

## WEDNESDAY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

Christ Church, Crouch End Hill

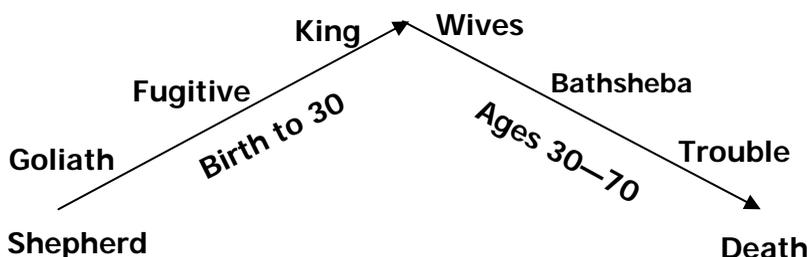
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No: 47

### THE CASE OF THE OPEN WINDOW AND A TIME OF CONFRONTATION

#### 2 SAMUEL 11 & 12

A diagram of David's life resembles the up-and-down form of a rooftop, with triumph typifying the first part and trouble, the second part.



As we focus on his years as king, we'll get a closer look at what made David both an icon of integrity—a man after God's heart—and a man of flesh and blood who, like all of us, was prone to fall.

When the Holy Spirit portrays Scriptures' heroes, He's a very realistic artist. He paints people just as they are, without airbrushing their faults or brightening their dark sides. So far, we have seen the brilliant lives of David's faith and the sombre colours of his failure. But now we come to where the moral graph of his life plunged to an all-time low. It is the story of how he got his eighth wife, Bathsheba. Let him who thinks he stand take heed lest he fall. (1 Cor. 10:12)

#### **The Case of the Open Window**

##### **Read 2 Samuel 11: 1-27 (Reflect on the passage for a few minutes)**

David is by now about 50 years old and has been king for about 20 years. He has welded Israel into a powerful nation and distinguished himself as a mighty warrior, a gifted musician, a poet and a visionary man of God. Yet David had problems with his lust. As his harem grew so did his lust.

The more a person indulges the sexual appetite, the more it increases. For David, this meant that even a houseful of women was not enough to keep his eyes from wandering. Susceptibility to lust, vulnerability to pride, and idleness a dangerous combination—one that primed David for disaster.

- If someone had told David as a young man that he would one day commit adultery and murder an innocent man, he would have exclaimed, "Never!" Yet it happened. Why do you think we are reluctant to believe we are capable of gross sin?
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- What significance do you see in the timing of David's sin (vv. 1-2)?
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- What progression of thought do you think David entertained (vv.2-5) upon the sight of her? Upon desiring her? Sending for her? Seducing her? Sleeping with her? (Compare Genesis 3:6).
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- Could Bathsheba have prevented this seduction? Why or why not?
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- How did David try to cover up his sin?
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- What superior character quality does Uriah exhibit in refusing David's overture (vv 11, 13; Deut 23: 9,10). What does this reveal about David? Uriah? Joab?
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- In what ways does one sin lead to another in this story, until David has broken the 6th, 7th, 9th & 10th Commandments?
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## **LIVING INSIGHTS**

The fact that a godly man like David succumbed to such ungodly desires gives us much to consider. David's sin tell us a lot about: the power of our flesh, the importance of renewing our devotion to God everyday, the danger of over indulging ourselves, and the power of sin to destroy our lives and the lives of those we love. "Bonhoeffer says: 'our lusts can take many forms—sexual desire, or ambition, or vanity, or desire for revenge, or love of fame and power, or greed for money'.

- Which form of lust is most likely to fill you with 'forgetfulness of God.'" and steal your powers of 'clear discrimination and decision'?"
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Here are a few ways you can put some principles (2 Tim 2:22; Rom 13:14b) of controlling your desires into action:

Establish boundaries that keep you out of compromising situations. Don't wait until you're tempted to weigh the consequences of your actions. Invite someone you trust to hold you to your standards. Cultivate healthy pursuits that keep your thoughts on things that are honourable and pure and good (see Philip. 4:8). Most importantly, cling to the Lord in daily dependence.

- How does David's sin in contrast to his position of favour with God, enrich your understanding of God's forgiveness and grace?
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- David's sin also shows us that we are never too old to sin. As long as our flesh is alive within us, we have the potential of committing the worst kinds of evil. What can you do to protect yourself against moral failure?
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## **CONFRONTATION**

No doubt, in the aftermath of David's crime, eyebrows were raised, two & two were put together and scandalous whispers buzzed throughout the palace. But not one finger of judgment pointed David's way, until God spoke through the wise approach of prophet Nathan. Nathan didn't burst in shouting accusations at the king. God wanted David restored, not shot down.

## Read 2 Samuel 12: 1-25

- Why does Nathan speak to David with a parable?

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- Why does the absence of justice and mercy in Nathan's account so enrage David (vv. 5-6)

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- What does this verdict tell us about God's dealings with sinful humanity?

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- What is Nathan's perspective on gratitude (vv 7-8). How is David's sin a reflection of his ingratitude to God?

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Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord" (v.13). David's words were few, but that is a good sign of a thoroughly broken spirit. There is no excuse, no palliation of the sin. There is no searching for a loophole, no human weakness pleaded. He acknowledges his guilt openly, candidly and without prevarication.

- What does David's example show about true repentance? (Read Psalm 51: 1-2, 4, 7-13).

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### **LIVING INSIGHTS**

From Nathan's example, we pick up four principles to remember when we are called to confront.

- ◆ 1st, base the charges on truth - take time to get all the facts before you point your finger.
- ◆ 2nd, wait for God's timing.
- ◆ 3rd, use wise wording
- ◆ 4th, go with courage. No one likes to be confronted. We always run the risk of straining a relationship or even losing a friend. but the risk is well worth the reward when the person is restored.