

Evotional

Date: 26th August 2007 (pm).

Speaker: Neil Durling.

Message title: "David and Bathsheba."



Bible passage: 2 Samuel 11:1-27:

This passage is too long for this page.

The message in brief:

It's spring time and David stays in the city when, culturally speaking, he should have led his troops into battle. He is about fifty years old and whilst others risk their lives he is killing time and, possibly, pulling back from life.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote: "In moments of desire God is quite unreal to us." This is true for David. One Bible Commentary simply and bluntly entitles this passage: "David's adultery". He sees, sleeps with & gets Bathsheba pregnant. Please note she is called a "beautiful woman"; she has no name or identity; she is a body.

- Women: You are more than your bodies. You are made in the image of God.
- Men: Women are worth more than their bodies. Learn to "bounce your eyes" (if you don't understand this phrase and want to please email Neil and he'll give you more details).

The word "sent" is used seven times in the passage (1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 18 and 27) and shows David's indifference to power. Uriah comes back from war and sleeps outside the Palace. David had hoped that Uriah would sleep with his wife. When Uriah doesn't David gets him drunk the next day to try and get him to sleep with Bathsheba. Three times we're told where Uriah slept, underlying his allegiance to David. The result? David writes a letter to be given to Joab instructing him to get Uriah killed. Uriah carries his own death warrant back to the front line.

Sure enough, Uriah dies and "Uriah's wife" (the writer is still underlining David's sin) mourns and then becomes David's wife and has a son. God is displeased with the thing that David has done but still allows him to remain king.

The effect of this sin on David's life, family and the kingdom is massive. His son (Amnon) rapes his sister/David's daughter (Tamar) and their brother (Adonijah) kills his brother (Amnon). Then Shimei curses David and Sheba rebels. This is followed by three years of famine, attacks from the Philistines and Adonijah proclaiming himself king whilst David is still alive. David ends his life as an old man who can't keep warm.

We are forgiven for our sins but do we *receive* that forgiveness? I wonder if David received his forgiveness. He certainly lived the life of a defeated man from this passage onwards.

Question:

You are forgiven for your sins but have you *received* that forgiveness?

A prayer:

Father God,

Thank you that I am forgiven. I receive that forgiveness now (why not pause and "breathe it in" and with every breath thank God for what he has done through Jesus for you).

Amen.