

II Sam. 11; Mt. 1:5-6; Bathsheba, the Mother of Jesus I. The Fall into Sin II. The Divine Consequence and Grace  
 Congregation of our Lord Jesus Christ- we are almost there! We stand on the eve of Christmas as today is number 4 out of the 5 women in Jesus' genealogy. As we have seen, the gospel has been revealed each week since God uses sinful people to bring about His divine plan. His ways are mysterious and marvelous. The women we have considered are usually known by their former life- a world that they once came from. Rahab the prostitute and Ruth the Moabites. Now we have Bathsheba- Uriah's wife. We saw in the book of Ruth that Israel needs a king- one who can redeem. This need for redemption is clear. We remember the scandal of Judah- one who sold his brother and committed a sexual sin. Well- David is worse than Judah today- because David not only committed sexual sins- He also committed murder! At least Judah only sold his brother and threatened to kill Tamar- but David ends up killing one who was a committed follower! We also remember from II Sam. 7 that David is a man after God's own heart- it was David that wanted to build a House for the LORD. But it is the LORD that will build David's house- and it will be David's son who will build this temple. So how can the line and name of David be established- and a temple be built- if not by the grace of God? Today we see that Jesus Christ reestablishes David so that his house might be built. God can use a disgraced king and a bad situation to bring about a great restoration.

## **I. The Fall into Sin**

We start with David's descent into sin. Although Bathsheba is the woman of the Genealogy- our passage focusses on what happened with David that brought Bathsheba into the line of Christ. As our passage unfolds, we find that David grows ever colder and becomes comfortable with sin. It starts in v. 1 where the time-frame has been set. It is the time when kings normally go out to battle- and David's army is engaged with the Ammonites. However, David is not found on the field of battle. Being around 50 years old- he is not hindered by his age. However, he has enjoyed a measure of prosperity and peace- he is content to let others fight his wars for him. As a proverb says- idle hands are the devil's workshop. Here David is enjoying leisure- he is derelict in his duty as he enjoys the life of ease. One thing we can learn from this is that as Christians we need to be constantly on guard- if we think we stand watch out! Temptation can come suddenly- and the devil is prowling- looking for one to devour. However, David is not concerned with that now. He goes up on the rooftop in the cool of the day to enjoy the cool breeze- and here he sees a beautiful form. David's

house was a high palace- from this vantage point he could look down into the homes of many which surrounded the temple. Now Bathsheba was simply washing herself- purifying after her monthly flow. It was David who had the look that led to lust in v. 3. Soon the eye convinces the mind which lead to a sin at hand. David calls for her- find out that she is married- but still plunges forward into sin. So David sent in v. 4- he took and he laid with her. Very straightforward. As you can see- a speedy descent into a sinful act. But David has a new problem- now he has to deal with the consequences of his action. It turns out that Bathsheba becomes pregnant with this one-night stand- and David has to cover his tracks in v. 13. So David sends for Uriah- and tries to get him drunk so that he goes home to visit his wife. But to no avail. Up to this point, David has indulged in the pleasure of sin without confronting the sinfulness of that action. He is trying to cover it up without repentance. And as you know, living in sin always leads to further sin. He tries to cover his tracks with an elaborate scheme to get Uriah to think he is father. But eventually he has to deal with the situation. Bathsheba is pregnant- Uriah will know that the child is not his- so David chooses the easy way out- to get rid of Uriah. By Uriah's own hand a letter is delivered to Joab- the commander in v. 14. Uriah is left in an exposed position and dies. So David not only steals his wife- he steals his life. Now think about who it was that David was sinning against! David not only sins against Uriah- who by the way was one of David's mighty men listed in ch. 23. He was one of the top 30 men in his army- a man of valor and integrity. He also sins against Bathsheba by inviting her to commit this sin. Bathsheba was the daughter of Eliam- who was also one of David's mighty men. She came from a good, godly heritage! Yet she was enticed to break her vow with her husband. Yes, it was David that called and took her- but she went in to David's chambers. David also sinned against the nation- the people of Israel have a king just like the kings of the nations now. But ultimately, David sins against the LORD God! It was God's commands that were transgressed- clearly breaking the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> commandment. It would be like a boss having an affair with one of the wives of his employee- and the boss puts his worker in a dangerous place on the assembly line knowing what would happen. And the guy dies- so the boss can have his wife! This is King David- the man after God's own heart! The friend of God! So David is in the throws of sin- adultery, murder and a cover up to match. Here the innocent die and the guilty go free! But God sees all- as v. 27 gives us God's view. This thing displeased God! It grieved the LORD- it was evil in His sight! This is the same word we found in Gen. 38- the act of Onan in spilling his seed displeased the LORD- so the

LORD put him to death! Well- David deserves death! This is what happens when we live by our own ideas and plans- doing what is right in our own sight! Our actions bring only death and the house is broken down! Praise God that Jesus does not leave David in this enslaving sin- He sends Nathan with a word of rebuke and hope!

## II. The Divine Consequence and Grace

So Nathan the prophet is sent by the LORD in ch. 12. By way of a parable, David ends up accusing himself. Nathan says in 12:9- you are the man! This is an honest picture of a sinful man- the fact is- David needs to have his heart broken and his sins forgiven him! David needs a Savior- David's Son and LORD needs to come to save! So David is exposed- the cat is out of the bag and the sin is revealed. And the Holy Spirit softens David's heart so that he says in 12:13- I have sinned against the LORD! Or as we read in Psalm 51- against You, You only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight! Cleanse me- and will be clean! David rightly confesses his sin- he is filled with a repentance that leads to life. And David is given words of pardon and assurance in 12:13- the LORD has put away your sins; you shall not die. Truly the sacrifices of God are a broken spirit and a contrite heart- these the LORD will not despise. Not only is the development in his sin- there is also a process of restoration. He sees his sin, repents from it and asks for pardon! And God graciously forgives! In this we find proof that a Christian can fall into grievous sin- Christians can and have done some appalling things. But for those in Christ- godly repentance always leads to life! God is rich in mercy- His grace new each day! Praise God that our sins- whatever we have done- can still be forgiven! But although God has pardoned David- His sin has been atoned for by the pure blood which washes and cleanses- there are still consequences. The first consequence to this sin is the shame and sword which will not depart from David's house- 12:10. The sword will take 3 of David's older sons- Amnon, Absalom and Adonijah will die in brutal ways. The shameful act of David that he did in private will be done on the rooftops for all to see- as Absalom will take David's concubines and sleep with them on the rooftop of the palace. The shame will haunt you- you will not have peace as your own son will try to take your life- David. And the son of this adulterous relationship- the child in Bathsheba's womb- he also will die- 12:14 says. So there are real consequences to sin- and David has to bear the results of his actions. But even in this- God is going to work a marvelous work. After David and Bathsheba's son die- David comfort his wife in 12:24. Note that Bathsheba is now called David's wife- and together they have a son and they name him Solomon. Solomon means "peace!" The

LORD loves this child- and even renames him Jedidiah- meaning “beloved by the LORD!” So his names mean peace and beloved of the LORD! It is the son- as you know- who will be a child of the promise and the crown. David’s son- Solomon- will be the one to carry on David’s name- a sign that the LORD has built David’s house- and Solomon will build the LORD house- the temple as well! Later on in life we meet Bathsheba again. In I Kings 1:30- Bathsheba is clinging to the promises of God- fighting and petitioning for the son of the promise to be made king. Solomon’s brother, Adonijah, tries to take the throne by force. But Bathsheba- together with Nathan- boldly go to David in the hope of the LORD’s promises. Not only had David sworn on oath- your son will be the next king. We also have the promise of the LORD- this one is loved by Me and shall stand before me! As the LORD swore in II Sam. 7- I will raise up your offspring after you- and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. So it is the boldness of Bathsheba that secures a throne for Solomon- her son. And although not perfect, Solomon will usher in a time a great peace and prosperity in Jerusalem. The temple will be built and the throne of David firmly established. So God uses what started with adultery and murder- to bring about the birth of Solomon the King of peace and prosperity in Israel! As I said in the introduction, what we learned from Ruth is seen again today! Israel needs a King- but she also needs a redeemer! One who will save and secure forgiveness for us! This would not come by way of Solomon. Yes, Solomon would build a temple and establish David’s throne- but Solomon would have hundreds of wives and be led astray into idolatry himself! What we need is the One of whom David said- my Son who was before me- the LORD will say to my Lord- sit at my right hand! David needs Jesus to come! But today we see that God uses sinful man and messy situations to bring about His good end- to continue to line of Abraham to David to Solomon- by way of Uriah’s wife- so that the Christ child shall be born! To conclude, Jesus Christ reestablishes David so that his house might be built. God can use a disgraced king and a bad situation to bring about a great restoration. David’s sin is great- but God’s grace secured in Jesus is greater than all our sins! David and Bathsheba were far from perfect- but of their line a perfect prince of peace will come! The only begotten- prince of peace has arrived! He too will build a temple- only His temple will be perfect and will stand forever! Of His Kingdom there will be no end! The Dearly loved Son of God would born into this world- not to Bathsheba but to Mary! But to hear her story- you have to wait until Tuesday!