

STUDY GUIDE & QUESTIONS

DAVID

AFTER GOD'S HEART



SUMMIT DRIVE CHURCH



David Saw and David Sent

The Lord Saw and the Lord Sent

LESSON #1

When You Have Time on Your Hands Invest It, Don't Just Spend It.

2 Samuel 11: 1-3

A. Most of us have time when we work and time when we rest or play.

1. Historians tell us that in this context armies did not do much fighting in the winter months as those are the rainy months of the year in the middle east.
2. That season had come to an end and David sent Joab his commander in chief with the army back out to do battle, but he stayed behind in Jerusalem.
3. David had time on his hands and got up from what scholars say was a rest or a nap and wandered around on the roof top.

He's not engaged in battle. He's obviously not engaged in prayer.

4. He catches a glimpse we are told in verse 2 of a woman, a beautiful woman which would be okay if it stopped there but it didn't. I told you this book is full of real stories of real people who have real struggles and David was no exception.

B. Covid-19 has given many of us time to wander around on our roof tops.

What do I mean?... What I mean is that there is a difference between spending or investing our time? When we spend time, we aren't really looking for anything in return. But investing time, means we are looking for a return on our investment the same as we do when we are investing our finances.

Last night did you spend your time mindlessly surfing the internet or watching TV or did you...

...learn something new, read a good book, connect with your spouse or friend. See the difference between spending and investing time?

2. **David saw Bathsheba because of the structure of his home.** We see things because of the structure of our technology. Temptations come to us as we surf our devices in the quietness and privacy of our own spaces. Not on the roof tops of our homes but in the privacy of our dens or bedrooms or whatever room fits for our situation where no one will see us. BUT God sees all.

3. Things go from a glimpse to possible trouble from verse 2 to verse 3 when David sends someone to find out more about Bathsheba. He finds out in verse 3, "That she is Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah the Hittite." Here, David behaves like a ruthless and abusive king taking advantage of Bathsheba.

He should protect and care for her which is his role as a just king but instead he abuses both his role and Bathsheba.

4. Now everything should come to a screaming stop. He found out the information he had asked for. David she's a married woman and her husband is one of your warriors who is off in battle right now. What's next? Look at verse 4, Perfect go and get her for me we are told. So, what happens? **Sin is given birth.**

We, like David, are the king or queen of our own domain. We have time on our hands - how are we choosing to use it?

TAKE HOME :

Again, we need to remember its about investing versus spending. The roof top isn't a bad place to be' it's how we spend or invest the time once we are on the roof top that matters.



David could have gone up on the roof top and prayed. He could have looked at the glory of His God's creation and written another Psalm. That would have been investing his time and not spending his time. Notice the difference?

Lesson #2

When You are Covering Your Sin Up; There is One Who Sees Everything Always.

David moves from a single sin to covering up sin.

The rest of chapter 11, is David trying to clean up his mess but simply making a bigger mess.

Ever been there? If I do this and this, no one will ever know what I've done. Right?

Covering up a sin is never the best way to deal with a sin.

With a failed attempt to have Uriah sleep with his wife Bathsheba to cover up for his wrongful act with another man's wife; David sent Uriah back into battle with his death warrant – and Joab carried out the king's wishes. The job is done! The cover up is complete or is it?

Have you ever felt that way? Whew!, I got away with it. No one knows. My secret is safe. Maybe you feel that way right now and all of a sudden you don't like this teaching.

- But is your secret ever safe? Aren't you always wondering if someone, your loved one, your kids or a friend or a co-worker is going to find out?
- So, you live life with that idea of always looking over your shoulder or wondering if she is looking at you like she knows, or he said something with a meaning like he knows your secret. And here's the truth, you don't have peace.
- Well maybe today you sit here feeling comfortable about the story of David and Bathsheba because you have never had an affair and you certainly have never arranged for anyone to be killed like David did. But is that really all this story is about?

Lesson #3.

God's Love for Us is Seen in those who come close.

1. Remember David thinks he has solved his problem. Uriah is dead. Bathsheba is now his wife. Look at vs. 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."

Allow those words to sink in and think about your own life. Is there anything right now in my life, you could have done that would be said "...and this displeased the Lord?"

2. Scholars say that the time between chapters 11 and 12 of 2 Samuel; it is roughly a year. God allows David almost a year to wallow in his sin.

Let's read **2 Samuel 12:2-14**.

David comes clean in verse 13. "Then David said to Nathan, I have sinned against the Lord."

There were consequences to David's sin as we see in the rest of the chapter.



But I want us to also hear from David in Psalm 51 as we hear a man getting his heart and life right with God after being confronted by Nathan.

James 5:16 says, "Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."

I believe we have bought in to our cultural value of rugged individualism over the biblical value of community. Now its true we need to be wise during these days of Covid-19 to be careful in our sharing. But we still need each other, and we need to care for one another. Individualism breeds a host of other problems that we don't want to have within our church family. We need community.

Today someone needs you. Maybe it's a text message or a phone call or an email telling them you are praying for them.

Our God is a God of relationship as seen in this story of David, Bathsheba, Uriah, Joab and Nathan. **How are your relationships today?**



Reflection Questions for Life Group Discussion

1. When we have time on our hands what is the difference between 2 Samuel 11:2 and verse 3 and verse 4?
2. What are some concrete steps that we can take or put in place to help us so that we don't go from verse 2 to verse 3 and verse 4?
3. In 2 Samuel 11:6-15, what stands out in this part of the story about the character of Uriah and the character of David at this point in his life.
4. Once we sin why or what are our reasons or motives to cover up our sin?
5. Eugene Peterson says this in his book "Leap over a wall" on the 'Life of David' pg 187

"David didn't feel like a sinner when he sent for Bathsheba; he felt like a lover - what can be better than that? David didn't feel like a sinner when he sent Uriah; he felt like a King - and what can be better than that?"

Somewhere along the line he had withdrawn from the life of worship; adoration of God had receded, and obsession with self had moved in."

What do you think about Eugene Peterson's observation? Do you agree?

6. Chapter 12:1 reminds us that God is a God of relationship. It's roughly a year between the end of chapter 11 and Nathan coming to see David in Chapter 12.

Have you had long periods of time in your relationships with God, when you knew things weren't right? What changed? How did it change?

7. Nathan was a blessing to David even though he came to confront David.

Is this something that we need today in our churches? More spirit-led personal confrontation; when we see a sister or brother in Christ who isn't walking on the straight and narrow path - should we lovingly go to them and like Nathan confront them? What do you think?

Prayer:

Take some time to reflect and do an introspection - Are there areas in your life that have private battles or sin. Ask God for forgiveness. Also ask God to reveal people in our community who you need to reach out to and lovingly be a Nathan to.