
Illuminating Scripture

Lecture Three Handout

1.2Sam. 11:2

It happened, late one afternoon, when David arose from his couch and was walking upon the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful. ³ And David sent and inquired about the woman. And one said, "Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" ⁴ So David sent messengers, and took her; and she came to him, and he lay with her. (Now she was purifying herself from her uncleanness.) Then she returned to her house. ⁵ And the woman conceived; and she sent and told David, "I am with child."

2. 2Sam. 11:6

So David sent word to Joab, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent Uriah to David. ⁷ When Uriah came to him, David asked how Joab was doing, and how the people fared, and how the war prospered. ⁸ Then David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house, and wash your feet." And Uriah went out of the king's house, and there followed him a present from the king. 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 When they told David, "Uriah did not go down to his house," David said to Uriah, "Have you not come from a journey? Why did you not go down to your house?" ¹¹ Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah dwell in booths; and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are camping in the open field; shall I then go to my house, to eat and to 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, "Remain here today also, and tomorrow I will let you depart." So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day, and the next. ¹³ And David invited him, and he ate in his presence and drank, so that he made him drunk; and in the evening he went out to lie on his couch with the servants of his lord, but he did not go down to his house.

3.2Sam. 11:14

In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent it by the hand of Uriah. ¹⁵ In the letter he wrote, "Set Uriah in the forefront of the hardest fighting, and then draw back from him, that he may be struck down, and die." ¹⁶ And as Joab was besieging the city,

he assigned Uriah to the place where he knew there were valiant men.¹⁷ And the men of the city came out and fought with Joab; and some of the servants of David among the people fell. Uriah the Hittite was slain also.¹⁸ Then Joab sent and told David all the news about the fighting;¹⁹ and he instructed the messenger, “When you have finished telling all the news about the fighting to the king,²⁰ then, if the king’s anger rises, and if he says to you, ‘Why did you go so near the city to fight? Did you not know that they would shoot from the wall?’²¹ Who killed Abimelech the son of Jerubbesheth? Did not a woman cast an upper millstone upon him from the wall, so that he died at Thebez? Why did you go so near the wall?’ then you shall say, ‘Your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.’”

4. 2Sam. 11:22

So the messenger went, and came and told David all that Joab had sent him to tell.²³ The messenger said to David, “The men gained an advantage over us, and came out against us in the field; but we drove them back to the entrance of the gate.²⁴ Then the archers shot at your servants from the wall; some of the king’s servants are dead; and your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.”²⁵ David said to the messenger, “Thus shall you say to Joab, ‘Do not let this matter trouble you, for the sword devours now one and now another; strengthen your attack upon the city, and overthrow it.’ And encourage him.”

5. 2Sam. 11:26

When the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she made lamentation for her husband.²⁷ And when the 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.

6. 2Sam. 12:1

And the LORD sent Nathan to David. He came to him, and said to him, “There were two men in a certain city, the one rich and the other poor.² The rich man had very many flocks and herds;³ but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. And he brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children; it used to eat of his morsel, and drink from his cup, and lie in his bosom, and it was like a daughter to him.⁴ Now there came a traveler to the rich man, and he was unwilling to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the wayfarer who had come to him, but he took the poor man’s lamb, and prepared it for the man who had come to him.”

⁵ Then David’s anger was greatly kindled against the man; and he said to Nathan, “As the LORD lives, the man who has done this deserves to die;⁶ and he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity.”

7. 2Sam. 12:7

Nathan said to David, “You are the man. Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, ‘I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you out of the hand of Saul;⁸ and I gave

you your master's house, and your master's wives into your bosom, and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah; and if this were too little, I would add to you as much more. ⁹ Why have you despised the word of the LORD, to do what is evil in his sight? You have smitten Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and have taken his wife to be your wife, and have slain him with the sword of the Ammonites. ¹⁰ *Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.* ¹¹ *Thus says the LORD, 'Behold, I will raise up evil against you out of your own house; and I will take your wives before your eyes, and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun.* ¹² *For you did it secretly; but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun.'*"

¹³ David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." And Nathan said to David, "The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die. ¹⁴ Nevertheless, because by this deed you have utterly scorned the LORD, the child that is born to you shall die." ¹⁵ Then Nathan went to his house.

And the LORD struck the child that Uriah's wife bore to David, and it became sick. ¹⁶ David therefore besought God for the child; and David fasted, and went in and lay all night upon the ground. ¹⁷ And the elders of his house stood beside him, to raise him from the ground; but he would not, nor did he eat food with them. ¹⁸ On the seventh day the child died. And the servants of David feared to tell him that the child was dead; for they said, "Behold, while the child was yet alive, we spoke to him, and he did not listen to us; how then can we say to him the child is dead? He may do himself some harm." ¹⁹ But when David saw that his servants were whispering together, David perceived that the child was dead; and David said to his servants, "Is the child dead?" They said, "He is dead." ²⁰ Then David arose from the earth, and washed, and anointed himself, and changed his clothes; and he went into the house of the LORD, and worshiped; he then went to his own house; and when he asked, they set food before him, and he ate. ²¹ Then his servants said to him, "What is this thing that you have done? You fasted and wept for the child while it was alive; but when the child died, you arose and ate food." ²² He said, "While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept; for I said, 'Who knows whether the LORD will be gracious to me, that the child may live?' ²³ But now he is dead; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he will not return to me."

8. 2Sam. 12:24

Then David comforted his wife, Bathsheba, and went in to her, and lay with her; and she bore a son and called his name Solomon. And the LORD loved him, ²⁵ and sent a message by Nathan the prophet; so he called his name Jedidiah, because of the LORD.

9. Psalm 10

⁴ In the pride of their countenance the wicked say, "God will not seek it out";

all their thoughts are, "There is no God."

5 Their ways prosper at all times;
 your judgments are on high, out of their sight;
 as for their foes, they scoff at them.

6 They think in their heart, "We shall not be moved;
 throughout all generations we shall not meet adversity."

10. *The Crown*

QUEEN ELIZABETH: Are there any circumstances do you feel, where one can be a good Christian and yet not forgive?

REV. GRAHAM: Christian teaching's very clear on this. No one is beneath forgiveness. Dying on the cross, Jesus himself asked the Lord to forgive those that killed him.

E: Yes. But . . . we must remember his words. "They know not what they do." That forgiveness . . . it was conditional.

G: True, but he still forgave. God himself forgives us all. Who are we to reject the example of God?

E: Mere mortals?

G: We are all mortals, that is our fate, but we need not be un-Christian ones. [Pause, E Sighs] The solution for being unable to forgive . . . one asks for forgiveness oneself. Humbly and sincerely, and one prays for those that one cannot forgive.

[Cut to the chapel: Looking down the long aisle – Elizabeth is kneeling in prayer before the altar.]