

BATHSHEBA: David's Temptation

study #8



THE LIFE OF DAVID: Cultivating a Heart for God

Charles Swindoll writes: "When the Holy Spirit painted the portraits of Scripture's heroes, He was an artist of pure realism - refusing to brush with high-gloss colors the darker sides of their lives." At the beginning of 2 Samuel 11 David is at the peak of his powers, and the nation is experiencing the "Golden Age of Israel" when it seemed like nothing could go wrong. But something did...

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 Samuel 11:1

Read 2 Samuel 11-12. Summarize each section in your own words:

 11:1-5

 11:6-13

 11:14-25

 12:1-25

What was David doing at the time? Was this good, bad, or neutral?

How is this woman identified & described? 11:3

The Scriptures record another woman with this sort of beauty. Who was she and what were some of the advantages & disadvantages of having such beauty? (Genesis 21:1-127, 66-67, 26:1-11)

Do you think it was a coincidence that Bathsheba was seen bathing? Why or why not?

What sort of man was Uriah, as revealed in 2 Samuel 11?

From the following passages, what is God's attitude towards adultery?

 Exodus 20:1-17

 Leviticus 20:10

 1 Corinthians 5

How does the apostle Paul tell us to deal with sexual immorality?
(see 1 Cor 6:12-20)

How did Jesus respond to the woman caught in adultery? (John 8:1-11)

What were some of the consequences of David & Bathsheba's relationship? (2 Samuel 12-15)

How did Bathsheba influence the history of mankind? (1 Kings 1:1-31)

Why do you think Matthew records Bathsheba in the genealogy of Jesus as the mother "who had been Uriah's wife"? (Matthew 1:6)

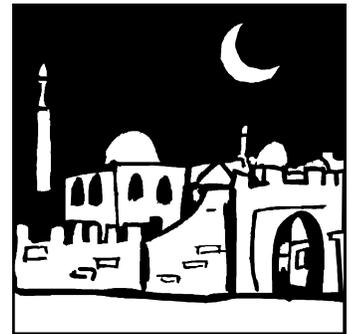
What does she have in common with the other women in Christ's genealogy (Tamar, Ruth & Rahab)?

In this whole episode, how many of the Ten Commandments (and which ones) did David break?
(see Exodus 20)

"In our members there is a slumbering inclination towards desire which is both sudden and fierce. It makes no difference whether it is sexual desire, or ambition, or vanity, or desire for revenge, or love of fame and power, or greed for money. Joy in God is extinguished in us and we seek all our joy in the creature. At this moment God is quite unreal to us, He loses all reality, and only the desire for the creature is real; the only reality is the devil. Satan does not here fill us with hatred of God, but with forgetfulness of God.

Therefore the Bible teaches us in times of temptation to flee. There is no resistance to Satan other than flight. Every struggle against lust in one's own strength is doomed to failure."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer





LIFE RESPONSE: What Does it Mean to Me?

- ◆ Sometimes we get “desensitized” to the seriousness of sin. David may have become desensitized by something recorded in Samuel 5:13; what was it?

- ◆ How do you become desensitized to sexual sin?

- ◆ David was “idle” at this time, not involved in the usual battles and things he was accustomed to and skilled at. How can idleness become a breeding ground for mistakes?

- ◆ Everyone has their own unique sets of strengths and weaknesses. One person’s temptation is another’s area of strength. What do *you* have to watch out for?

- ◆ David seemed to be operating alone , without close friends, at this time. When in your life have you been most accountable to a friend or small group?

- ◆ Are you accountable to anyone now, or are you dangerously “alone”?

- ◆ There is a balance between denying sin and being paralyzed by it. If we have a low view of God’s righteousness, we may have a wrong, “cavalier” attitude towards sin. If we have a low view of God’s grace, we may fear His condemnation in an unhealthy way and run from Him. How can a Christian strike the right balance? Use the following passages to formulate your answer: *Romans 8:1, 5-6; Hebrews 12:9-11; Matthew 5:4,6; 1 John 1:8-2:1, 1 Peter 5:8.*