

Class 5 - Uriah – David’s Mighty Man

1. Intro to Uriah: Uriah is one of the top 30 men in David’s army! (2Sam. 23:39). David’s army numbered over 1 million (2Sam.24:9) and Uriah’s in the top 30.

He is not in the list of mighty men as some sort of compensation for being murdered!!

He was one of the highest ranking officers in the army – deservedly so!

He is also a man of great integrity (as we shall see). Note: Matt 1:6 – the wife of Uriah!

So – Uriah is one of David’s mightiest men, and he lives near the king. He is prominent! And he is a converted Gentile!! He had a new name. Uriah = Yahweh is my Light or Flame of Yah!

2. The Sin

v.1 (2 Sam 11) David tarries at Jerusalem. (Mistake number 1) We do know that later the men refused to let David go to battle (2Sa18:3) and that at one point Abishai narrowly saved his life (2Sa21:15-17), but whether that was true here is unknown.

Being idle is when we are most vulnerable to sin! (I think we ALL know that from experience!)

Ezek. 16:49 – the sin of Sodom!

v.2 (2 Sam 11) Why was David restless, and felt it necessary to get out of bed and walk on his rooftop? Some unreleased energy and vigour – he should have been at war with the enemies of God! Instead he succumbs to the greatest enemy of all – human nature!

It’s ‘eventide’ (growing dark) and he ‘sees’ Bathsheba – well enough to be aroused! How far away could she have been? They must have been close neighbours!!

v.3-4 These facts were well known: Bathsheba was beautiful, her father was Eliam (therefore her grandfather was Ahithophel!) and her HUSBAND was Uriah. (Uriah & Eliam were both top 30 men!) At what point could David’s sin have been ‘terminated’? God was giving him warnings! (**Pro. 6:27-33**)

Process of sin: James 1:14-15; 1Jn2:16 We need to know and understand the process of sin so that we can short-circuit it!! Recognize the pricks of conscience! See 2 Co 10:5

v.5 A month or so later the deed cannot be denied! **Lust conceived and brought forth sin!**

3. The cover up

v. 6 (2 Sam 11) Uriah was a MIGHTY warrior – not a common foot soldier or message carrier! His suspicion would have been aroused immediately! (“Why does David want to see me)

v.7 The strange events continue. Why ask me about the war? There were others whose job this was!! But NOT Uriah!! He was too important to be called away from the front lines!

v.8-10 Uriah, a high and prominent official in the army sleeps with the king’s **SERVANTS** at the door of the king! He did not take advantage of the situation, even to fulfil LEGITIMATE lusts!

Not only is it obvious to us (the readers) what is going on (“wash thy feet” nudge, nudge, wink, wink – “a mess of meat” follows... and some wine no doubt – it was OBVIOUS to Uriah too (v.10)!

v.11 Not only is Uriah a mighty warrior, a prominent army official with a house near the king’s palace, a converted Gentile and a humble man...He is absolutely faithful and resolute to the principles of the Truth!

His priorities: 1. The Ark 2. His fellow soldiers. He loves God first and his neighbour as himself. He will NOT indulge in the pleasantries of life while the battle is engaged! He put others and their needs above his own!! Cp. 2Ti 2:4 – duties of a soldier!

Note: The ark in 'tents' – it was NOT out in the battle – it was in Jerusalem in a tent – David put it there and Uriah knew WHY!! It was temporary – Promises not yet fulfilled – Uriah was looking to the Kingdom – The Hope of Israel – He had been well taught...by David (now trying to help him!) This wonderful demonstration of Faith by a young warrior was a reflection of what David used to be!
v.12-13 Uriah's resolve is tested! His integrity is undiminished even when he is 'under the influence'.

4. The letter of Death

v.14-17 (2 Sam 11) Uriah was completely faithful and blameless, yet condemned to death! He carried his own death warrant and is asked to fight in the hottest part of the battle!

Aside: Joab was not a good spiritual friend to David. He should have tried to appeal to David, instead he 'rebukes' him AFTERWARDS.

God asked this of His son. He asked him to lay aside his prominent position, take on the form of a servant, put off carnal lusts, remain morally clean, be a 'common soldier' and be faithful unto death – a death that involved being put in the hottest part of the battle!!

All this Uriah did – with full knowledge of what was going on! He knowingly and willingly (for the benefit of others) carried his own death warrant to Joab. He laid down his life. He gave himself up for the wellbeing of the nation! ! (Did he pray for David and Bathsheba on the long road back to Rabbah? And during the 'hottest battle'?) [He 'suffered himself to be defrauded' in the ULTIMATE sense!]

Doing right is more important than being seen as right! (1 Corinthians 6:7)

Uriah knew what was in the letter! (As Jesus knew he had to suffer [Isa53] and be lifted up.) Uriah went as a 'lamb to the slaughter'.

Uriah knew he was 'set up'! Joab would NEVER make a tactical mistake in battle!

Uriah never 'stood up for his rights' or refused a command! [He saw the 'bigger good'!]

Read Isa 53:7-8 - How do you feel about Uriah now?...How do you feel about Christ's death?

Our attitude to Christ's death?

- he died because of OUR sins (as Uriah did for David)
- an innocent victim entangled in OUR problem!
- Do we respond as casually as David did initially? **v. 25** "the sword devours one as well as another..."

5. The Parable

Uriah = a poor humble farmer

Sin = a traveller – (King Sin)

Judged by the words of his own mouth.....Conclusion: Psalm 51:1-13, 16-17

This experience helped David in the long run. He now knew the Messiah better!