

Sermon Study Guide

March 11, 2018

BITMOJI—Staying True Through the Different Faces/Emotions of Life.

ICE BREAKER:

- ⇒ **Share a time as a child when you tried to cover up what you did and still got caught.**
- ⇒ **How nervous were you during the cover-up? How were you busted?**
- ⇒ **What were the immediate consequences? Were there any long term consequences?**
- ⇒ **Share a time when you confessed rather than covered it up. How nervous were you before confessing? What were the consequences?**

LIFE IS... HUMBLING!

- ⇒ We all give in to temptation at times. Our question today is... WHAT DO WE DO AFTER WE'VE TAKEN THE BAIT AND SATAN HAS HIS HOOK IN US? We have two options. Confess... or hide.
- ⇒ When we acknowledge it immediately... then confess, repent and learn from it... we turn our failure into success. We regain control of our lives. However, when we do not acknowledge it, confess and repent... we tend to minimize it, blame others... or cover it up. This empowers our sin. It sends us down a path of self-deception that justifies and rationalizes our sin. This second sin has greater consequences than the first—as it allows the root of sin to grow deeper in our heart. **How have you seen this played out in life?**

Answer the following questions about David's life. (The answers are found in 2 Samuel if needed)

- ⇒ When David found out that Bathsheba was pregnant—what was his plan to cover it up? 11:6-9
- ⇒ Why did his plan fail? 11:10-11
- ⇒ What did David try next? 11:12-13
- ⇒ How frustrated do you think David was when he couldn't manipulate the situation?
- ⇒ Share a time when you were frustrated that you couldn't control another person's behavior?
- ⇒ How did David's sin escalate when he couldn't manipulate Uriah to go home? 11:14-21
- ⇒ How did David's sin and cover-up affect other areas of his life? 11:22-25
- ⇒ How have you witnessed unrepentant sin send someone on a downward slope, spiraling out of control?
- ⇒ What final step did David take to cover his tracks? 11:26-27
- ⇒ What finally brought him back to reality? 12:1--7

READ PSALM 51:1-4. David wrote this after Nathan confronted his sin and cover up.

- ⇒ How would you describe David's attitude?

READ PSALM 139:23-24 (also written by David).

- ⇒ What 4 things does David pray for? Why specifically, is each an important next step with God?
- ⇒ Do you have any experience praying a prayer like this? How did it affect your life?

BRINGING IT HOME: Give the group time to think about the following questions, then close in prayer.

- ⇒ When God looks at your heart—where does He see guck, muck and yuck? Are you in denial?
- ⇒ Which does God think of your thought life? How is it affecting your life? Your relationships?
- ⇒ What is in your life that offends God (makes Him sad)? It's a choice... why are you choosing that over God?

2 Samuel

11:5 Later, when Bathsheba discovered that she was pregnant, she sent David a message, saying, "I'm pregnant."

- 6 Then David sent word to Joab: "Send me Uriah the Hittite." So Joab sent him to David. When Uriah arrived, David asked him how Joab and the army were getting along and how the war was progressing. Then he told Uriah, "Go on home and relax. " David even sent a gift to Uriah after he had left the palace. But Uriah didn't go home. He slept that night at the palace entrance with the king's palace guard.
- 10 When David heard that Uriah had not gone home, he summoned him and asked, "What's the matter? Why didn't you go home last night after being away for so long?" Uriah replied, "The Ark and the armies of Israel and Judah are living in tents, and Joab and my master's men are camping in the open fields. How could I go home to wine and dine and sleep with my wife? I swear that I would never do such a thing."
- 12 "Well, stay here today," David told him, "and tomorrow you may return to the army." So Uriah stayed in Jerusalem that day and the next. Then David invited him to dinner and got him drunk. But even then he couldn't get Uriah to go home to his wife. Again he slept at the palace entrance with the king's palace guard.
- 14 So the next morning David wrote a letter to Joab and gave it to Uriah to deliver. The letter instructed Joab, "Station Uriah on the front lines where the battle is fiercest. Then pull back so that he will be killed." So Joab assigned Uriah to a spot close to the city wall where he knew the enemy's strongest men were fighting. And when the enemy soldiers came out of the city to fight, Uriah the Hittite was killed along with several other Israelite soldiers.
- 22 So the messenger went to Jerusalem and gave a complete report to David. 23 "The enemy came out against us in the open fields," he said. "And as we chased them back to the city gate, the archers on the wall shot arrows at us. Some of the king's men were killed, including Uriah the Hittite." 25 "Well, tell Joab not to be discouraged," David said. "The sword devours this one today and that one tomorrow! Fight harder next time, and conquer the city!"
- 26 When Uriah's wife heard that her husband was dead, she mourned for him. When the period of mourning was over, David sent for her and brought her to the palace, and she became one of his wives. Then she gave birth to a son. But the LORD was displeased with what David had done.

Psalm 51:1-4

Have mercy on me, O God, because of Your unfailing love. Because of Your great compassion, blot out the stain of my sins. 2 Wash me clean from my guilt. Purify me from my sin. 3 For I recognize my rebellion; it haunts me day and night. 4 Against You, and You alone, have I sinned; I have done what is evil in Your sight. You will be proved right in what You say, and Your judgment against me is just.

Psalm 139 23-24

- 23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. 24 Point out anything in me that offends You, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.