

Living in the Victory God Gives (2 Sam 11-12)

Notes: Week Six

David and Bathsheba - 2 Samuel 11:1-27

Topics: Abandon, Adultery, Anger, Authority, Children, Danger, Death, Deceit,
Dedication, Devotion, Dishonesty, Drinking, Encouragement, Guilt, Home, Honor,
Hospitality, Husbands, Immorality, Instructions, Integrity, Involvement, Isolation, Loyalty,
Lust, Marriage, Morality, Motives, Mourning, Murder, Neighbor, Plans, Power, Remarriage,
Selfishness, Sex, Sin, Temptation, War, Wives

Open It

- 1. *In what ways do you agree or disagree with the adage "Power corrupts"?
- 2. Whom have you ever known who seemed so loyal and honest as to be "too good to be true"?

Explore It

- 3. Where was David while the Israelite army was engaged in battle against the Ammonites? (11:1)
- 4. What did David observe one night from the roof of the palace? (11:2)
- 5. *How did David misuse his authority as king in relation to the woman he observed? (11:3-5)
- 6. After David found out Bathsheba was pregnant, what did he do next? (11:6)
- 7. What was David's pretext for sending for Uriah from the battlefront? (11:7)
- 8. Where did David send Uriah after he spoke with him? (11:8)
- 9. Why didn't Uriah take David up on the invitation to go to his own home? (11:9-11)
- 10. *What ploy did David try to get Uriah to go home to his wife? (11:13)
- 11. When Uriah did not go home, what message did David send back with him to Joab? (11:14-15)
- 12. What steps did Joab take to fulfill the king's wishes? (11:16-17)
- 13. What special instructions did Joab give to the messenger in case David grew angry at the losses taken by the Israelites? (11:18-21)
- 14. *How did David receive the news of the battle when he realized that his purposes had been accomplished with regard to Uriah? (11:25)
- 15. How did Bathsheba react to the death of Uriah the Hittite? (11:26)

- 16. How did David treat Bathsheba once her husband was out of the way? (11:27)
- 17. How did God feel about what David had done? (11:27)

Get It

- 18. *Why did David try everything within his power to get Uriah to sleep with his wife while he was home from the wars?
- 19. How did one sin lead to another and another in David's case?
- 20. What was the immediate human cost of David's lust and selfishness?
- 21. Why do you suppose Joab put a whole group of men in peril instead of following David's suggestion about abandoning Uriah?
- 22. If he had been thinking like a responsible leader, how should David have reacted to the losses Joab reported from the battle?
- 23. Why does one sin often lead to other sins?
- 24. *How does a position of authority exaggerate the human tendency to take what we want?

Apply It

- 25. How can you break the cycle the next time you find yourself committing one sin to cover up another?
- 26. *What can you do to maintain respect for people in the way you use power and authority?
- 27. In what area of your life would you like to develop an unwavering loyalty like Uriah's?

Nathan Rebukes David - 2 Samuel 12:1-31

Topics: Accountability, Adultery, Anger, Atonement, Children, Death, Evil, Fasting, Grief, Injustice, Judgment, Murder, Parents, Persistence, Poor, Prayer, Prophecy, Repentance, Selfishness, Sickness, Sin, Victory, Waiting, Worship

Open It

- 1. When was a time you were eventually thankful that someone didn't grant a request of yours?
- 2. *To what extent do you believe public officials should be accountable for their private behavior?

Explore It

- 3. In Nathan's story what was special about the ewe lamb belonging to the poor man? (12:1-3)
- 4. What injustice was perpetrated by the rich man against the poor man in Nathan's story? (12:4)
- 5. How did David react to Nathan's story? (12:5-6)
- 6. *How did Nathan use the story to convict David? (12:7-9)
- 7. What judgment did God pronounce on David through Nathan? (12:10)
- 8. How did God say He would bring David's secret sin into the open? (12:11-12)
- 9. What did David admit after Nathan had spoken? (12:13)
- 10. *According to Nathan, what would be the consequences of David's sin? (12:13-14)
- 11. What happened in David's family after Nathan left the palace? (12:15)
- 12. What did David do in response to his son's illness? (12:16-17)
- 13. Why were the servants afraid to tell David that David's child had died? (12:18)
- 14. How did David find out that his son was dead? (12:19)
- 15. *How did David act after he knew that God was not going to change His mind and allow the child to live? (12:20)
- 16. How did David explain his sudden change of demeanor to the puzzled servants? (12:21-23)
- 17. What was the name of the next child of David and Bathsheba? (12:24-25)
- 18. How was Joab and the army of Israel faring in the war? (12:26-27)
- 19. What message did Joab send from the front to his commander in chief? (12:28)
- 20. What was the outcome of David's battle against Rabbah? (12:29-31)

Get It

- 21. Why was the parable Nathan told to David so effective?
- 22. *In what sense did David "despise" God by taking Uriah's wife and having Uriah killed?
- 23. In what sense can a definite "no" from God in response to our request actually be a relief?
- 24. Why did God not strike David dead because of his sin?
- 25. *How did David's fasting and prayer before the child died show the quality of his relationship with God?
- 26. What did David mean when he said, "I will go to him, but he will not return to me"?
- 27. How can "getting on with our lives" after a crisis be an acknowledgement of the sovereignty of God?
- 28. Why is our sense of outrage easily sparked against strangers but difficult to muster in relation to our own actions?
- 29. Why does a good servant or employee let his or her superior take the credit for accomplishments he or she might have engineered?

Apply It

- 30. How can you develop an ear for parables so that you will recognize your situation when it is appropriate to do so?
- 31. *On what matter of concern can you plead for God's mercy while there is still a chance that God might grant it?
- 32. In what situation before you now should you step aside and let someone else have the glory?