



Life of

DAVID

The Making of a King

Caught Off-Guard

2 Samuel 11

Lesson 16

Background Information

David set out to reach out in kindness to those who had shown kindness to him. Though David's kindness to Mephibosheth was gratefully accepted, Hanun the king of Ammon was suspicious of David's motives, rejecting his gesture of kindness. The people humiliated David's servants who had sought to bless him, thus "making themselves repulsive" to David. Realizing what they had done, they joined forces to form a battle line against David and his army. David prevailed and defeated the Ammonites and Syrians.

By the time he was fifty years of age, David had achieved great success in both the eyes of God and men. He was an accomplished warrior, a hero in the eyes of the people, a courageous leader and a humble servant. The Lord his King, had taken a lowly shepherd boy and molded him into a mighty king.

At the height of his rule, an unguarded moment plunged him into the depths of deception, despair and disgrace. A warning to us that past victories don't automatically lead to present successes. The one *after God's heart* must remain diligent and on-guard, against relying on past strength to meet today's weakness.

Treasures of the Heart

The labor of the righteous leads to life, The wages of the wicked to sin.

Proverbs 10:16



What does it say?

The first step is getting the lay of the land. **Carefully observe the text** looking to see where you might dig to find hidden treasure. **Mark your text** looking for repeated words, contrasts or similarities. Look for answers to, Who? What? When? Where? Why or How?

Read 2 Samuel 10 for context

2 Samuel 11:1-5

1 It happened in the spring of the year, at the time when kings go out to battle, that David sent Joab and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the people of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem.

2 Then it happened one evening that David arose from his bed and walked on the roof of the king's house. And from the roof he saw a woman bathing, and the woman was very beautiful to behold.

3 So David sent and inquired about the woman. And someone said, "Is this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?"

4 Then David sent messengers, and took her; and she came to him, and he lay with her, for she was cleansed from her impurity; and she returned to her house.

5 And the woman conceived; so she sent and told David, and said, "I am with child."

2 Samuel 11:6-13

6 Then David sent to Joab, saying, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent Uriah to David. 7 When Uriah had come to him, David asked how Joab was doing, and how the people were doing, and how the war prospered. 8 And David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house and wash your feet." So Uriah departed from the king's house, and a gift of food from the king followed him. 9 But Uriah slept at the door of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and did not go down to his house. 10 So when they told David, saying, "Uriah did not go down to his house," David said to Uriah, "Did you not come from a journey? Why did you not go down to your house?"

11 And Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah are dwelling in tents, and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are encamped in the open fields. Shall I then go to my house to eat and drink, and to lie with my wife? As you live, and as your soul lives, I will not do this thing."

12 Then David said to Uriah, "Wait here today also, and tomorrow I will let you depart." So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the next. 13 Now when David called him, he ate and drank before him; and he made him drunk. And at evening he went out to lie on his bed with the servants of his lord, but he did not go down to his house.



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2 Samuel 11:14-27

14 In the morning it happened that David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it by the hand of Uriah. **15** And he wrote in the letter, saying, "Set Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retreat from him, that he may be struck down and die." **16** So it was, while Joab besieged the city, that he assigned Uriah to a place where he knew there were valiant men. **17** Then the men of the city came out and fought with Joab. And some of the people of the servants of David fell; and Uriah the Hittite died also.

18 Then Joab sent and told David all the things concerning the war, **19** and charged the messenger, saying, "When you have finished telling the matters of the war to the king, **20** if it happens that the king's wrath rises, and he says to you: 'Why did you approach so near to the city when you fought? Did you not know that they would shoot from the wall? **21** Who struck Abimelech the son of Jerubbesheth? Was it not a woman who cast a piece of a millstone on him from the wall, so that he died in Thebez? Why did you go near the wall?' — then you shall say, 'Your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.'"

22 So the messenger went, and came and told David all that Joab had sent by him. **23** And the messenger said to David, "Surely the men prevailed against us and came out to us in the field; then we drove them back as far as the entrance of the gate. **24** The archers shot from the wall at your servants; and some of the king's servants are dead, and your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also."

25 Then David said to the messenger, "Thus you shall say to Joab: 'Do not let this thing displease you, for the sword devours one as well as another. Strengthen your attack against the city, and overthrow it.' So encourage him."

26 When the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she mourned for her husband. **27** And when her mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord.



What does it mean?

What lesson can I draw from my observations? **Ask yourself, "What was the intended meaning of the original author?"** Is there a command to obey, or a warning to heed? An example to follow or avoid? **State each lesson in a simple sentence that you could share with someone else.** (aim for 10 words or less).

2 Samuel 11:1-5 _____

2 Samuel 11:6-13 _____

2 Samuel 11:14-27 _____



How can I apply it?

Ask yourself, **"What course of action do I need to take to apply each lesson?"** How should it change me? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? (aim for 10 words or less)

2 Samuel 11:1-5 _____

2 Samuel 11:6-13 _____

2 Samuel 11:14-27 _____

Challenge: Use cross-references to find correlating scripture that backs up a main point of the chapter. Summarize your findings in your own words.



Understanding the Heart . . .

See if you can discover the **heart attitude** of those in the story. What emotions are they dealing with? What is God teaching them? How do they respond? How should they respond?

The Heart of David:

The Heart of the people:

The Heart of God:

What words or phrases are repeated? Repeated words help us discover the main point.



Getting The Point

See if you can boil down the meaning of **each section** into one or two words. This helps you fully understand what the author is trying to convey. (It's fun to alliterate if you want to try) Did you catch the vision?

2 Samuel 11:1-5 _____

2 Samuel 11:6-13 _____

2 Samuel 11:14-27 _____

Title State the main **point** of the passage in the form of a title.

Flex Your Muscles Can you discover an N.T. example of this O.T. truth?

Radiating His Truth . . .

Look around and think of all the people who may be affected by what you do, look up and ask God for the strength to say no.

- Warren Wiersbe

