

2 Samuel 11

David and Bathsheba

11 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."

¹⁶ So while Joab had the city under siege, he put Uriah at a place where he knew the strongest defenders were. ¹⁷ When the men of the city came out and fought against Joab, some of the men in David's army fell; moreover, Uriah the Hittite died.

¹⁸ Joab sent David a full account of the battle. ¹⁹ He instructed the messenger: "When you have finished giving the king this account of the battle, ²⁰ the king's anger may flare up, and he may ask you, 'Why did you get so close to the city to fight? Didn't you know they would shoot arrows from the wall?' ²¹ Who killed Abimelek son of Jerub-Besheth? Didn't a woman drop an upper millstone on him from the wall, so that he died in Thebez? Why did you get so close to the wall?' If he asks you this, then say to him, 'Moreover, your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead.'"

²² The messenger set out, and when he arrived he told David everything Joab had sent him to say. ²³ The messenger said to David, "The men overpowered us and came out against us in the open, but we drove them back to the entrance of the city gate. ²⁴ Then the archers shot arrows at your servants from the wall, and some of the king's men died. Moreover, your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead."

²⁵ David told the messenger, "Say this to Joab: 'Don't let this upset you; the sword devours one as well as another. Press the attack against the city and destroy it.' Say this to encourage Joab."

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

Matthew 5:27-30

Adultery

²⁷ "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' ²⁸ But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹ If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. ³⁰ And if your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.

But the Thing David did Displeased the Lord

(2 Sam 11 and Matthew 5:27-30)

13-Sep-20

We're continuing our series on 2 Samuel.

We're up to chapter 11

Please have your **Bibles open** to 2 Samuel 11.

Let me pray before we begin...

Let's pray...

Intro

As some of you will know **Heather and I** celebrated our **25th wedding anniversary** a couple of weeks ago.

25 years ago, we had a **honeymoon** in **Bali**

During our holiday there - one day **I** had the "bright idea" to hire a **4WD jeep** to **drive around the island** and do a bit of **exploring** - what could go wrong?

As we approached a small village, I was **behind** a whole bunch of **mopeds riding into the same village**

I did notice a **road sign** - which I **wasn't familiar** with from Australia

[PowerPoint 1-Road Sign]



The road **sign** had a picture of a **car** with a **line through it**.

I **didn't take much notice of the sign** - and carried on driving into the village.

That was a **big mistake!**

The **police pulled me over** and **what a mess** I got myself into.

I won't go into the whole story - but it **wasn't my finest hour!**

The **trouble** I got myself into was because I ignored the warning sign

In this chapter - **chapter 11 of 2 Samuel** - we are given a huge warning about sin and the consequences of sin

This chapter is in the Bible for us to take notice of the warning of sin and its-consequences

Whatever else you might learn from this chapter - don't ignore this warning - like I ignored the traffic sign in Bali!

So, let's look at **King David's sin**

David's Sin (2 Samuel 11:1-5)

- We pick up the story in v1 where **spring has arrived** and it's the time when the wars are fought
- **Wars** in those days often **stopped during winter** as it was too cold and too difficult to fight in the conditions. **Once spring came - wars could resume.**
- **King David sends his commander - Joab - his nephew** - out with the army to fight a **battle** with the **Ammonites** - who we came across last week - in chapter 10

- It's implied that **David - as King - should have gone off to fight with the army** - even though it wasn't strictly necessary - **Joab was more than capable** of leading the army.
- **But by David staying home in Jerusalem** - he gets himself into a **whole lot of bother**

[PowerPoint 2-David sees Bathsheba]



- **From the roof of the palace -David sees a beautiful woman named Bathsheba bathing**
- **At this point all David has done is notice the beauty of a woman -**
- **There's nothing wrong with acknowledging her beauty.**
- **The problem is - David acts on what he's sees**
- **He makes inquiries about who she is**
- **And when he finds out she is the daughter of Eliam and that she is married to Uriah -**
- **David should have forgotten about Bathsheba there and then**

- Bathsheba's **grandfather** is **Athithopel** - and we'll find out in a couple of weeks that Athithopel is **David's counsellor and adviser** (2 Samuel 15:12)
- I wonder how Bathsheba's grandfather is going to feel about the **events of this chapter** - we'll find out in a few weeks' time?
- But - the fact that **Bathsheba is married** and that her grandfather is **David's adviser** - doesn't deter David
- **He acts on his lust** - he is **captivated by Bathsheba's beauty**
- **He sleeps with Bathsheba**
- We're told as an **aside** - in v4 - that **Bathsheba was purifying from her monthly menstruation** - this tells us - she is **not already pregnant** and she is **at her most fertile** - to become pregnant
- And that's precisely what happens
- **Bathsheba becomes pregnant!**
- The **writer** doesn't make any **comment** on **Bathsheba behaviour**.
- Should we lay any blame on her?
- Well - should she be bathing out in the open so that David can see her?
- Couldn't she have refused David's advances?
- Or **maybe she was too afraid** to say **NO** - to the King?
- What sin has **David committed?**
- He's broken the **10th commandment** - he has **coveted his neighbour's wife**
- And he's broken the **7th commandment** - he has **committed adultery** (a **married person having sex with someone who is not their spouse**)
- The **punishment for adultery** - according to Leviticus 20:10 - is **both people involved are to be put to death**

- Obviously, David - as King - is not going to give himself or Bathsheba - the death penalty
- **I wonder if David even thought that what he was about to do with Bathsheba was going to ruin his whole life?**
- **I wonder if David thought this story would make it into the Bible - and that we'd be reading about it still - 3000 years later?**
- Even some people who aren't Christians or who haven't read the Bible - have heard about the story of David and Bathsheba - there's even been movies made about this story
- Was Bathsheba's beauty worth ruining his life for?

(pause)

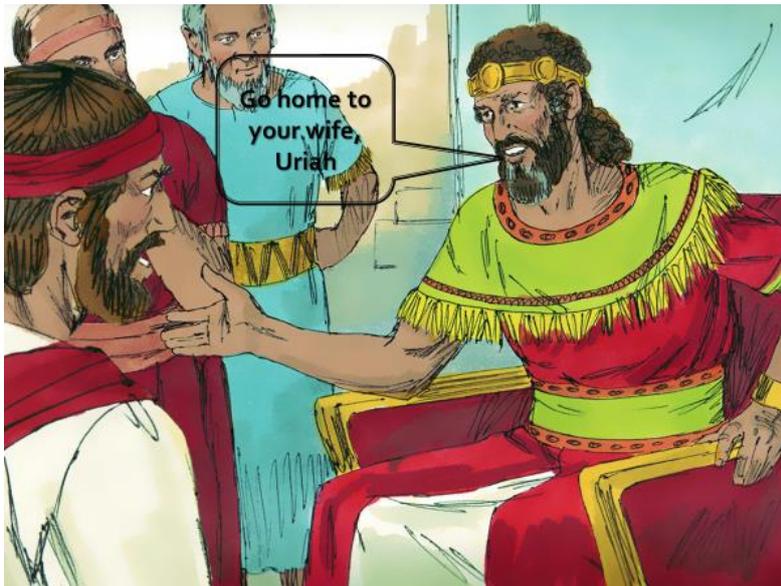
- You see - our sin - always has consequences
- At this point David could have owned up to his sin of adultery -
- But that would have been a huge scandal - the Jerusalem newspapers headlines would read "*King David sleeps with the wife of one of his soldiers and she's pregnant*" - **read all about it!**
- Imagine if Facebook was around then - social media would go viral with this!
- **David can't have that sort of scandal**
- So, he has to cover it up

Cover Up (2 Samuel 11:6-27)

Cover Up 1

- David's first attempt to cover it up is to call Uriah back from battle and encourage him to go home to his wife. David hopes Uriah will sleep with his wife, Bathsheba, and then it will seem that Uriah is the father of the Bathsheba's baby

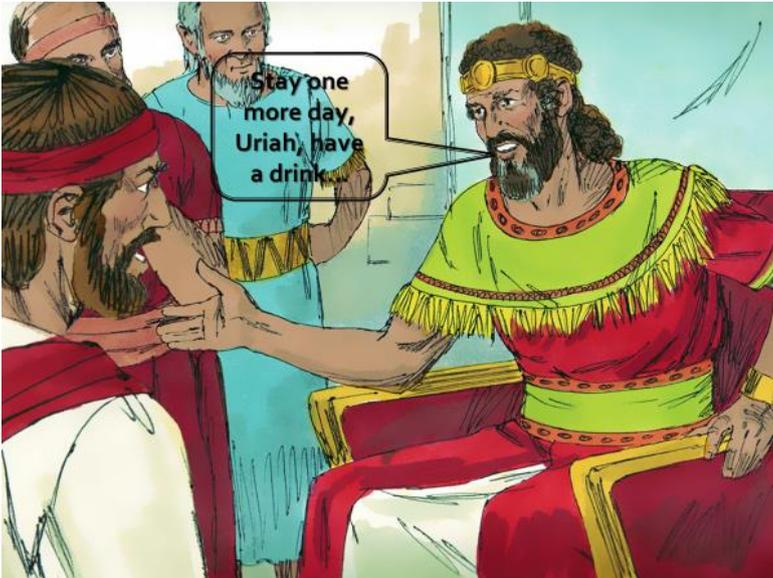
[PowerPoint 3-Uriah go home]



- But Uriah doesn't go home to his wife - he sleeps outside the entrance of the palace alongside the King's servants
- When David asks why he didn't go home - Uriah says he couldn't justify going home - whilst the Lord's ark is in a tent, and the army is camped out in open country

Cover Up 2

[PowerPoint 4-Uriah stay]



- David's **second cover up attempt** is - to **get Uriah drunk** so that he will forget about his loyalty to David and the army and he will go home and sleep with his wife - but Uriah still didn't go home - but instead - slept outside the palace alongside David's servants, again!

Cover Up 3

[PowerPoint 5-Uriah killed]



- David is **getting desperate now** - this can't come out in public - it must be covered up at all costs

- So, David comes up with the most awful cover up
- He sends a note to Joab to put Uriah in the frontline where the fighting is fiercest - so that Uriah will be killed
- Ironically Uriah carries the note - which has his death sentence in it - but he doesn't know
- And such is Uriah's integrity and respect for the King - he didn't even open the note and read it!
- And of course, David's plan works
- Uriah is killed in battle
- The cover up is complete
- David has got away with it!
- But the last sentence in the chapter says
But the thing David did displeased the Lord
- You see we can't hide anything from God - He knows our thoughts and our actions - even our darkest secrets

What sins has David committed?

- He's committed idolatry - he's put the worship of himself and his selfishness above God and above God's rules
- How many wives does David need? He ends up with 8 wives and 10 concubines!
- In committing this sin with Bathsheba - David is basically saying to God - "God you're not enough - I'm not satisfied with being King of Israel, I'm not satisfied with being a war hero, I'm not satisfied with being a man

after God's own heart - I'm not satisfied with all you've blessed me with - I want more - God you're not enough!"

- David's **coveted** Uriah's wife
- He's committed **adultery**
- He's **lied** to cover up
- He's **deceived** Uriah -
- He's **guilty of duplicity** - David's **tricked Uriah into thinking** that **he cares about him** - when in fact - he's really trying to cover up the fact that he slept with his wife
- He's guilty of **murdering Uriah - pre-meditated murder!**
- He's guilty of **making Joab complicit** in this **murder** of Uriah
- And he's **abused his power as King**
- **Ironically** the soldier **Uriah has way more integrity and honour** than David
- **What happened to David - the man after God's own heart?**

(pause)

- You see by committing one sin
- It has **led to David committing another one to cover up the first**
- **Then another and another** - until it's out of control
- **That's what sin does!**

And with these sins - comes **consequences**

What are the **consequences** of David's sin?

- **Uriah is dead**
- **What about Uriah's family** - how will they deal with his death?

- What about Bathsheba - she's an adulterous now - she's lost her husband - and she's grieving
- What about Joab - he had to go along with David's plan to kill Uriah. But now that Joab has done David a favour - Joab can have a hold on David - and David can't claim the moral high ground with Joab anymore - because David has had Uriah murdered - Joab knows David's secret - and Joab can use that against David if he chooses to.
- What about the other men that were killed in battle with Uriah - what about their wives and families?
- What about Bathsheba's family - her father, Eliam and her grandfather, Athithopel
- And what about David - He's the man after God's own heart - how will this affect his life from now on?

The consequences don't end there - as we'll see in the coming week's

- David's child that Bathsheba is carrying dies
- In the next chapter - God promises there will be calamity in David's family (2 Sam 12:11) - because of his sin with Bathsheba
- In the weeks to come we'll see that David not only loses this baby - but two other sons die - Amnon and Absalom
- It's no exaggeration to say - David's life from this point onwards is ruined - what a mess!
- All because of giving into his lust for Bathsheba

Application

[PowerPoint 6-Application]

Application

1. Lesson 1 - Heed the Warning
2. Lesson 2 – Remember all our sins have consequences
3. Lesson 3 – Ask God to help us flee from sin
4. Lesson 4 – Examine our hearts and repent
5. Lesson 5 – Remember we're never too bad for Jesus' forgiveness

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What lessons are we meant to learn from this story of David and Bathsheba?

1. **Lesson 1 - Heed the warning** - as David looks out from the palace roof - he's living on the edge - the adrenaline and excitement is kicking in - all he has to do, though, is walk back inside and forget what he's seen.

Is there something in our lives that we're tempted to do - we know it's wrong - but we're on the edge - it's very tempting - it might even be exciting - but is it worth ruining our life for?

No matter how blessed we are by God; or how gifted; no matter what status we have; no matter how God has used us in the past; we can't rest on our laurels and we can't assume we are above God's law!

Ask God to lead us from temptation and deliver us from evil

2. **Lesson 2 - Remember all our sins have consequences - not just for ourselves but for others in our lives too - look how many lives were**

affected by David's sin. If you are about to commit a sin - ask yourself - **who will this affect?** Is it really worth it?

3. **Lesson 3** - Remember one sin often leads to another to cover up the one before. If for example, you tell a lie - then you often have to tell another lie to cover up the previous one. Rather than letting one sin lead to another - **ask God to help us help us flee from sin.**

As James 4:7-8 says - Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you.

And as Jesus said in our NT reading from Matt 5:29: **If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.**

4. **Lesson 4** - **Examine our hearts** - what sin is there that needs to be repented of and turned away from? Examine our hearts is the sin in our lives saying to God - "**You're not enough for me?**". Let us pray Psalm 139:23-24 -

²³ Search me, God, and know my heart;
test me and know my anxious thoughts.

²⁴ See if there is any offensive way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.

5. **Lesson 5** - Remember we're never too bad - that we can't come to Jesus and ask him for forgiveness.

In Jesus we have someone who takes away the punishment for our sins by His death on the cross and instead gives us the offer of forgiveness.

King David is a sinful flawed king - we don't want to be like David here - we need to come to King Jesus - the sinless flawless perfect king.

Conclusion

To finish up then - the **Apostle Paul** deals with the subject of sexual immorality in his letter to the Church in Corinth.

In 1 Corinthians 6 verses 18 to 20

Paul encourages us - in fact - he commands us to do this:

[PowerPoint 7-Conclusion]

[Read Verse]

Conclusion

¹⁸ Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body. ¹⁹ Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; ²⁰ you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

(1 Corinthians 6:18-20)

The bottom line is Jesus brought us back into a right relationship with God. It cost Jesus his life - by dying on the cross.

We've been bought at a price - the price was Jesus' death on the cross

Paul's argument is - if Jesus did that for us

Shouldn't we - out of **thanks and gratitude** to Him

Honour God with our bodies - and OBEY Him...

Let's pray...