

Friday

## 2 Samuel 11-12

According to God's plan, David became the king of Israel after Saul. One spring, instead of going to battle with his troops, David remained in Jerusalem, the capitol city. As David walked on the roof of the palace one night, he saw Bathsheba, the wife of a soldier named Uriah. David saw that Bathsheba was very beautiful, so he sent for her. Later, when Bathsheba sent word to David saying she was pregnant with his child, David wrote a letter to Joab, the commander of the army. David asked to arrange for Uriah to be killed in battle. After Joab did as David asked, David took Bathsheba to be his wife, but these events displeased the Lord.

The Lord sent the prophet Nathan to David. Nathan said, "There were two men in a city, one rich and the other poor. The rich man had many flocks and herds, but the poor man had only one ewe lamb, which he loved as though it were his child. When a guest came to visit the rich man, instead of taking a lamb from his own flocks, he took the poor man's lamb and killed it and cooked it for the traveler to eat." When David heard this story, he became angry and said, "As surely as the Lord lives, the man who did this thing deserves to die."

Nathan said to David, "You are that man. You have taken Uriah's wife to be your wife after you killed him with the sword of your enemies."

David then realized his sinfulness. "I have sinned against the Lord," he confessed.

Nathan said, "The Lord has put away your sin. You will not die. But the child that will be born to you and Bathsheba will die." Then Nathan left. The child born to Bathsheba became very sick and died. Later, Bathsheba and David had another son. They named him Solomon, and the Lord loved him.

- **Is there something you have done that has caused you a lot of problems?**
- **Is it time to say, "I'm sorry; please forgive me"?**

Father, I cause so much damage and pain because of my sin. I don't want to be separated from you.

In Jesus' name, forgive me. Please heal what I have broken between me and others, between me and you. Help me to ask for forgiveness always. And when others ask for my forgiveness, help me give it as freely and eagerly as you forgive me. Amen.