

Summer in Samuel – Week 11 – 2 Samuel 11-12

1 Samuel 12:1-10: *The Lord sent Nathan to David. When he came to him, he said, “There were two men in a certain town, one rich and the other poor. ² The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cattle, ³ but the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb he had bought. He raised it, and it grew up with him and his children. It shared his food, drank from his cup and even slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him.*

⁴ “Now a traveler came to the rich man, but the rich man refrained from taking one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare a meal for the traveler who had come to him. Instead, he took the ewe lamb that belonged to the poor man and prepared it for the one who had come to him.”

⁵ David burned with anger against the man and said to Nathan, “As surely as the Lord lives, the man who did this must die! ⁶ He must pay for that lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and had no pity.”

⁷ 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. ⁸ I gave your master’s house to you, and your master’s wives into your arms. I gave you all Israel and Judah. And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ Now, 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.’

INTRO to Series: “Summer in Samuel” – Throughout Scripture, we see that God uses imperfect people to accomplish His perfect will and purposes for this world. Those who are faithful are set apart because of their trust in Him, whether in successes or failures. Our “Summer in Samuel” study will take us into the books of 1 and 2 Samuel and a few of the Psalms, where time and again God demonstrates His faithfulness. The stories of people like Hannah, Samuel, and David will remind us that no matter the season—in good times and bad—those who put their trust in Him are not put to shame.

INTRO to **2 Samuel 11-12:** These chapters tell the story of King David’s greatest known failures that led to a very difficult season in his life. Today we are looking at the story of David and Bathsheba itself, and also the prophet Nathan’s confrontation with David and the aftermath. We will also look at **Psalms 51** (see below), which David wrote directly after this moment with Nathan.

-We’ve known David as a man after God’s own heart (**1 Samuel 13:14**), God’s chosen man to be king of Israel (**1 Samuel 16**), the man God has accompanied in all his work and trials (**1 Samuel 16, 18, 2 Samuel 5,7**), the recipient of God’s most important covenant promises in all of Scripture to this point in (**2 Samuel 7**), and also as a benevolent king who seeks what is right and just (**2 Samuel 9**). David has been victorious in everything he’s set his mind and energy to. But in **2 Samuel 11**, as A. A. Anderson wrote, “David finally met an enemy he could not defeat.”

TEXT #1: 1 Samuel 11:1-14: *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."*

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!"*

¹² *Then 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. ¹³ At 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.*

¹⁴ *In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it with Uriah. ¹⁵ In 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."*

-2 Samuel 11 closes with these words at the end of **vs. 27b**: *But the thing David had done displeased the Lord.*

TEXT #2: Samuel 12:1-10:

-God sent the prophet Nathan to David (Samuel had died many years before) to speak truth to the king about the things he had done that had "displeased the Lord."

-Instead of speaking directly to David about his actions, Nathan confronted David in the form of a story (see above).

TEXT #3: 2 Samuel 12:11-25: Though David acknowledged his sin and asked the Lord to both forgive him and lead him in repentance after this moment (see **Psalms 51** below), there were still consequences to David's actions:

- David's child born to Bathsheba lived only a short time before succumbing to an infant death.
- David's reign moved from being in a place of peace, prosperity, and rest to one of strife, hardship, and conflict.
- The "sword" came into David's house and family which led to disgraceful immorality and multiple acts of violence.

-Eventually, Bathsheba bore another son to David named Solomon. Through Solomon, many the covenant promises God made to David (**2 Samuel 7**) were fulfilled, including the building of God's temple in Jerusalem.

Other Scriptures Referenced:

Psalm 51 (For the director of music. A psalm of David. When the prophet Nathan came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba.)

- ¹ *Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion
blot out my transgressions.*
- ² *Wash away all my iniquity
and cleanse me from my sin.*
- ³ *For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is always before me.*
- ⁴ *Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are right in your verdict
and justified when you judge.*
- ⁵ *Surely I was sinful at birth,
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.*
- ⁶ *Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb;
you taught me wisdom in that secret place.*
- ⁷ *Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.*
- ⁸ *Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones you have crushed rejoice.*
- ⁹ *Hide your face from my sins
and blot out all my iniquity.*
- ¹⁰ *Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.*
- ¹¹ *Do not cast me from your presence
or take your Holy Spirit from me.*

- ¹² *Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.*
- ¹³ *Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
so that sinners will turn back to you.*
- ¹⁴ *Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God,
you who are God my Savior,
and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.*
- ¹⁵ *Open my lips, Lord,
and my mouth will declare your praise.*
- ¹⁶ *You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;
you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.*
- ¹⁷ *My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart
you, God, will not despise.*
- ¹⁸ *May it please you to prosper Zion,
to build up the walls of Jerusalem.*
- ¹⁹ *Then you will delight in the sacrifices of the righteous,
in burnt offerings offered whole;
then bulls will be offered on your altar.*

Romans 6:23: *The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord!*