

A Woman of Character
Bathsheba
By: Juanita Stevens

Bathsheba is a woman who was used of God in spite of her failure. She found forgiveness and joy in the Lord.

Bathsheba is spoken of in the Bible because of her relationship with David. This relationship was one that may not have happened if David and Bathsheba had followed the prompting of the Lord to flee sexual lust.

What happened here? First, let's meet our lady. Bathsheba was married to Uriah the Hittite. They were converted to Judaism. She was a very beautiful woman married to a soldier in King David's army. Her husband was off to war and she was left home. She apparently was not too concerned about who saw her as she went to take her bath on the rooftop of her house. Her modesty was lacking. She took her bath in the evening on her rooftop. It was common for people to lounge on the roof in the cool of the evening, so most anyone could have seen her from their own rooftop.

But who saw her? Our man, David, the King saw her. He was home while the rest of his men went out to war. He was not where he was supposed to be. He was home with lots of time on his hands. He was on his rooftop when she was taking her bath. He saw her, asked about her, sent for her and slept with her. He gave way to sexual sin. He did not flee. Bathsheba did not flee either, nor did she give a fight. She apparently gave in willingly to David.

What happened next was the result of their sin. It caused great pain to several people including themselves. Bathsheba found out that she was pregnant with David's child. She sent word to him and he sent for Uriah, her husband. He came home but would not go to his wife. He was committed to David and the rest of the soldiers. He refused the pleasures of being home and continued his commitment to the very end for David. David on the other hand was not committed to Uriah. He became angry because he could not cover up his sin. So one thing led to another and David committed some heinous crimes. He had Uriah killed and then took Bathsheba for his wife.

The consequences were numerous and were not to be avoided. We may choose our sins, but we can't choose our consequences. Nathan the prophet was sent to confront David of his sin. When he told David the story he became outraged and said the man should be killed. Nathan then told him it was him who had committed this heinous crime against another man and God. The consequences of David's sin were for many generations. First, the son born to them in adultery died. Second, the sword never left David's house. There was war continually. Third, evil was raised against David from his own house. Absalom tried to take the throne from him. Fourth, David's wives were taken from him before his eyes. Once again his son Absalom took them. All of these things happened because of the sin he committed with Bathsheba in adultery.

Both David and Bathsheba repented of their sin and God could now use them for His glory. David wanted more than release from the consequences of his sin, he wanted a new heart. Remember David had been a man after God's own heart. His sin put a barrier there and it needed to come down. The only way that happened was with David's agreeing with God about his sin and being forgiven.

The results of repentance and forgiveness were blessings and joy in the house of David. He and Bathsheba had more children. The lineage of Jesus came through these two through their son Solomon. Solomon was loved by God. David made him king after him. Adonijah another of David's sons tried to become king, but Bathsheba warned by Nathan and directed by him stepped in and was able to see her son Solomon come to the throne as had been promised to her.

Bathsheba is credited with the writing of Proverbs 31 and the virtuous woman. She learned from her mistakes and did not want her son to fall in the same ones. It is believed that she wrote that Proverb for Solomon as advice in finding a wife. God can take our mistakes and turn them into something beautiful and use them for His work and ministry.

Some final things to learn from David and Bathsheba include remember that you can cause another to stumble and fall. David was not fulfilling his duty of leadership but was taking a vacation and having too much idle time on his hands. Bathsheba was very beautiful and took her bath in full view of the palace. These two things led to them both falling into the sin of adultery and the many consequences that came about because of it. When you do slip and fall remember that you need to repent and God will forgive you. Your consequences still remain but you have a clean heart and are able to serve the Lord without regrets.

If you have fallen into any sin remember God is willing to forgive if you will just confess your sins. God provides a way out. I Corinthians 10:13 "No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it." When you do give way to that temptation, realize what you have done and ask God to forgive you. I John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

God is faithful in providing a way out of our temptations and in forgiving us our sins. I think that is wonderful. No matter what happens God remains faithful to helping me in my life and when I realize that and turn to Him He can make something beautiful out of my life.