

Bathsheba: Object of Lust and Neglect

(2 Samuel 11-12 and 1 Kings 1; Ezek 34)

I. **DAVID'S SIN** (2 Sam 12)

A. **Not Bathsheba's Sin**—*she was not trying to seduce David*

1. **Never accused in Scripture** (Mat 1:6)
2. **Portrayed as the innocent lamb** (2 Sam 12:3)—*Nathan's parable*

B. **Secondary Sins** (Jam 4:1-3)—*a sin never lives alone; it brings other sins with it*

1. **Lust** (Ex 20:17; Job 31:1, 9; Mat 5:28)—*did not turn away; lurking*
2. **Adultery** (Ex 20:14)—*taking the wife of another man*
3. **Rape**—*predatory behavior, imbalance of power, "custodial rape"*
4. **Conspiracy to Commit Murder** (2 Sam 12:9; Ex 20:13; Ps 51:14)—*to hide his sin; his first instinct was not to repent!*

C. **Primary Sin: Abuse of Authority** (1 Sam 12:13; Ps 51:4, 11)

1. **Betrayed God who gave him the kingship** (12:7-10, 13, 14)
 - a. **Despised God**—*failed to fear & obey God, to live up to His trust*
 - b. **Brought dishonor to God's reputation**—*tarnished witness*
2. **Betrayed the Office entrusted to him** (Prov 16:10-15; 20:28)
 - a. **Failed as a Role Model** ()—*lowered the standard*
 - b. **Failed as a Judge** ()—*undercut his own moral authority*
 - c. **Failed as a Shepherd** (Ezek 34:2-3)—*preyed upon the sheep*
3. **Betrayed the People who respected him**
 - a. **Stole the wife of a faithful soldier in his army**
 - b. **Exploited a woman he was duty bound to protect**
 - c. **Compelled subordinates to sin** (2 Sam 11:3-4, 14-15)

II. **BATHSHEBA'S EXPERIENCE**

A. **Neglected in Her Marriage** (2 Sam 11:8-13)—*Uriah didn't go home*

B. **Objectified for Her Beauty** (11:2)—*Not safe to be a beautiful woman*

C. Used by a Powerful Man

1. She was **taken** (11:4, 12:4)—suggests *her helplessness*
2. She was **endangered**—*her marriage, her reputation, her life*
3. She was **sent home** (11:4)—*a classic one-night stand*

D. Grieved by Losses (11:26)

1. **Her Husband**—with the complication of unresolved issues
2. **Her Baby**—her firstborn son

E. Able to Overcome (1 Kin 1)—*marriage, mother, political influence*

III. THE PAIN OF INFANT DEATH—*miscarriage, stillbirth, infant death*

A. Whose fault is it?

1. **Feeling guilty**—*very natural to feel this*
2. **Blaming your spouse**—*many marriages fail over this*
3. **Asking why**—no answer that can take the pain away

B. What happens to the baby? (2 Sam 12:23; Mat 19:14; Deut 1:39; 1 Kin 14:12-13; Jer 19:5; Jonah 4:10-11)

IV. THE HOPE OF JESUS

A. The Mercy of God (12:13; Ps 51)—to forgive and redeem

B. The Hope of Resurrection (12:23; Job 1:2 & 42:13; Mat 19:14)—for the baby who died

C. The King Who Is Worthy (Ezek 34, Dan 7:13-14; 1 Jn 1:5; Rev 5:1-5)—David's Greater Son

D. The Purpose of God—He does not waste our pain!

1. **We will know Him Better**. (Phil 3:8; Isa 53:3)—*knows our sorrows*
2. **We will comfort others**. (2 Cor 1:3-7)—*share comfort we receive*
3. **There will be glory**. (2 Cor 4:16-17; Rev 21:4)—*it will outweigh*

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Lesson 10: Bathsheba

Read 2 Samuel chapters 11-12; 1 Chronicles 3:5; 1 Kings Chapter 1; Isaiah 9:6-9.

1. Of what sins is David guilty in this story?
2. Is Bathsheba responsible in any way for David's sin?
3. Put yourself in Bathsheba's position. You are a young woman. Your husband is away and you don't know when (or even if) he will be back. You are alone. Officials (undoubtedly men) from the king show up at your door with orders to bring you to the palace. Once you get there, you are left alone with the king and he starts putting the moves on you. How would you feel?
4. After the king has his way with you, he sends you home and you find out that you're pregnant. Now what are you feeling?
5. Uriah refuses to go home to visit his wife while he is in town. His reason—reverence for God, commitment to the cause, respect for his commander and solidarity with his men—it all sounds very noble; but as a woman, what do you think?
6. Put yourself in Bathsheba's place. Your first child dies shortly after birth under these circumstances. What are you feeling now?
7. Bathsheba's baby dies as a punishment for David's sin.
 - a.) Is it fair to punish a baby for what its father did?
 - b.) Is the death of a child always (or normally) a punishment of its parent? (Consider John 9:1-3.)
8. In the case of miscarriage, still birth or infant death, another issue that often complicates grief is anxiety for the baby's soul. The answer to this question is not exactly spelled out in scripture, but think about what you know of the character of God and consider the following passages:
 - a.) 2 Samuel 12:23—
 - b.) Matthew 19:14—
 - c.) Deuteronomy 1:39—
 - d.) 1 Kings 14:12-13—
 - e.) Jeremiah 19:5—
 - f.) Jonah 4:10-11—
9. In spite of all the ways that David initially sinned against Bathsheba and hurt her, it seems that he does eventually come to truly love her and they end up having a good relationship. Why do you think Bathsheba could forgive David, accept her situation and go on to have a good life (unlike Michal who we studied 2 lessons back)?
10. Where is the hope in this story? (See Isaiah 9:6-9 and 16:4b-5.)