

A HEART FOR GOD

LEARNING FROM THE LIFE AND POETRY OF DAVID, part 2

Read 2 Samuel 11:1–5.

1. According to verse 1, where should David have been? What does he do when he sees this beautiful woman? What do both these things reveal about David's heart at this time?
2. Do you think Bathsheba has a choice when she is summoned by the King? Why or why not? What is David's predicament when she sends word that she is pregnant? (Leviticus 20:10; Deuteronomy 22:22)

Read 2 Samuel 11:6–27.

3. What is David's ultimate intention, and to what lengths does he go to get it?
4. How does Uriah respond to the King's suggestion to him (vs. 8)? What does this show about Uriah's heart?
5. What does David's downward spiral in this chapter teach us about the nature of sin? (See Jeremiah 17:9 and Hebrews 3:12–13.) If you feel comfortable share what you yourself have learned about the nature of sin.
6. What is the root of David's sin? (Hint: how many times in chapter 11 does he think about God?)

Read 2 Samuel 12.

7. What is David's reaction to Nathan's story? (vss. 1–6) Does David see any connection between this story and his own situation? What does harsh judgment of another's sin often say about the person who judges?

8. List the things God reminds David of about his goodness to him. What is God's view of David's sin? (vs. 9) What will be the result of his sin? (vss. 10–14)

9. What does David do when his son becomes ill? How does God demonstrate what his forgiveness is like? (2 Samuel 12:13)

Read Psalm 51.

10. Psalm 51 is written by David after he is confronted by Nathan. In verses 1–5 what things does David ask for? What does he admit about himself? Describe David's attitude toward his sin.

11. What does David know about God, and how does this encourage him to ask for forgiveness?

12. Using Psalm 51 as a template how are we to approach God when we sin, or when what is in our hearts is exposed?

13. David is confident of God's ability and desire to forgive. What does he promise in verses 13–15? How do you think a forgiven sinner is able to "teach transgressors [God's] ways" (vs. 13a)?

14. What kinds of sacrifices does God want from us? (verse 17; see also Hebrews 13:15–16)

15. Commentator Peterson writes: "In the Christian life our primary task isn't to avoid sin...but to recognize sin." Explain what you think he means by this statement. (Something to think about: are you personally more in danger of underestimating your sins or overestimating them?)