



**Life Groups in Central Telford Parish**  
**Autumn 2016 "Live Like You Mean It"**  
Week beginning 4<sup>th</sup> December 2016  
**Prepare for your departure**

This week we will look at David and Bathsheba

- **Welcome**

Have you done something that you thought was a good idea at the time, but turned out to be the wrong thing to do?

- **Worship**

Song suggestions:

- All who are thirsty
- Jesus lover of my soul
- O come, O come, Emanuel

Pray through Psalm 48:1-8

- **Word**

Read 2 Samuel 11:1-5

It was not exceptional for the king not to go out and fight. (See 2 Samuel 10:7-14). In this instance though it gave King David the opportunity to choose between God and his own desires. This episode represents the turning point in his life – David's disobedience is the dividing line between a life of victory and one of decline.

- **What do you think David's motivations are?**
- **Why did David think that his actions were acceptable?**

During this crucial moment in the life of God's people, Bathsheba takes a heart-breaking role. Not much is said about her in the texts, but much is implied. It is necessary to "read the silences" to understand what the biblical text has to say about this complex person.

Bathsheba's introduction is very brief: she was bathing, she was beautiful, she was married, David desired her, they had intercourse and she became pregnant.

- **What options do you think Bathsheba had?**
- **Does this affect the way you think of King David?**

Read Deuteronomy 22:22.

- **Does this make a difference to David?**
- **If not, why not?**
- **What about Bathsheba?**

In all of this, Bathsheba uttered only the words: "I am pregnant." We do not know how she felt about the news; we are not granted a view into her heart, just the cold, matter-of-fact statement. Yet, those words require much courage.

Read 2 Samuel 11:6-13

The words "I am pregnant" came as a warning, as a plea, as an accusation, which David took very seriously. He attempted to hide his crime by getting Uriah the Hittite to sleep with his wife Bathsheba. However Uriah the Hittite follows the Torah (the law of Israel) closely, demonstrating his righteousness against David's unrighteousness.

Read Deuteronomy 23:9-14.

Having failed in his plan for Uriah to accept paternity, David devised a plan to kill Uriah. A plan that resulted in greater evil: he moved from coveting, adultery, abuse of power, to murder.

- **Do you think David could attempt to justify his actions?**

Read 2 Samuel 11:15-27

Bathsheba lamented her husband's death and, in time, became David's wife. Note that she is not named again for some time; we are simply told that, "When the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she lamented over her husband" (2 Samuel 11:26). This shift is significant. During David's sinful actions, Bathsheba is called "Uriah's wife" instead of "Bathsheba" so that her condition of wife and the name of her murdered husband are brought to our attention.

Read 2 Samuel 12:1-15

- **Are there any signs that David is repentant?**
- **Why did God forgive David?**

We find that David has been forgiven by God, but there is still a penalty to pay. When God's punishment reaches David we find the child is to die, we read "And the Lord afflicted the child that Uriah's wife bore to David" (12:15). This reminds us that David is on trial here, not Bathsheba.

- **Walk**

This story of David informs us God does not tolerate sin. However, he forgives and restores. God can turn around evil things into hopeful and good situations.

- **Can you think of any bad situations that God has turned around to good?**

As Christians we are called to be a people of hope. Above all, through the love of God we live 'in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ'. (Said during a funeral at the committal stage of a funeral).

- **Next Time ...**

**1 Kings 1:24-37: Affirm, Equip and Release Others**

