

## 20:20 Vision Ministries – Devotions by Roger Browning Week 21 (May 15-21, 2016)

So far, David's attitude and actions have been good in the sight of God. Unfortunately, that is about to change drastically as we will observe in this week's devotions. Take comfort in the fact that God is ready to receive you back into His fold, no matter what you have done against Him in your past.

**Sunday, May 15** (read 2 Samuel 11:1-5)

*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. (2 Samuel 11:2a)*

The shameful, dark moments in our lives help us to see more clearly our need for a Savior. David is a man after God's heart (Acts 13:22), but he also has his treasures in a human vessel (see 2 Corinthians 4:7). He should have been with his men on the battlefield (v. 1), but he chooses to use his idle time to lust after a woman (v. 2). He has many beautiful wives already, so he certainly does not need another one to satisfy his perceived needs! Similarly, many men of today spend time gazing at pornographic sights that lead them to lusts. Adultery occurs in the head before it takes place in the bed! David's uncontrolled lusting leads to a horrible act of sin against God (v. 3-5). The Lord will forgive his sin, but the consequences of his actions will follow him for the rest of his life. Salvation is free, but it ain't cheap!

**Monday, May 16** (read 2 Samuel 11:6-15)

*"Put Uriah in the front line where the fighting is fiercest. Then withdraw from him so he will be struck down and die." (2 Samuel 11:15b)*

David has a plan to deceive Bathsheba's husband, Uriah into thinking the baby is his. The king, however, underestimates the loyalty of his soldier. Uriah refuses to enjoy the comforts and benefits of his own home, choosing instead to sleep with the servants at the entrance of the palace (6-9). The loyal soldier answers David's question with a firm commitment to the ark and the armies of Israel (v. 10-11). David tries a second time, this time by getting Uriah drunk, but Uriah refuses, even in a drunken state, to be disloyal to his fellow soldiers (v. 12-13). The desperate king resorts to murder to cover up his adultery (v. 14-15). In today's society, abortion often follows adultery, following the same tragic pattern of cover-up modeled by David. We will follow the tragic story in tomorrow's devotion.

**Tuesday, May 17** (read 2 Samuel 11:16-27)

*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. (2 Samuel 11:27)*

Joab carries out David's command to the letter, and Uriah, along with some other men, lose their lives to cover up the king's adultery (v. 16-17). A messenger is sent by Joab to give David a full account of the battle. He is instructed to calm the king's anger by saying, "Also, your servant Uriah is dead." King David adds to his previous sins by callously saying, "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." The printed verse sums up the entire story. David will be forgiven, but the displeased Lord will allow tragedy to follow him and his family for the rest of his life. If you are guilty of accepting the grace of God casually, please take note of the rest of David's story and the consequences that continue after God's forgiveness.

**Wednesday**, May 18 (2 Samuel 12:1-4)  
*The Lord sent Nathan to David. (2 Samuel 12:1a)*

God sends the prophet Nathan to David to confront him with his sin. This has to be one of the toughest assignments ever, because the king has the power of life and death. The Holy Spirit gives Nathan his words, because he masterfully weaves a sentimental story about a poor man's pet ewe lamb (v. 1-3). David's pleasant smile turns upside down in a hurry, however, when the prophet tells him the part about the rich neighbor killing the poor man's pet lamb to provide a meal for a traveler (v. 4). The trap has been set! David is about to take the bait! We'll see how this plays out in tomorrow's devotion.

**Thursday**, May 19 (read 2 Samuel 12:5-10)  
*Then Nathan said to David, "You are the man!" (2 Samuel 12:7a)*

In his anger, King David declares that the rich man **deserves** to die for his dastardly deed, but he lets him off the hook by declaring that he must pay back four times the value of the lamb he killed. That's when Nathan gets personal with the toughest four-word sermon ever preached (v. 7): "You are the man!" God reminds David of the benefits He has provided for the king (v. 7-8). He ends verse 8 by giving an Old Testament preview of Ephesians 3:20! God says that David despised the Word of the Lord by his blatant disobedience. The consequences of this action will affect the king's family forever. If you are considering some action in direct disobedience to God's Word, consider the cost to you **and** your family!

**Friday**, May 20 (read 2 Samuel 12:11-14)  
*Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord." (2 Samuel 12:13a)*

God gives David a sneak preview of an upcoming tragedy that will come to him as a direct result of his sin with Bathsheba (v. 11-12). In our printed verse, David confesses his sin "against the Lord." Nathan states a truth found in 1 John 1:9 and declares that David's sin is forgiven (v. 13). However, the first consequence of his sin will be seen and felt in the immediate future; the son that Bathsheba delivers will die (v. 14). While not every child that dies can be traced to the parents' sin, you can certainly see that God is capable of bringing this immediate consequence! Could you blame God if He allows judgment to come upon the United States, a nation that has allowed almost sixty million abortions since Roe vs. Wade was passed in 1973? We will conclude this story in tomorrow's devotion.

**Saturday**, May 21 (read 2 Samuel 12:15-25)  
*"But now that he is dead, why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I will go to him, but he will not return to me." (2 Samuel 12:23)*

The story in today's text would be tragic except for two wonderful truths taught here: 1) Children who die prior to the age of accountability go immediately into the presence of God (v. 23), and 2) God is so merciful that he allows David and Bathsheba to have another child (Solomon) whom the Lord loves so much that He calls him Jedidiah (loved by the Lord, v. 24-25). This story is very personal to me. Like David, I had a child (Michael Todd) who lived seven days. In six days, he rebuilt his dad's life; on the seventh day, he rested. Every person who has come to Christ through my ministries is a direct result of this little fellow who changed his dad's perspective forever! The wonderful truth is that through repentance, there is restoration; therefore, God makes all things beautiful in His time (Ecclesiastes 3:11). Glory to His Name!