

THE GOSPEL PROJECT – CHRONOLOGICAL

A KINGDOM *established*

GOD THE KING

A King Who Needs a Savior

Today's lesson reminds us that even a 'king after God's own heart' needs a Savior. God records the falls of His men so we might learn from their mistakes and remember that we too are capable of falling. **1**

Corinthians 10:11-12 (ESV) ¹¹ *Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction....* ¹² *Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.* Moses was the meekest of all men, yet, he lost his temper. Elijah, one of the bravest boldest men of the Bible, became cowardly. David killed a giant, but could not deal with the giant of lust in his own life. From David's failure, we will learn a number of lessons. David, the earthly king became a captive to sin.

Read 2 Samuel 11:1-5 (ESV) ¹ *In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel. And they ravaged the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem.* ² *It happened, late one afternoon, when David arose from his couch and was walking on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful.* ³ *And David sent and inquired about the woman. And one said, "Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?"* ⁴ *So David sent messengers and took her, and she came to him, and he lay with her. (Now she had been purifying herself from her uncleanness.) Then she returned to her house.* ⁵ *And the woman conceived, and she sent and told David, "I am pregnant."*

In verse 1, we find the first clue to David's temptation - he was not where he was supposed to be - it was the time of the year when kings went to war and King David stayed home.

David lost his discipline. The danger comes when relaxation extends to our spiritual disciplines; because when we relax and let our guard down spiritually, then we become wide open to the devil because we have left ourselves spiritually unguarded. **Ephesians 6:11 (ESV)** ¹¹ *Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.* David laid down not only his physical armor but his spiritual armor. He might have only laid aside his armor for a short period of time – what matters is – he laid it down.

Coming off the 4th of July holiday, I am reminded how we normally change routines during holidays and vacations. The word holiday originally referred to 'holy days'. Our holidays can turn into unholy days - not necessarily because we are engaging in sinful activity, but we let our guard down. This causes us to lose our spiritual edge since our spiritual discipline is 'put on hold' in lieu of holiday or vacation celebrations.

David lost his focus. David began focusing on the wrong things. He saw a naked woman bathing in the distance on a rooftop and he coveted her. **Exodus 20:17 (ESV)** ¹⁷ *"You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife...* It was not the first glance that was wrong. It was David's

change of focus – he took his eyes off the LORD. *Colossians 3:2 (ESV)*² *Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.*

David lost his sensitivity to sin. How do we know this? We are told in *2 Samuel 5:13 (ESV)*¹³ *And David took more concubines and wives from Jerusalem...* God's law for David was no different than God's laws for any other man. *Deuteronomy 17:17 (ESV)*¹⁷ *And he [meaning the kings] shall not acquire many wives for himself, lest his heart turn away...* David didn't just walk up to the rooftop thinking, today I'll commit adultery. Usually there is a progression towards sin.

Be vigilant. We may not have a rooftop temptation such as David's; however, the Devil has direct power sources located in the privacy of our own homes. His power sources include television and Internet access. We are casually allowing godless people to influence our values and our thought life as we daily drink in Satan's offerings.

In the heat of his passion, David experienced a warning flag. He was clearly told that Bathsheba was the wife of Uriah the Hittite. *Exodus 20:14 (ESV)*¹⁴ *"You shall not commit adultery.* Oh, David probably 'justified' in his own mind that he was just going to chat with her maybe even talk about Uriah!?!?

Being unfaithful to a spouse may start in many ways but spending time alone with someone of the opposite sex – even if you consider it just to be a 'casual lunch' with a friend can put you in the bull's eye to succumb to temptation. David's 'little indiscretion' of coveting his neighbor's wife to the point of inviting a married woman to his home caused David to first commit adultery and then to commit a premeditated murder as a cover-up of his sin.

*Read 2 Samuel 11:16-17 (ESV)*¹⁶ *And as Joab was besieging the city, he assigned Uriah to the place where he knew there were valiant men.*¹⁷ *And the men of the city came out and fought with Joab, and some of the servants of David among the people fell. Uriah the Hittite also died.*
*2 Samuel 11:26-27 (ESV)*²⁶ *When the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she lamented over her husband.*²⁷ *And when the mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD.*

David's cover-up scheme did not begin with the intent to murder. He just simply planned to bring Uriah home from the battlefield and have him spend a little personal time with his wife. But, Uriah did not cooperate with David's plan. He refused to visit Bathsheba. *2 Samuel 11:11 (ESV)*¹¹ *Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah dwell in booths, and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are camping in the open field. Shall I then go to my house, to eat and to drink and to lie with my wife? As you live, and as your soul lives, I will not do this thing."* So, alrighty then – David would have to re-evaluate his cover-up to more desperate measures.

David devised a murder plot designed to appear as a casualty of war clearing the way for **David** to marry Bathsheba. We don't know for sure but some suggest that David may have justified the murder of Uriah in his own mind because of God's command to destroy all the Hittites when they entered Canaan – which they had not done completely. However, in regard to David and Uriah, this would not have been an excuse for

David to murder Uriah. David's sinful reasoning process is not revealed in the Bible. It is possible David just did what he did – because he thought he could get away with it. *Exodus 20:13 (ESV)*¹³ *“You shall not murder.”*

David had Uriah take the letter conspiring to Uriah's own death to Joab. He was one of David's sister's sons. Joab could have been a voice of reason to David. But, instead of refusing involvement in the cover-up, Joab did not question - he just did what the king commanded. He put Uriah in the battlefield and withdrew from him. A few other casualties became collateral damage in the incident.

After that, all seemed well. Bathsheba mourned a little while and then came to the palace as David's eighth wife. Bathsheba's depth of guilt in the story is not the focus. We are not told if she was a scheming temptress as she bathed on the roof or just an innocent lonely young wife left alone while her husband was away at war. Bathsheba's role is minimized to focus on David. David should have resisted temptation. He had the armor for it. He had a heritage from the LORD and he disgraced it. From this point on, he would be dogged with problems. *Numbers 32:23 (ESV)*²³ *... be sure your sin will find you out.*

For all appearances David had “gotten away” with his sin. Before any sin can be forgiven that sin must be confronted and confessed. And Nathan, was the prophet God called to do the confronting. Nathan paints a word picture by telling David a parable. This is the first and only real parable of the Old Testament. Nathan tells a story of a little lamb. Nathan under the LORD's direction was preparing David's heart for dealing with his own sins. It's possible that David thought Nathan was presenting him with an actual case. Since David had been a shepherd himself, a ‘sheep story’ would get his attention. Nathan's story was of a rich man who had many lambs and yet chose to take the only sheep of a poor man and kill it to make a feast for a traveler visiting the king.

The parable is a picture of David, Uriah, and Bathsheba. David is the rich man. The poor man is Uriah. The lamb is Bathsheba. When David hears the story, scripture tells us that David's anger was greatly aroused against the rich man who took the poor man's sheep. *2 Samuel 12:7 (ESV)*⁷ *Nathan said to David, “You are the man!...”*

At that moment, David saw his sin exactly for what it was – SIN! *2 Samuel 12:13 (ESV)*¹³ *David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the LORD.”* He didn't blame Bathsheba. He didn't suggest that he had already paid the price for his sin with the loss of his child. **He made no excuses for his sin.** If this confrontation was all we knew of the story, we might conclude that David had gone his merry way for an extended period of time after his sin without any guilt. However, from what David shared in *Psalms 51* (and *Psalms 32*) we learn that was certainly not the case.

*Read Psalm 51:1-4 (ESV)*¹ *Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.*² *Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!*³ *For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.*⁴ *Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.*

David reveals that his sin was ever before him. We have to marvel at the depth of David's relationship with God. David did not have the whole Bible as we do today to freely read and discover the God of Grace and Glory. Nevertheless, David possessed an intimate relationship with the Living LORD – he went boldly to God to ask for forgiveness. This is an encouragement to us – that nothing should stand in the way of our relationship with our Savior.

Oswald Chambers explains David's words in verse 4. "When the Holy Spirit stirs a person's conscience and brings him into the presence of God, it is not the person's relationships with others that bothers him but his relationship with God. *Against you, you only, have I sinned.* Sin brings separation from God. That is why Jesus on the cross as He was bearing our sins for us cried out ... *"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"* **Mark 15:34**

Read Psalm 51:5-12 (ESV) ⁵ *Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.* ⁶ *Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.* ⁷ *Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.* ⁸ *Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice.* ⁹ *Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.* ¹⁰ *Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.* ¹¹ *Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.* ¹² *Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.*

David acknowledged his sinful nature from birth. Some say that verse 5 means that David was illegitimate and others interpret it to mean that sex even within marriage is sin. David did not mean either of these things. In **Psalm 116**, a psalm of thanksgiving, he referred to his mother as being God's maid servant. David just understood that he was born with the seeds of sin in his soul inherited from Adam and Eve.

The Spirit of the LORD had departed from David's predecessor, Saul, and David knew that Saul was miserable because of it. He did not want the same thing to happen to him. Today, there is no need to pray *Take not thy Holy Spirit from me.* Jesus promised in **John 14:16 (ESV)** ¹⁶ ... *the Father... he will give you another Helper [meaning the Holy Spirit], to be with you forever.* The foundation of Christianity is repentance. When we cease to understand the value of repentance, we allow ourselves to remain in sin. **1 John 1:9 (ESV)** ⁹ *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

Yes, David was a king who became a captive to sin and needed a Savior. Jesus is the King who is the Savior! He said in **Luke 4:18 (ESV)** ¹⁸ *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives... Don't be a captive to sin – find your freedom in Jesus. He was forsaken so we can be forgiven. It is as simple as that!*