

2 SAMUEL

CH. 11-12

SERMON STUDY - 11.16.2025

Leader Corner

2 Samuel 11+12; Psalm 51

Leader Corner: Eugene Petersen, in his commentary on First and Second Samuel, points out that two names unforgettably attached to David are Goliath and Bathsheba. Both events brought David into places of spiritual and personal testing. In one, he is triumphant, and in the other, he experiences utter failure. Let's look at this week's scripture with that in mind.

Main Idea: Living lives faithful to Christ

Main Practice: Being faithful to Christ and repentance when we fail.

Main Teaching: 2 Samuel, 11+12 and Psalm 51.

Connect with Prayer & Praise

Read this prayer by Tim Keller, on Psalm 51:

Lord, when I sin against others, and even against myself, I am ultimately sinning against you because we are all your possessions whom you love. When I sin, I don't just break your laws, but I trample on your heart. Help me to grasp that, because it helps me not just admit my sins, but forsake them. Amen.

Now read aloud the first verse of the old hymn "How Blest are Those."

How blest are those whose great sin has freely been forgiven

Where guilt is wholly covered before the sight of Heaven

Blest those to whom the Lord God will not impute their sins,

Blest those whose guilt has been forgiven, whose heart is true again.

with Principle

1. Read or view the main points of 2 Samuel, chapters 11+12: David's great sins, and Psalm 51, where David repents of these sins.
2. Share the insights or questions that Sunday's sermon brought to mind.
3. Read 2 Samuel 11:2-5. Temptations of all sorts surround us in our world. Discuss the leading temptations we all face that take us away from obedience to Jesus' commands. How can we fight against temptations? Helpful scriptures: Proverbs 4:14-15, Matthew 26:41, Romans 13:14, Hebrews 2:18, James 4:7.
4. 2 Samuel 11:6-15 is all about David trying to cover up his sin. He only sins more. Have you ever experienced this in your own life, or seen it lived out in the lives of others? Share if you're willing. What does the Bible say about not repenting or confessing sin? See Proverbs 28:13-14, Isaiah 59:1-2, 2 Timothy 2:21, 1 John 1:6-9.
5. 2 Samuel 12:1-17 is about Nathan's truth-telling to David. Verses 5+6 point to David's blindness to his own sin, while he points out the sin of another. What parallels do you see to our own "blindness?" How are fellow Christ followers called to help each other in our temptations and sin? Look at Matthew 18:15-17, Galatians 6:1-5 and James 5:16.
6. Read Psalm 51:1-17. Salvation is a beautiful thing, and these verses point us to the merciful, grace-filled, eternal goodness of God revealed in the person, life and atonement of Jesus. It is the gospel life of repentance, salvation and change of heart that God brings about in those who believe the gospel. Discuss how the gospel is revealed in these verses.

with Practice

Pray for yourself and for one another that the Spirit of God will reveal any sin you are hiding. Confess and repent, knowing that in Christ you are forgiven, and that God will restore a clean heart and renew a right spirit within you.

for Further Study

Think about and discuss the contrast between David's dealing with Goliath and David's dealing with Bathsheba. This was the contrast between dependence on and obedience to God, and independence and disobedience toward God. What do you think took David to this wayward point in his life? What are the lessons for us here?