

MAY 27

2 Samuel 12

It seems from the narrative, that once Bathsheba found out she was pregnant and sent word to David, it wasn't long after that, that Uriah died. Now, it looks like the baby has been born. I wonder why God waited so long before He confronted David. Obviously, David had more than enough time to confess his sin and come clean. What would have made him resist God for so long? I think we know the answer and I think this length of time ignoring God had a lasting effect on David's heart.

Vs. 1-6 I wonder how many of the details of the man's affection for the lamb described the relationship of Uriah and Bathsheba before David destroyed things. If you read a lot into this, Uriah deeply loved Bathsheba and David had no respect for Uriah. Have you figured out yet how David knew Uriah?

Vs. 7-14 It stands out to me here, that if David had sought the Lord and waited for Him, God would have "added" to him and given him more (v. 8). In fact, it might have been that David would have gotten Bathsheba anyway, but more on that later.

V. 9 Notice that God sees David as having despised His Word. And keep in mind that this is the guy who wrote Psalm 119.

Vs. 10-12 All of what God "promises" David will come true and will become a real tragedy.

Vs. 15-23 In all of this it is good that David went in and worshiped God, but I don't sense a lot of spiritual wisdom in this entire situation. Maybe I'm just being too negative.

Vs. 24-25 Now here is an interesting thought. God loved Solomon and He told Nathan, and so, Solomon had another name that meant that God loved him. Why does God love this person born out of such a foul history? Since God is sovereign, I would have to think that God knew that Solomon would be born of David and Bathsheba and that Solomon was a part of His plan. I think that if David hadn't sinned, God would have brought these two people together without sin. Probably Uriah would have died in battle or some other way, and since David knew Uriah, he would have taken Bathsheba legally as a wife. We've seen something like this before with Rebekah and Jacob stealing the blessing from Esau. If it is God's will for something to happen, we need to wait and be patient. Taking "God's will" by our own hand only adds grief and sorrow to it.

Imagine what this sin would have done to David's entire "family." Would any of the other wives have felt good about being with David after he had done this?

This part about Solomon is probably a summary of the future birth. We know from 1 Chronicles 3:5 that Bathsheba had four boys and Solomon was the youngest of them. Incidentally, while Solomon is not in the direct bloodline to Jesus (through Mary), Solomon's brother, Nathan, is in the line to Jesus. I think Solomon was excluded because of his idolatry.

Vs. 26-31 The long fought battle (over a year) finally ended in victory. I can't help but see this "victory" as a very ironic defeat for David and all of Israel.

John 16

Vs. 1-4 I've tried to underscore the fact that the context of this Upper Room Discourse is the immediate and ongoing threat there would be to the disciples as they followed Jesus now, and then later after Pentecost. This same atmosphere of threat is true for any of us who are following Christ in the harvest. Many of the truths in this discourse are great. The problem is that if what Jesus says here is removed from this context and taught in isolation, the truths can be misleading. The context for this truth is following Christ on His mission under pressure.

If you take a piston from an engine and use it at Christmas to crack nuts, it will work for that. But imagine if you eventually forgot that it was anything other than a nutcracker. This is exactly what happens with teaching about the Holy Spirit. We use Him for all sorts of things, especially for our comfort. We just forget the context in which He is introduced, the mission, and therefore, the context in which we will find His power and comfort.

Vs. 5-15 Notice that Jesus is speaking again about His leaving them.

V. 7 Jesus will send the Spirit into the disciples. Whereas Jesus could only be in one place at one time, the Holy Spirit can indwell an infinite number of disciples. Notice what this Helper will do in v. 8. How does that help us? It only helps us if we are in the harvest.

Vs. 8-11 The idea of convicting the world concerning sin is focused on the person of Jesus. When Jesus sat down at the right hand of God, it was a declaration of His righteousness as a man to declare judgment on all mankind. Now Jesus is the King of mankind and the “fake” ruler has been dethroned. All of this “reality” has taken place and now just waits for the completion. Now would be the time to confess Christ as Savior.

Vs. 12-14 Jesus was their constant teacher and taught them before and after events, before and after conflicts. Now He was leaving them. The Spirit of Truth would now take His place, doing what Jesus had done.

Vs. 16-24 Somehow, I don't think the disciples understood the impact it would have on them when He died. He is bracing them to experience intense disappointment, fear and sorrow; and He's promising them that the joy they experience afterward will wipe that all away. Notice the references to joy and the encouragement for them to pray. Jesus is helping them to protect them, and I don't think they had a clue.

Vs. 25-28 It is interesting that Jesus is already telling them He will teach them after the resurrection. Jesus will say more about the Father and His love for them in chapter 17, but here it is said to assure them so that they will survive the dark night that will come upon them.

Vs. 29-33 Here, it is like the disciples say, "Oh, so that's what you're saying. Null Problemo." And then Jesus says, "Oh yeah. You've got it down? You guys are about to be scattered in fear."

V. 33 Although we haven't seen the word “abide” since the last chapter, notice the condition of the promise here. Jesus said, *in me you may have peace*. This is contrasted with the next words, *In the world....* Abiding in Jesus is where we find that peace, but abiding is a choice. If our lives are oriented around and defined by the world, we are in trouble. If everything about us is defined by Jesus, we stand in His Spirit with His view of the reality around us, with His purpose in our heart. Notice that the context for this peace is peace in persecution for being a follower of Christ in the harvest. Jesus is saying this to strengthen them. But, will they remember He said this as He is hanging on the cross?

There is a spiritual understanding of Jesus and life in Him behind all of what Jesus is saying here. It might seem hard even for us to understand what He is saying, but Paul promised Timothy that if he kept thinking over what Paul told him, God would give him understanding. The same is true for us now in the harvest. I think God teases us with these sayings to see if we will invest the time to understand Him. We have the Spirit, but it takes time, reading and re-reading and praying and asking and seeking and knocking. Those last three things are things Jesus encouraged or commanded the disciples always to do. Those who ask, receive. Those who seek, find. Those who knock, have the door swing open to them.

Psalm 119:65-80

I noticed again today the references to being *afflicted* and how affliction worked to drive David to the Word. Seeing what is happening with David in 2 Samuel, I understand that it is better to be

afflicted and in the Word, than to have everything going well and feel you can survive without His Word.

Vs. 65-72 David seems to be saying that everything God did to him bore out the truth of the Word. This is like Paul saying to prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. It is worth being *afflicted* to see the truth of the Word. We discover that God is always true and that waiting on Him is always right. David says it was more valuable to him than gold or silver.

Vs. 73-80 Just as God formed David in the womb, God was forming David through his afflictions as David clung to God's Word. Verse 79 says that David's life became a testimony to others. God says the same thing in Isaiah 55, *I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples*. That came through afflictions and being forged in the Word. Afflictions do not help us. God helps us through His Word. If God is present, afflictions are just a means to show us how to abide in Him.

Proverbs 16:4-5

In the OT stories, we have seen how the Lord used the evil and failings of men to further His plan of redemption. We've also seen, and will see, that v. 5 is true, even among God's own children.