

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – September 25, 2022

Theme: Lessons from the life of David Topic: Sin and Repentance

Main Texts: 2 Samuel 11:1 – 27; Psalm 51:1-19

Key verse: Psalm 51:10– ‘Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.’ (NKJV)

INTRODUCTION: For the past twelve weeks, we have been examining the life of King David, to see what lessons we can learn from his life and walk with God; to try to understand why God declared him as a man after His heart. We conclude the quarter series by looking at an incident which sticks out like a sour thumb whenever David, this extraordinary man, the man after God’s heart, is discussed – the matter with Bathsheba. If you think of David in this matter with Bathsheba and you find yourself asking ‘how could he have done such a dreadful thing?’, you will most likely be in good company. But he did. And God plainly described his actions as evil, horrible (2 Samuel 12:9a). So, what can this man after God’s heart teach us about sin, and about repentance? For a definition of ‘Sin’, God’s word offers us at least three clear definitions: (i) Knowing the right thing to do and not doing it (James 4:17). (ii) Breaking God’s law (1 John 3:4), and (iii) Any kind of wrongdoing (1 John 5:17). The Bible also recognizes that sin can sometimes be due to ignorance and can be plain willful disobedience.

1. (a) Read Exodus 20:14; 2 Samuel 11:27c and 12:9. Why did David’s actions regarding Bathsheba anger God? (b) Read 2 Samuel 11:2-13, 4-5, 6-13, 14-17 and trace how King David’s one small indiscretion snow-balled. What does this chain of events teach us about sin? (c) What else does James 1:14-15 teach us about the nature of sin?

Everything David did in this matter was calculated. No wonder God was so displeased (2 Samuel 11:27). Prior to this, David seems to have succeeded: Uriah was gone, David had waited for Bathsheba to complete the required mourning period before taking her to be his wife. Apart from David, no one else knew the full story. But God knew, and God was not pleased. Whenever we face temptation, we should remember that God is watching. Nothing in all creation is hidden from His sight (Hebrews 4:13). But wait: Did David forget all that was written in the Law concerning adultery, murder, deceit? If he forgot, couldn’t God have stopped this His beloved child from such heinous act? Why did He not send Nathan to King David the moment David sent men to find out about Bathsheba? God could have but He did not and does not tell us why!

2. Read Exodus 20:14; Leviticus 5:5; 20:10; Deuteronomy 22:22 (a) From these passages, why do you think David went to all that trouble to conceal his sin with Bathsheba? (b) How do you think David felt all those days of trying to conceal his sin? See Psalm 32:3-5 (c) What difference would it have made had King David followed God’s instructions in Leviticus 5:5? What should we take away from his initial response to his sin?

God is always watching. God sees whatever we do. We may be able to fool the people around us, we may even be able to fool ourselves, but we can never fool God. He will not fall for our excuses or justifications because He sees the truth. Though it took several weeks, David eventually comes to his senses and repents after God confronted him. In Psalm 51, King David pours out his heart in repentance. King David opens the Psalms with a cry: ‘Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your loving kindness’ The first two lines of this psalm gives the tragic context for David’s plea. He had sinned in murder, in adultery, in covering his sin, and in hardness against repentance. It took the bold confrontation of Nathan the Prophet to shake him from this (2 Samuel 12); yet once shaken, David came in great honesty and brokenness before God.

3. (a) Read Psalm 51:3-6. What do these verses teach us about sin and true repentance? (b) What truths are there in Psalm 32:5 and 51:1-2 that motivated King David to confess his sins to God? (c) How should we, as believers in Christ, apply these to our lives when we fall into sin? See 1 John 1:8-10.

Prayer: Dear Lord, thank You that You are a merciful God who forgives the sins of those who turn to You in repentance. Whenever Your Holy Spirit convicts me of sin, or I become aware of a sin in my life, help me to run to You and not try to hide or justify my sin. In Jesus’ Name, Amen!