

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

Aug.21

MONDAY

David sent for Bathsheba and she came to the palace. She went home again but after some time went by, she notified David that she was pregnant.

READ: II Samuel 11:4-5

We know little about Bathsheba's heart in all this. But David's sin is laid out before us. And it's all downhill, gaining speed, and increasing in evil. The downward spiral is clear enough, but just think, it all started with just a second look! He had no thought in that first moment where that look would eventually take him. Sin always looks to the present and never to the future. "What harm," David may have thought, "is there in taking a second look?" A small voice still whispers to us today, "What harm could there be in this or that?" Listen, there is more harm than you could ever imagine! For the path of sin leads to destruction. *Blessed is the man who walketh not in the way of sinners.*

TUESDAY

David directed General Joab to order Bathsheba's husband, Uriah the Hittite, home from the battle front. David interviewed Uriah and tried to make him think that he was finding out details about the battle and so on from him. Then David told him to go home and spend the evening with his wife. He even sent a gift of food along with him to make his return that more special.

READ: II Samuel 11:6-8

David plots a way to cover his sin. Uriah has been away at the battle and all will know that he is not the father of Bathsheba's child. But if he can get Uriah to have sex with his wife immediately, when the child is born, Uriah will think that he is, in fact, the father. David even sends food home with Uriah, hoping that a celebration might ensue which leads to intimacy. To accomplish his evil plan, David pretends to care about the well-being of the troops and the happiness of Uriah. And all he really cares about is covering his own trail! But the only way his sin or ours can ever be covered is with the blood of Jesus Christ. Covered by His blood, my sins, and yours, are washed away and we are cleansed! No matter that our sins may rival David's for evil - they are covered by the blood of the Lamb!

WEDNESDAY

Uriah the Hittite, called back from the battle to be interviewed by David, and then sent home to enjoy some R and R with his wife, did not go home, but slept outside the gates of the palace. When David heard that, he asked Uriah why he hadn't gone home. Uriah replied that as long as the battle went on, he would not go home and be with his wife. He could not do such a thing while the battle went on.

READ: II Samuel 11:9-11

Uriah is presented here as a righteous man - in this particular instance, far more righteous than David. Great pressure to go home is put on Uriah from a most unexpected source: the King himself. But Uriah, being a man of principle and commitment, resists. In our lives, pressure to give way to sin may come from unlooked for places. Don't be too surprised. But be very determined. Say with Uriah, "As thy soul lives, I will

not do this thing!" Stand firm on the foundation of righteousness.

THURSDAY

David ordered Uriah to stay around the palace (and therefore his own home which was just next door) awhile longer. He invited Uriah to dine with him, and during the course of the meal, he made him drunk. (He was sure that "under the influence", Uriah would go home to his wife.) But Uriah spent the night with David's servants.

READ: II Samuel 11:12-13

How low has David sunk! That he would resort to tactics such as these to hide his own sin! In doing so, his own sin grows! The spiral of sin is always down. Our calculations see an escape or at least a hope for that possibility. "If I am clever enough, I can somehow get out of this," we reason. If only David, at this point, had confessed his sin. It would have been painful and shameful, but it would have stopped the downward spiral in its tracks! And he would have found God's forgiveness close at hand. That's exactly where we find it today: close at hand. Just where and when we need it!

FRIDAY

In the morning, David sent Uriah back to the battlefield with a letter which David had written. And he told Uriah to give the letter to Joab. In the letter, David orders Joab to place Uriah on the front line in the hottest part of the battle to be certain that he gets killed. Joab did so, placing Uriah, and other valiant men in harm's way. Many were killed, including, as David had hoped and planned, Uriah the Hittite.

READ: II Samuel 11:14-17

David is still attempting to hide his sin! His efforts to do so resulted in dragging Joab into sin with him; they cost Uriah his life; and they cost the lives of all those who were killed with him, for Joab commanded many others into battle as well; and they caused David to lose some of the valiant men in his army! What a great cost sin demands! How determined are we to stay away from it at any cost?

SATURDAY

Joab sent a messenger to David with news of the battle. Joab instructed the messenger that if David got angry learning about the bad strategy Joab had employed and about the various valiant men who died in the fighting, be sure to tell him that Uriah the Hittite was also killed.

READ: II Samuel 11:18-21

One result of all this is that now Joab holds a grotesque power over David - that whenever he needs to do so, he can always remind David of his sin against Uriah. In a sense, David is held hostage by his own sin. Satan would like that to be your story and mine, as well, as He goes to God and accuses us before Him. Praise Jesus for being there and for being our intercessor! He steps up to the Throne and declares us redeemed by His blood! Delivered and not guilty! How then shall we live this day? #44