

Following After God's Heart

2 Samuel - Chapters 11-12

Looking Back...

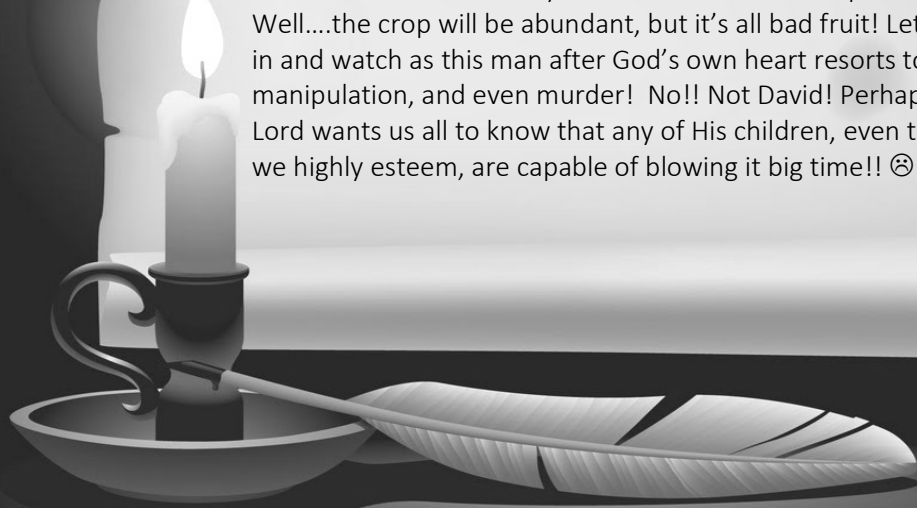
David proves to be a man of his word in seeking out any survivors of the house of Saul in order to bless him – a promise once made to his beloved friend Jonathan. Upon inquiring, it is revealed to David that Jonathan had a son. His name was Mephibosheth, crippled in both feet, and David wasted no time in sending for him. How blessed we are when we are able to extend kindness to another!

David's next attempt to extend kindness is brutally rejected as his men are sent home by the Ammonites... totally despised and humiliated! The Ammonites, however, "messed with" the wrong person and pay dearly for their actions!

Looking Ahead...

Uh Oh!! David is about to start on a serious downhill spiral. After many wars and many conquests, it looks like David feels the need to indulge in some down time. Bad idea!! As the saying goes, "Idle hands are the devil's workshop". Sadly, this principle proves to be true in David's life at this time. What do you think his idleness will produce?

Well...the crop will be abundant, but it's all bad fruit! Let's dive in and watch as this man after God's own heart resorts to deceit, manipulation, and even murder! No!! Not David! Perhaps the Lord wants us all to know that any of His children, even those we highly esteem, are capable of blowing it big time!! ☹



This week's Memory verse is Galatians 6:7. Begin memorizing the verse(s) today. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help you memorize this passage and for opportunities to apply it...

"Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap."

Galatians 6:7

Write out Galatians 6:7: _____

Write this verse(s) on your index cards... keep one with you and post the other one in a prominent place.

DAY ONE

Pray, and read **2 Samuel 11:1-5**

1. Fill in the blanks: (v.1a; c) "Then it happened in the _____, at the time when _____ go out to _____... But David _____."

A. Where *should* king David have been? _____


B. Who did *king David* send out to battle, and what was the outcome? (v.1b) _____

"Chapters 11-20 record David's troubles in the area of morals, politics, and family relationships, and illustrates repeatedly the inevitable and devastating consequences of sin." Ryrie Study Note

2. With the above in mind, let's take a look at David's "first" *downward spiral* using James 1:14-15 as a guide, with the goal of learning how **we** are able to avoid EVERY *downward spiral* within our lives, *if we choose to...*

Using James 1:14-15, chart the progression of David's sin revealed in 2 Samuel 11:2-5...		
James 1:14-15	Corresponding verse:	Three Steps of David's Sin:
"But each one is tempted..."	2 Samuel 11:2	
... when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust...	2 Samuel 11:3	
... then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; ... and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death."	2 Samuel 11:4	

"It is no part of the plan of Scripture to cover up or excuse the sins of even its greatest heroes and saints. This sin was followed by the deepest repentance and by the Divine forgiveness; nevertheless its punishment overclouded all the remaining years of David's life. "His fall," as St. Augustine has said, "should put upon their guard those who have not fallen, and save from despair those who have." C. J. Ellicott


 Whether or not Bathsheba intended to *be seen* by King David, the Scripture does not tell us. However, Bathsheba absolutely knew that *she was married*. Using your study tools, what can you discover about Bathsheba's dad, **Eliam** and her husband, **Uriah**. Share your resource(s). _____

3. After David "took her" and "lay with her", what did Bathsheba do before returning to her house? (v.4)

A. What was the requirement according to the Mosaic Law found in Leviticus 15:18? _____

4. What was the immediate consequence of King David and Bathsheba's sin? (v.5) _____

A. Read Leviticus 20:10 and Deuteronomy 22:22. What was the penalty for adultery? _____

 Time to practice our memory verse: "Do not be _____, God is _____; for whatever a man _____, this he will also _____." _____ : _____

DAY TWO

Pray, and read **2 Samuel 11:6-17**

1. Describe David's first attempt to cover his sin. (v.6-8) _____

A. Was this attempt successful? (v.9) Explain. _____

2. What was Uriah's reason for **not going** home?? (v.11) _____

A. Under different circumstances, how might David have perceived Uriah's integrity? _____

3. Describe David's second attempt to cover his sin, *two days later*. (v.13) _____

A. Was **this** attempt successful? Explain. _____

1. V.13 says... "and he (*David*) made him (*Uriah*) drunk...". What does Habakkuk 2:15-16 teach us in regard to the depth of **this** irrational attempt to cover his sin? _____

4. What was David's last attempt to remedy the situation? (v. 14-15) _____

A. Who actually carried the "death letter" to Joab? Share your thoughts. _____

1. God gave David several opportunities to repent and confess his sin. What does Proverbs 28:13 says? _____

♥ Perhaps you are in a similar situation. You love the Lord, but you have begun to minimize, justify, or cover/hide a specific sin and you have been deceived to believe **no one sees**. **Your sin will find you out!** Stop it! Confess it! and Repent (*turn away from it, and make no provision for it*). Put on the full Armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-17), and get back to business. At any point **you** are willing to confess... **He** is ready to forgive.

5. Did Joab follow king David's order? Explain. (v.15-17) _____

Something to Ponder: "The various arts and stratagems by which the king tried to cajole Uriah, till at last he resorted to the horrid crime of murder - the cold-blooded cruelty of dispatching the letter by the hands of the gallant but much-wronged soldier himself, the enlistment of Joab to be a partaker of his sin, the heartless affectation of mourning, and the indecent haste of his marriage with Bathsheba - have left an indelible stain upon the character of David, and exhibit a painfully humiliating proof of the awful lengths to which the best of men may go when they forfeit the restraining grace of God." Jamieson, Faussett & Brown



Time to practice Galatians 6:7 _____

DAY THREE

Pray, and re-read *2 Samuel 11:18-27*

1. Re-cap Joab's predicament in v.18-21, and how he "cleverly" handled it: _____

A. In moving Uriah to the *frontline of the fiercest battle*, what additional harm was caused? (v.17, 24)

1. Proverbs 6:16-19 lists six things which the LORD hates. How many of these apply to David's sin in this situation? _____

2. Sad as it may be, David "seems" to be content with the outcome of his evil plan. Although David did not "physically" kill Uriah, how does he justify what has just taken place? (v.25) _____

A. How does God view David's actions (v.27b) _____

"In calling on Joab to aid him in his evil scheme, David did so confidently, knowing that Joab's character was on a different level than his own. We actually see David using that which he hated about Joab for his own purpose. In compromising Joab, David compromised himself and put himself in a position where he would never again have the upper hand where Joab was concerned." Harvest Women's Bible Fellowship

3. It would appear that king David has successfully gotten away with his sin against God, and Uriah the Hittite... however, we know that God is just. Read the sad legacy written for us in 1 Kings 15:1-5 esp.v.3.

Share your thoughts: _____

A. David loved God... and God loved David... but David was a human being... frail, weak... just like us! Take a few minutes and read Psalm 19:12-14. Write out v.14, and make it your prayer... *everyday*...

4. What are we told about the *wife of Uriah* in v.26-27b? _____



Using your study tools, what can you discover about the "usual" time period a woman "mourns" the loss of her husband? Share your thoughts: _____

A. It may "appear" at this time that David and Bathsheba can move forward with their lives as if no sin has been committed, but what does our memory verse say? (Galatians 6:7) _____



Now...write out Galatians 6:7 in all caps! _____

DAY FOUR

Pray, and read **2 Samuel 12:1-14**

1. Who did God send to David? (v.1a) _____

A. Do you remember who Nathan is? (2 Samuel 7:2a) _____

♥ Nathan uses a *parable* as he spoke to David (v.1b-4). It is very possible that David believed this to be a true story, as Nathan would frequently present “real life” situations before David to render judgment. Why do you believe the Lord chose to use *a ewe lamb* to exhort King David? _____

2. Describe King David’s reaction to Nathan’s story? (v.5a) _____

A. Record his words of judgment to the man guilty of this crime. (v.5b-6) “As the LORD lives, ...

** surely _____.

** He must _____.”

♥ David declared that this man “deserves to die”, and that he is to make a *fourfold restitution* (Exodus 22:1) “because he did this thing, and had no compassion.” Seriously David!? Isn’t it sad that “our sin” always looks so much *more sinful* on others? Perhaps the Lord has pricked your heart in a particular area. Do you need to remove *a log* in your own eye... enabling YOU to become more compassionate toward others failures and/or struggles? If a particular person/s came to mind, pray for them. They need prayer, not your wagging finger...

3. It is amazing to watch as Nathan transitions from speaking a *parable* to speaking the very Words of God!

Let’s break it down: “Thus says the LORD God of Israel...

* What had *the LORD* done for David? (v.7-8) _____

* What had *David* done to the LORD? (v.9) _____

* What will *never depart from the house of David*, why? (v.10) _____

* What will *the LORD raise up from within* the household of David? (v.11-12) Explain _____

A. What was David’s response in v.13a? _____

B. What was Nathan’s response? (v.13b) _____

1. What would be the consequence for this sin? (v.14) _____

4. Psalm 32:3-5 and Psalm 51 describes David’s thoughts before and after his repentance and confession. Prayerfully skim over these two Psalms. Share what ministered to you the most, and why?

<u>Psalm 32:3-5</u>	<u>Psalm 51</u>



Time to practice Galatians 6:7: _____

Ask someone if you may share Galatians 6:7 with them. If you did... share with your group 😊

DAY FIVE

Pray, and read **2 Samuel 12:15-31**

1. Describe what took place, and by Whom in v.15b? _____

A. How is Bathsheba referred to here? _____

1. How is she referred to in v. 24? _____

a. Hmm... Why do you believe she is Uriah's widow when the child was struck and David's wife after the child died? _____

2. Describe the scene in v.17-18a: _____

A. Why were the servants "afraid" to tell David that his son was dead? _____

3. Confirming his son was dead, what did David do? (v.20) _____

A. Re-read v.21-23. How is David's understanding of God's character revealed in v.22? _____

1. Meditate on David's words in v.23b. Share your understanding of what he meant. _____

4. Following the death of their child, David 1st - WORSHIPPED GOD (v.20a), 2nd - STRENGTHENED HIMSELF (v.20b) and 3rd - COMFORTED HIS WIFE (v.24). How do we know God was pleased? _____



Their child was given two names. What were they? _____ & _____. Using your study tools, WHAT do these names mean? _____

A. Why was he named *Jedidiah*? _____

5. Briefly describe Joab's victory at Rabbah? (v.26-31) _____

A. What does it mean that David "set them under" the various tools? (v.31) Share your resource(s).



Time to practice & write out your memory verse: _____

*"In You O LORD, I have taken refuge; Let me never be ashamed; In Your righteousness deliver me...
Into Your hand I commit my spirit; You have ransomed me, O LORD, God of truth."*

Psalm 31:1 & 5