

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF DAVID

PART II

STUDY NUMBER FOURTEEN - 2 Samuel 11:1-27

If you took the studies on the life of David up to today you would have to say in the first ten chapters we have had triumphs and now we are going to have troubles. We had fame, now we are going to have shame....

We have come to a major turning point in the life of our hero, King David. The contrast between chapters 1-10 and 11-20 are as follows:

Chapters 1-10	Triumphs
Chapters 11-20	Troubles
Fame -	Shame
Success -	Sorrow
Rise -	Fall
Advances -	Adversities
Conquering -	Conquered

If I could take any Psalm that I wish that David could have read of his own writing before today it would be Psalm 19. Listen to what he says:

Psalm 19:7-11

“The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul. The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart. The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.

The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever. The judgments of the Lord are true; they are righteous altogether. They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover, by them your servant is warned; In keeping them there is great reward.”

Thus far in our lessons learned in the life of David, Part 2, we have witnessed:

- 1. The death of Saul and Jonathan in Study #1. David leaves Ziklag in the land of the Philistines and goes to Hebron in the land of Judah, and at the age of 30 becomes king over the tribe of Judah in the south, his own tribe.**
- 2. In the next study we find Abner and Ish-Bosheth forming a rival kingdom in the north over the other eleven tribes. This leads to an intense civil war in which both Abner and Ish-Bosheth are assassinated.**
- 3. David is then at the age of 37(1/2) made king over all the land of Israel. He immediately establishes his capital in Jerusalem and is given the gift, of the city of Tyre, in the north. He successfully brings the ark of God back into the city of Jerusalem.**

David had a deep desire to build a temple to house the ark for the living God but God said no,, but that his son would do this project, so David has been using his time collecting materials for this project.

He has won a tremendous string of military battles:

2 Samuel 8:13

“And David became famous after he returned from striking down eighteen thousand Edomites in the Valley of Salt.”

In our last study together we saw David remembering the covenant of friendship that he had made with Jonathan and made provision for Mephibosheth, his handicapped son, to have an income from the real estate of Saul and to always be able to eat at the king’s table. He also tried to show the same kindness to the new king of the Ammonites over the death of his father, but was reproached in the process. This led to war and another huge military victory for David.

As the scene of this study opens David is approximately 50 years old. He has been king for 20 years.

I think David has faced midlife, and there are three things that now are beginning to become true:

1. He’s realized all of his goals.
2. He’s done “his thing.”
3. He’s physically beginning to slow down.

He’s bored, and just like his son Solomon in Eccles. chap. 1:
“Life is meaningless, meaningless; utterly meaningless!”

David needs some new challenges because he has accomplished six major goals in his life:

1. The kingdom
2. The capital city

3. A palace to live in
4. Extensive military victories
5. The ark is in the city of Jerusalem
6. He has collected all the materials necessary, for Solomon to build the future temple.

As we launch into chapter 11, Rev. Alan Redpath asks a real question when it comes to this particular passage of Scripture,

*“The real question for us all is:
Are we prepared to face sin???
Not to discuss someone else’s sin
but to face our own.”*

Can we pray with David in Psalm 139:23, 24

“Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my thoughts, and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”

Chapter 11 verse 1, let’s get into it.

2 Sam. 11 v. 1 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.

It was the time of the year when kings went forth to war. In those days the nations had an open season on each other like we do today on birds and animals. They took a break from war in the cold winter months.

David sent Joab and his servants and the whole Israelite army but David stayed at Jerusalem.

We immediately ask the question: How come? Because up till now, David was very active and personally involved in the warfare against the enemies of Israel. Well there are several answers:

1. He was 50 years old.
2. He had really been busy.
3. He was a good leader.
4. No one would deny that David had earned the right to relax.
5. For the first time he is getting a chance to enjoy his fancy new palace in Jerusalem.

David was relaxing when he should have been on the alert.

He preferred the luxury of the palace to the hardships of the battlefield.

Many of us prefer the luxury of material security and seek that as the first thing to be gained in life, instead of putting the will of God first.

David took off his armor. He was without protection.

1. So his first mistake was staying home from the war.

The moment a man absences himself from his post of duty, or retires from the place of conflict, he renders himself weak.

You have to watch it when you start taking it easy. That is when you really get into trouble.

Amos – Chapter 6

“Woe to those who are at ease in Zion.

Those who recline on beds of ivory and sprawl on their couches, and eat lambs from the flock, and calves from the midst of the stall. Who improvise to the sound of the harp, and like David have composed songs for themselves. Who drink wine from sacrificial bowls while they anoint themselves with the finest of oils.

Watch it, when you get at ease you are going to be vulnerable.

v. 2 One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful.

David, one evening, had been reading and watching television for a while and got up and went on the roof to get some fresh air.

As he walked around on the roof of the palace that Hiram, king of Tyre, had made for him, from that roof, he saw with his eyes, a woman who was bathing and very beautiful.

You have this babe, over next door that forgot to pull the shade, before she jumped in the tub. And what does the text say? “He saw a woman.”

But he did not just look and then victoriously turn away. He flat starred. I mean he is glued to what he sees. Men are aroused sexually by what they see and women by how they are touched.

And here the text says, “The woman was very beautiful.”

When the Hebrew text adds an affirming characteristic to what is being described it really means it. She is very beautiful.

Now back in study six on Nabal and Abigail, remember when Abigail came on the scene on her donkey and she meets David.

It is said of Abigail, in 1 Samuel 25:3, that, “she was intelligent and beautiful in appearance.”

David sees she is bathing and she is beautiful and she is very beautiful. I mean she is gorgeous.

You need to put Job 31:1 here for us men.

Job 31:1

“I have made a covenant with my eyes; how then could I gaze at a virgin.”

Some have tried to blame Bathsheba by asking, “Why was she taking a bath on a balcony in the late afternoon?”

Bathsheba was not guilty; because that was the time eastern women took their baths. All the men were out in the fields, either at war, or protecting the city.

The people would catch rainwater in cisterns on the flat roofs. While the water was warm from the afternoon sun, the women bathed. It was a natural thing, because there were no men around, all except for David, the king, God’s man.

So what does David do?

v. 3 and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, “Isn’t this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite?”

And the man said three things:

1. Isn't this Bathsheba? Yes.
2. The daughter of Eliam and also the granddaughter of Ahithophel, you will meet him a little later.
3. And the wife of Uriah the Hittite.

Now that should have stopped him dead in his tracks but when you have already been aroused by your eyes, your emotions take over for your brains, and you do some of the dumbest things when you let your emotions rule.

v. 4 Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her. (She had purified herself from her uncleanness.) Then she went back home.

David drew up a little formal invitation to dinner by candlelight on the roof for two, and sent word to Bathsheba that he would consider it a real pleasure and privilege to have her as his guest for dinner.

When the messenger arrived with the invitation at the door Bathsheba she was just finishing the combing of her hair and quickly slipped into an evening gown and went to be with David for dinner.

David was mesmerized by her magnificent beauty and also was deeply and incredibly touched by the common ground they had, of so many interests.

They talked about the Military- Music- Poetry and the Kingdom

Time just seemed to fly by as they discussed so many interesting common goals and objectives for life.

Let's talk about Bathsheba for a minute. She is married to an Aggie. She is married to a guy who has graduated from Jerusalem A&M that has been in the Corp all four years.

She is as lonely as David is. All Uriah could think about was the next military conflict. He was never home.

Military maneuvers, weaponry practice, scouting parties, and spy missions - the military consumed the guy.

The only time he ever kissed her was when A&M scored a touchdown and those have been few and far between lately.

He never remembered the anniversary and never did anything.

The one thing a woman wanted in those days was a child and she has not had a kid. She is so bitter toward him.

He is never around, never sensitive, and really probably does not care all that much about her. So she has been living alone.

Very beautiful on the outside but she is hurting bad on the inside.

So when the king calls, sends an invite and says hey how about going to dinner, you know you are just a tad bit vulnerable.

Now what happens was as soon as dinner is over and they have had a couple of glasses of wine David picks up the harp and starts to play.

She is incredibly touched by his musical ability and before the dawning of morning they had made love to the fullest.

You say love or lust. I say lust can turn to love. Because no woman ever touched David like Bathsheba.

The next 20 years of their lives are spent together. And he is really touched by her.

David must have said Michal, Ahinoam, Abigail, and every one of them are all wrapped up in just one lady and she is something else.

And the only way he would let her go was the promise that she would return and come back once again.

Well you say boy what a beautiful evening.

Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall and Humpty Dumpty had a great fall. David is halfway up the hill and how great was the fall of it.

v. 5 The woman conceived and sent word to David, saying, “I am pregnant.”

Do you want to make, a grown man quiver and start to sweat? Say, “*I am pregnant*” and boy does it get to David.

Now, what do you do when you are in a situation like this and you have egg all over your face. You have one of two choices:

- 1. You can either try to cover it or**
- 2. You can confess it.**

Proverbs 28:13 says, “He that conceals his sins shall not prosper but he who confesses and forsakes them will find mercy.

Men have a tendency at this point to want to cover it because their ego will not let them be humiliated and repent enough to want to acknowledge it.

So when the stress is on by every means sweep it under the rug.

Deny it, lie about it, cover it.

Whatever you can do, do not let anybody know.

So there are three phases in David’s plan for covering and they come in the next verses.

Obviously get the Hittite home and in bed quick. Cover the whole thing so nobody will know.

v. 6 So David sent this word to Joab: “Send me Uriah the Hittite.” And Joab sent him to David.

**What do you think Uriah is thinking all the way home?
Number one what have I done
and number two what has he done?**

Why does he want me, he has never consulted me before.

Proverbs 28:13

“He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them, will find compassion.”

David is hoping that he can bring Uriah back from the battlefield 43 miles away and have him spend a few nights with Bathsheba at home and everything will be okay.

David is so phony – look at that 7th verse.

v. 7 When Uriah came to him, David asked him how Joab was, how the soldiers were and how the war was going.

Here David covers up the real purpose of his mission in bringing Uriah home, by asking him three questions:

- 1. How was Joab.**
- 2. How the soldiers were.**
- 3. How the war was going.**

v. 8 Then David said to Uriah, “Go down to your house and wash your feet.” So Uriah left the palace, and a gift from the king was sent after him.

This is the first of David’s three plans in the passage.

After giving the report, David says to Uriah, “Go on down to your house and wash your feet,” and take a little time to rest and relax and be with your wife.

v. 9 But Uriah slept at the entrance to the palace with all his master’s servants and did not go down to his house.

Uriah’s discipline and devotion to the country far exceeded that of the king on this occasion.

He slept at the entrance to the palace with all his master's servants and did not go down to his house to be with Bathsheba.

v. 10 When David was told, "Uriah did not go home," he asked him, "Haven't you just come from a distance? Why didn't you go home?"

Look at that statement in verse 11.

v. 11 Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah are staying in tents, and my master Joab and my lord's men are camped in the open fields. How could I go to my house to eat and drink and lie with my wife? As surely as you live, I will not do such a thing!"

Uriah outlines the fact that all the others are in tents in the open field, and how could he be an exception? The ark, Israel, Judah, his master Joab, and the lord's men are all in the open fields.

Question: "How could I go to my house to eat and drink and lie with my wife? As surely as you live, I will not do such a thing!"

This must have been a very convicting question to David.

Notice the contrast here between David's lack of discipline and Uriah's discipline.

Since Plan 1 had failed, David now implements Plan 2.

v. 12 Then David said to him, "Stay here one more day, and tomorrow I will send you back." So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the next.

v. 13 At David's invitation, he ate and drank with him, and David made him drunk. But in the evening Uriah went out to sleep on his mat among his master's servants; he did not go home.

David figured I will loosen him up with a little booze and then he will go down and be with Bathsheba, he will not even know what he is doing.

However, Uriah did not respond to this but went to sleep on his mat among his master's servants.

Since the first two plans did not work, now David puts into operation the final plan.

v. 14 In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it with Uriah.

This is the same hand that wrote the Psalms and now, he is writing a letter of execution.

v. 15 In it he wrote, "Put Uriah in the front line where the fighting is the fiercest. Then withdraw from him so he will be struck down and die."

Uriah takes his own message of execution and judgment back to Joab.

What do you think Joab is thinking when he gets this letter?

"Boy something is going askew back in the palace and I sure don't like the smell of it."

Now the adultery is going to turn to murder, in order to, cover the adultery.

v. 16 So while Joab had the city under siege, he put Uriah at a place where he knew the strongest defenders were.

v. 17 When the men of the city came out and fought against Joab, some of the men in David's army fell; moreover, Uriah the Hittite was dead.

Just as Joab had planned, and as David had requested, Uriah died as the Ammonites came out of the city to do battle with them.

v. 18 Joab sent David a full account of the battle.

Look at this, this is incredible.

v. 19 He instructed the messenger: "When you have finished giving the king this account of the battle,

v. 20 the king's anger may flare up, and he may ask you, 'Why did you get so close to the city to fight? Didn't you know they would shoot arrows from the wall?

v. 21 Who killed Abimelech son of Jerub-Besheth? Didn't a woman throw an upper millstone on him from the wall, so that he died in Thebez? Why did you get so close to the wall?' If he asks you this, then say to him, 'Also, your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead.'

All you have to say is Uriah the Hittite is dead and that will answer everything. Sure enough, look at the next verses.

v. 22 The messenger set out, and when he arrived he told David everything Joab had sent him to say.

- v. 23 The messenger said to David, “The men overpowered us and came out against us in the open, but we drove them back to the entrance to the city gate.
- v. 24 Then the archers shot arrows at your servants from the wall, and some of the king’s men died. Moreover, your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead.”
- v. 25 David told the messenger, “Say this to Joab: ‘Don’t let this upset you; the sword devours one as well as another. Press the attack against the city and destroy it.’ Say this to encourage Joab.”
- v. 26 When Uriah’s wife heard that her husband was dead, she mourned for him.
- v. 27 After the time of mourning was over, David had her brought to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing David had done displeased the Lord.

David thinks he has fooled everyone. Everybody in the palace can count months. They know when that baby is born and when it was conceived.

Everybody knows what is going on.

You know you look at something like that and it is really sad, but it also makes you realize, we are living in the very same time and the things that are happening then, are happening now.

Nature is just the same.

What are some of the lessons that we can learn from this passage of Scripture?

Lesson #1: The idle mind is the devil's workshop.

If you do not start bringing your thoughts captive, your thoughts are going to rule you and you are going to fall apart.

Lesson #2: David would have avoided his problem if he had of been fighting with his men.

Lesson #3: Guard the eye gate because the devil uses it to distract us.

Lesson #4: It is wrong to cover and right to confess our sin.

Lesson #5: Uriah was a better man drunk than David was sober.

Lesson #6: David makes the mistake of trying to make things happen rather than waiting for them to happen.

When you are the most eager to act is when you will make the most pitiful mistakes.

Just wait and let God work it out.

And that is the tragedy of the study today. David just could not wait to let God do it.

Lesson #7: God was watching the whole sordid affair and was displeased.

Lessons Learned In The Life of David

PART II

STUDY NUMBER FOURTEEN - 2 Samuel 11:1-27

11:v. 1 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.

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she became his wife and bore him a son.
But the thing David had done displeased
the Lord.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read 2 Samuel 11:1-27 several times and in your own words outline what is happening in the life of David.
2. What did David do wrong according to verse 1?
3. Contrast how David handles moral temptation in verses 2-4 with Joseph's handling of a similar situation in Genesis 39:7-12.
4. How does David try to cover Bathsheba's pregnancy, according to verses 6-8?
5. What reason does Uriah give for not spending the night with Bathsheba, according to verse 11?
6. What does David do in order to get Uriah out of the way?
7. What does David do after the time of mourning over Uriah is past, according to verse 27?
8. Who is displeased with the thing that David has done, according to verse 27?
9. Which verse in the study has meant the most to you?
10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

Lessons Learned In The Life Of David:

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LESSON #1: The idle mind is the devil's workshop.

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