bathsheba, and then looked again!
- Although David had everything in the Kingdom, he didn’t have enough. He wanted another man’s wife! cf. 2 Sam 7:4-17; 12:7-8

2. ADULTERY 2 Sam. 11:3-4

- Because David knew that Bathsheba was married and the spouse of a trusted friend, his sin was first degree – He “took” her.
 - cf. Ex. 20:14; Lev. 20:10

3. MURDER 2 Sam. 11:14

- After David’s attempts to use Uriah as part of his cover-up failed, he decided to silence Uriah forever.
- Although Uriah dies by Ammonite arrows, in reality David slew Uriah as surely as if he had slain him with his own royal blade!
 - cf. Ex. 20:13; Ps. 51:14

B. THE SPAN OF DAVID’S SIN 2 Sam. 11:27-12:1

- David’s cover-up involved taking Uriah’s widow as his wife, in time for the child to be born not to prematurely.
- David would confess his sin, but it was almost a year in coming.
- David lived under great conviction during this time.
 - cf. Ps. 32:3-4; 38:1-17; 51:3 - *“my sin is always before me!”*

II. THE CONDEMNATION OF THE LORD

A. GOD’S DISPLEASURE DECLARED 2 Sam. 11:27

- As the 11th Chapter of 2 Samuel comes to a close, one almost supposes that David had gotten away with his crime, that is, until the last phrase of the last verse: *“But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD.”*
- While David was able to conceal his sin from man, he was not able to hide it from God. cf. 1 Sam. 16:7; Ps. 51:6

B. GOD’S PROPHET DISPATCHED 2 Sam. 12:1

- Whereas David had “sent” Joab into battle; and “sent” his servant to find out who Bathsheba was; and “sent” to have her brought to him; God now “sent Nathan to David” to confront the King with his sin. cf. 2 Sam. 7:2-4
- The Prophet reveals God’s heart about the situation. cf. 1 Sam. 8:6,7

III. THE CONFRONTATION OF NATHAN

A. NATHAN'S RHETORIC 2 Sam. 12:1-4

- God's prophet amplified the enormity of David's offense by relating a parable in which a rich man, who had large herds and flocks, took and butchered the only young female sheep that belonged to a poor man, in order to prepare a meal for one of his guests.
- Note the emphasis on "*man*" in v1-8.

B. DAVID'S RESPONSE 2 Sam. 12:5-6

- David responded with great indignation toward the man in Nathan's story. Exceeding the restitution prescribed in the Law, David declares the culprit worthy of death. cf. Ex. 22:1
- David illustrates the fact that we most often despise in others what is our own most glaring fault! cf. Mt. 7:3-5

IV. THE ACCUSATION OF DAVID

A. DAVID'S GUILT DECLARED 2 Sam. 12:7

- In what many believe to be the most dramatic sentence in the entire Old Testament, "*Nathan said to David, You are the man!*"

B. DAVID'S GUILT DESCRIBED 2 Sam. 12:7-9

1. WHAT THE LORD HAD DONE v7-8

a. I anointed you... cf. 1 Sam. 16:1-13

- The LORD reminds David of his humble beginning, and the fact that He looks upon the heart. cf. 1 Sam. 16:1-13

b. I delivered you... cf. 2 Sam. 7:8-9

- The LORD had delivered David from all of his enemies!

c. I gave you... cf. 1 Sam. 15:28

- The LORD had given David everything pertaining to the House of Saul and supremacy over Judah and Israel.

d. I would have given you more...

- David did not have to take anything, but could have received everything his heart desired, if we would have only asked.

2. WHAT THE KING HAD DONE v9

a. He despised God.

- Despising (esteeming something of little worth) the Word of God is tantamount to despising The LORD Himself! cf. v10

b. He destroyed Uriah.

- David, not the Ammonites, had struck down Uriah!

c. He defiled Bathsheba.

- Again, Bathsheba is declared to be "*Uriah's wife!*"