

Gleanings of Grace

2 Samuel 11

Lesson 10

In this eleventh chapter of 2 Samuel, we find God's chosen king, David, in a place he shouldn't have been and doing what he shouldn't have done. How does sin happen? This chapter pulls back the curtain, that David thought he had drawn, to the rest of his kingdom. But God loved David too much to allow him to hide.

OBSERVATION: Read 2 Samuel 11

1. Read 2 Samuel 11 using the Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to the *LORD* and each of the people marked as key words.
Key Words: *LORD, David, Bathsheba, and Uriah*
3. The contrasting word *but* is used four times in 2 Samuel 11. Mark the word. Choose one instance of its use and record what is being contrasted.
4. The phrase *it happened* is used in verses 1,2, and 14. Record what *happened* each time.

Background:

1. The first King of Israel was Saul. In the second year of his reign, Saul, in disobedience, unlawfully offered a burnt sacrifice to the LORD. According to 1 Samuel 13:14, what did Samuel say to Saul?

- a. What does Acts 13:22 add to our understanding?
2. God's chosen king to replace Saul was David, the son of Jesse, great grand-son of Ruth and Boaz. Although there remained enemies yet to conquer, describe your understanding of David's kingdom using:

2 Samuel 7:1

2 Samuel 8:15

Read 2 Samuel 11:1-5

1. It is at a time of predominate rest in Israel that we find David in 2 Samuel 11. According to verse 1, it was the *spring of the year*. What did *kings* do at that time?
 - a. Verse 1 contains the contrasting word *but*. Although *kings go out to battle in the spring*, what did King David do instead?
2. The phrase *it happened* is used three times in this chapter. *In the spring of the year...it happened; one evening...it happened; in the morning...it happened*. Each time the phrase is mentioned, a choice of action was followed. What does this say to you about your choices in seasons and in times of the day?
3. What *happened* that one evening in the spring, changed a great deal for David. What did David *see* as he *walked on the roof*?
 - a. How was this *woman* described?
 - 1.) According to 1 John 2:16, what causes us to fall prey to sin?
4. Often when temptation is set before us, God sends messengers to warn us. What did *someone* say to David when he *inquired about the woman*?
 - a. What do you think this person wanted David to consider?
5. What does verse 4 report that David did?

a. Read James 1:14,15 and explain how David's sin was *conceived*.

6. What was the result of David and Bathsheba's sin? verse 5

Read 2 Samuel 11:6-13

1. Bathsheba disclosed her pregnancy to David. What did David do?

2. Read 2 Samuel 11:7-13 and summarize David's attempts and Uriah's conduct.

a. What do you think was David's motive?

b. What does Proverbs 28:13 teach us about attempts to *cover sin*?

1.) In contrast, what does God say the one who *confesses and forsakes* sin will receive?

3. What is the right response when we recognize our sin? 1 John 1:9

a. According to this verse, what does God promise to do?

1.) Notice, God does not promise to prevent the consequences of our sin. He promises to *forgive and cleanse* us. In what way does fearing consequences more than unforgiveness cause us to attempt to *cover our sin*?

4. Describe how you see David's attitude toward his sin at this point in 2 Samuel 11.

Read 2 Samuel 11:14-21

1. Uriah, through his dedication to David and Israel, unknowingly thwarted David's plans to conceal his sin. What did David do next?
2. What did David instruct Joab to do?
 - a. How does a position of authority sometimes exaggerate the human tendency to take what we want?
3. What did Joab do to comply with David's instructions?
4. Uriah was killed as a result of David's instructions. Joab sent a messenger to inform David *all things concerning the war*. He anticipated David's anger regarding Joab's battle strategies citing the instance of *Abimelech's* death. Read Judges 9:50-54 and describe what happened as you would if you were writing a newspaper article.
5. What did Joab tell the *messenger to say* to David in response to David's anger? verse 21
 - a. Contemplate the progression of David's sin as revealed in 2 Samuel 11. When do you think it began?
 - 1.) Why?
 - b. Chronicle the progression of David's sin from the moment his sin began until the report of Uriah's death.
 - c. Why does one sin often lead to other sins?

Read 2 Samuel 11:22-27

1. *So the messenger went, and came and told David all that Joab had sent by him.* 2 Samuel 11:23,24 recites his message. Consider David's response in verse 25. What was it?

2. We know the heart behind David's statement. The messenger did not. What do you think David's thoughts were as the messenger gave him the report of Uriah's death?

3. Psalm 32 is believed to have been written by David as he reflected upon his sin. How does he describe how he felt? verses 3,4
 - a. In your own words, describe what it is like to try to conceal or ignore sin, even when it looks like you got away with it.

4. What did David do after Bathsheba's time of *mourning for her husband*?

5. *She became his wife and bore him a son.* Although this may appear to be the words of a happy ending to the story, record the last sentence of 2 Samuel 11.
 - a. Define the word *displeased*.

 - b. The literal meaning of this phrase is "was evil in the eyes of the LORD". What is more important: happiness achieved by compromise or pleasing the heart of God?
 - 1.) Why?

REVIEW: Read 2 Samuel 11

1. What lessons have you learned from your study of 2 Samuel 11?

2. What steps could David have taken to prevent his sin?

Challenge: Use Scripture to support your answer

3. How can you break the cycle if you find yourself committing one sin to cover up another?

*Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me.
Then will I be blameless, innocent of great transgression.*

- Psalm 19:13 NIV

Observation Worksheet

2 Samuel 11

It happened in the spring of the year, at the time when kings go out to battle, that David sent Joab and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the people of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem. ² Then it happened one evening that David arose from his bed and walked on the roof of the king's house. And from the roof he saw a woman bathing, and the woman was very beautiful to behold. ³ So David sent and inquired about the woman. And someone said, "Is this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" ⁴ Then David sent messengers, and took her; and she came to him, and he lay with her, for she was cleansed from her impurity; and she returned to her house. ⁵ And the woman conceived; so she sent and told David, and said, "I am with child." ⁶ Then David sent to Joab, saying, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent Uriah to David. ⁷ When Uriah had come to him, David asked how Joab was doing, and how the people were doing, and how the war prospered. ⁸ And David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house and wash your feet." So Uriah departed from the king's house, and a gift of food from the king followed him. ⁹ But Uriah slept at the door of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and did not go down to his house. ¹⁰ So when they told David, saying, "Uriah did not go down to his house," David said to Uriah, "Did you not come from a journey? Why did you not go down to your house?" ¹¹ And Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah are dwelling in tents, and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are encamped in the open fields. Shall I then go to my house to eat and drink, and to lie with my wife? As you live, and as your soul lives, I will not do this thing." ¹² Then David said to Uriah, "Wait here today also, and tomorrow I will let you depart." So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the next. ¹³ Now when David called him, he ate and drank before him; and he made him drunk. And at evening he went out to lie on his bed with the servants of his lord, but he did not go down to his house. ¹⁴ In the morning it happened that David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it by the hand of Uriah. ¹⁵ And he wrote in the letter, saying, "Set Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retreat from him, that he may be struck down and die." ¹⁶ So it was, while Joab besieged the city, that he assigned Uriah to a place where he knew there were valiant men. ¹⁷ Then the men of the city came out and fought with Joab. And some of the people of the servants of David fell; and Uriah the Hittite died also. ¹⁸ Then Joab sent and told David all the things concerning the war, ¹⁹ and charged the messenger, saying, "When you have finished telling the matters of the war to the king, ²⁰ if it happens that the king's wrath rises, and he says to you: 'Why did you approach so near to the city when you fought? Did you not know that they would shoot from the wall?' ²¹ Who struck Abimelech the son of Jerubbesheth? Was it not a woman who cast a piece of a millstone on him

from the wall, so that he died in Thebez? Why did you go near the wall?'--then you shall say, 'Your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.' " ²² So the messenger went, and came and told David all that Joab had sent by him. ²³ And the messenger said to David, "Surely the men prevailed against us and came out to us in the field; then we drove them back as far as the entrance of the gate. ²⁴ The archers shot from the wall at your servants; and some of the king's servants are dead, and your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also." ²⁵ Then David said to the messenger, "Thus you shall say to Joab: 'Do not let this thing displease you, for the sword devours one as well as another. Strengthen your attack against the city, and overthrow it.' So encourage him." ²⁶ When the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she mourned for her husband. ²⁷ And when her 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.