

David's Fall... and Complicated Redemption -

Catherine Taylor

Texts: 2 Samuel 11/12 and Psalm 51

Linguistic Devices

1. Narrative
2. Irony
3. Hyperpole _ Psalm 51

Culture

1. When the Kings went out to war.
2. Mikvah – the ritual bath done in private at the end of a woman's menses when she is likely to be able to conceive children.
3. Role of the Prophet – counterbalance the power of the king; represent the values of Yahweh in the royal court.
4. Hittites - Biblical history: descended from Heth, the son of Canaan. Historically known for being warriors. Abraham bought a grave site from Ephron the Hittite. Two of Esau's wives were Hittites. Hittites opposed Israel during the conquest of Canaan. David had Ahimelech was a soldier in David's army as was Uriah.
5. The king's power
6. Children were seen as a blessing from God.
7. Hebrew is a concrete language. The actions of God are not necessarily the feelings of God

Chapter 11

...when the kings normally went out to war, David stayed home and sent Joab.

Question

1. *Why do you think the writer made a point of these two choices of David's?*

2. *How do you think this decision affect his relationship with Joab?*

David went out on the roof and sees a woman bathing. She is bathing alone which would be one of the first signals that this is a mikvah. No one else would want to be in the bath with her or they would be ceremonially impure/unclean . And then, of course, there is the text.

Question

3. *Do you have a sense from the text of the type of person Bathsheba is?*

David sent his servants to get her...the Hebrew can read “And he took her”

Questions:

4. *What does it say about David’s state of mind that he sent messengers to get her?*
5. *What do you think it says about David’s sense of royal privilege?*
6. *What do you think was going through Bathsheba’s mind?*

I am so angry with David about these next actions that I don’t want to write them. I trust you can read them just fine.

Questions:

7. *What do you think was in David’s mind?*
8. *What do you think was in Bathsheba’s mind?*
9. *What do you think was in Uriah’s mind?*
10. *What do you think was in Joab’s mind?*

And Bathsheba mourned her husband.

And the Jahweh (the God with whom we have personal and corporate commitments) ...the which David had done was evil in the Lord’s eyes.

Question:

How do you think Jahweh felt?

Chapter 12 - And the Lord sent Nathan to David...

Questions:

1. *What is in this parable that indicates God thinks of Bathsheba is innocent of wrongdoing?*

Verses 7-12

2. *Why do you think these specific consequences were given to David from God. For instance, do you think it is retribution or natural consequences?*
3. *What do you think of the contrast between private and public here.*

Verses 13,14

4. *Why do you think Nathan was specifically told to say to David that he would not die.*
5. *Why do you think the child died?*

Verses 24, 25

6. *Why does Jahweh through Nathan name the child Jedidiah?*

Psalm 51 –

Question – *What do you think might be the various explanations of vs. 4*

Note: You will notice as we continue that one of Nathan's new responsibilities is the personal care and protection of Bathsheba and Solomon in the machinations of the royal court.