

Home Group Notes 6

Bathsheba – downhill from here

Introduction

The rise and fall of David is one of the most important themes in the Old Testament. It is the pinnacle of the rise and fall of the Old Testament people of God. When did the rise become a fall? Bathsheba was there.

1. Have you an example of when one wrong was covered up and became more wrongs?
What is a better way to deal with our wrongs?
2. **Read 2 Samuel 11vv.1-27** At which points did David choose wrongly?
3. **Read 2 Samuel 12vv.1-13** Why might Nathan the prophet have started with a parable? How would you have started this message?
Did Nathan continue to be subtle?
How did he ensure that David knew what he had done wrong in God's eyes?
4. What could David do? Read Psalm 51 and see.
5. Skim read the next chapters and see how David's example influenced his family.
Who copied his rape of a vulnerable faithful woman?
Who copied his murder of a family member?
Whose family situation descended into envy, bitterness and rivalry, and only got worse?
Does this pattern surprise you?
If even David was not the promised saviour, would they ever find a son of David who was?

6. How does one sinful action lead to others?
Is a sinful action any less sinful if we have a previously good character?
7. There are subtle things in the Hebrew text which are missed in the English translation. e.g. In v.25 David says 'don't let this thing be evil in your eyes'. In v.27 we are told David's action was evil in God's eyes. How easily do you kid yourself about a sinful action not being sinful? Or mislead others?
8. What is Bathsheba called in this account? Why?
What is she called in Matthew's account? Why?
[] they forgot her name
[] they want to show a lack of respect for her
[] to highlight the sinful action of David
9. Are you ever guilty of abusing your positions of power and so sinning against God who loves you?
10. God's view is not revealed until the end of the chapter, and the start of the next. The same is true in our age. Does God's silence mean he is absent or careless or even approving of sinful actions?
11. Does Matthew miss out generations in Jesus' family tree? Why do you think? What is his point?

Prayer Points

Thank God for his promises and his faithfulness

Pray that we will call a sin a sin, and avoid sinful actions

Thank God for our increased understanding of old and new testaments and of how God relates to us and this world

Pray for the gospel to transform people and society

Pray for our households that we might realise our responsibility in avoiding sinful actions in our homes for the sake of God's name, our friendship with him, and our example to others