

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

Study # 34 – David and Uriah – 2 Samuel 11:1-27

I. THE INDISCRETION OF DAVID v1-5

A. DAVID’S POWER v1

- David was a giant among godly leaders, and by this time in the Biblical record his throne was firmly established.
- David ruled as sovereign in his kingdom – no one could question his authority or decision.
 - David *would take* Bathsheba, because David *could take* Bathsheba!

B. DAVID’S PASSION v2-4

- The stage for David’s failure is set with the arrival of Spring, at the time when kings go forth to battle. Every man went to battle, that is, except for David. His not being where he should be led to his doing what he should not have done.
- David is the ruler of everything around him. Furthermore, he has multiple wives and concubines. Yet, having everything, he doesn't have enough.
- Sadly, David used his position and power to satisfy his own carnal desires rather than to further the plan and purpose of God.

C. DAVID’S PROBLEM v4-5

- As far as David is concerned, following the one-night stand, the affair is over. Bathsheba returns to her home and David expects no repercussions. No one is the wiser, that is, until Bathsheba informs David that she is pregnant with his child. (cf. v4 – “*for she was cleansed from her impurity*”)
- In order to avoid detection, David devises a plan that will free him of all suspicion and allow him to go on with his life.

II. THE DECEPTION OF URIAH v6-27a

A. DAVID’S PLAN TO DECEIVE URIAH v6-13

1. BY APPEALING TO HIS CARNAL DESIRE v6-11

- David determines to bring Uriah home from the battlefield in order to get he and his wife Bathsheba together, thus making it appear that the baby belonged to Uriah.
- David calls for Uriah to return from the battlefield under the guise of receiving an update on the success of the siege at Rabbah. Following the debriefing, Uriah is released to his home for R&R.
- To David’s dismay, Uriah emphatically rejects the King’s offer and makes a solemn oath that he will never violate.
 - Uriah refuses to do what David had just done!

2. BY IMPAIRING HIS SPIRITUAL DEVOTION v12-13

- Failing in his first attempt in the cover-up, David tries a second time. David gets Uriah intoxicated, hoping that he will lose his self-restraint and go home to his wife.
- Uriah’s resolve is not weakened by David’s ploy.
 - Uriah drunk was a better man than David sober!

B. DAVID'S PLAN TO DESTROY URIAH v14-27a

1. THE TAKING OF ANOTHER MAN'S WIFE

- Since Uriah would not cooperate with David's scheme, he must now be silenced forever so he could never deny that he was the father of Bathsheba's child.
- With her husband out of the way, David would then be free to take Bathsheba as his wife, of course, in time for the child to be born "not too prematurely."

2. THE TAKING OF ANOTHER MAN'S LIFE

- David authors a letter to Joab, instructing his captain to place Uriah into the fiercest part of the battle, and then to abandon him that he might be struck down.
- David *would take* Uriah's life because David *could take* Uriah's life.
- In ordering Joab to expose Uriah to danger, the King was using the same means Saul had used in an effort to be rid of David himself. cf. 1 Sam. 18:20-25
- David had such confidence in Uriah's integrity, he gave him the letter ordering Uriah's own death! David was sure that Uriah would never breach the King's loyalty by reading someone else's mail.
- Uriah returns to the battle and delivers his own death-warrant to Joab, who then fulfilled the orders of the King. Joab paired Uriah up with the Ammonite crack-troops and then withdrew from him. Thus, Uriah was killed in the line of duty, along with the others who stood at his side.
- Although Uriah dies by Ammonite arrows, the reality was that David slew Uriah as surely as if he had killed him with his own royal blade.
- Note the hypocrisy of David's comments in v25, that the loss of lives was an inevitable part of the fortunes of war.
- Following a brief time of mourning (7 days? - Gen. 50:10; 1 Sam. 31:13), Bathsheba is then taken in marriage by David, as part of his charade of compassion for his loyal soldier's widow
- There is no indication that Bathsheba knew what David had done. She may have seen herself as the recipient of fortunate circumstance and coincidence and hoped they would live happily ever after.
- David's scheme seems to have succeeded. A murder has been carried out, dressed up in a hero's death. David has gained another beautiful wife who will soon bare him a son.

III. THE DISPLEASURE OF THE LORD v27b

- David's *season of relief*, however, is even more short-lived than his *season of pleasure*, as his sin awakens the anger of The LORD.
- David may have concealed his sin from man, but not from God. cf. 1 Sam. 16:7
- The Word of God does not hesitate to reveal and denounce the sin of any follower of God no matter what their status. cf. Gen. 9:20-21; Gal. 2:11
- Any attempt to justify David's adultery as a *sin of sudden passion* is overruled by his multiple *sins of determination and deliberation* against Uriah.
 - David's transgressions were first degree!
- When David is remembered later in Israel's history this horrid chapter in the King's life will mar his memory. cf. 1 Ki. 15:5