

URIAH'S WIFE -- BATHSHEBA

Text: Mark 14:54; 66-72

54 But Peter followed Him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. And he sat with the servants and warmed himself at the fire.

66 Now as Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came.

67 And when she saw Peter warming himself, she looked at him and said, "You also were with Jesus of Nazareth."

68 But he denied it, saying, "I neither know nor understand what you are saying." And he went out on the porch, and a rooster crowed.

69 And the servant girl saw him again, and began to say to those who stood by, "This is one of them."

70 But he denied it again. And a little later those who stood by said to Peter again, "Surely you are one of them; for you are a Galilean, and your speech shows it."

71 Then he began to curse and swear, "I do not know this Man of whom you speak!"

72 And a second time the rooster crowed. Then Peter called to mind the word that Jesus had said to him, "Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times."

Introduction: We have been sharing with you about the "Love of God" from the women in the lineage of Christ. We want to look at the fourth woman in His lineage - Uriah's wife.

Matt 1:1 The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham:

2 Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers.

3 Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram.

4 Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon.

5 Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth,
Obed begot Jesse,

6 and Jesse begot David the king. David the king begot
Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah.

In our text, Peter, a disciple of Jesus of Nazareth has followed those who have taken Jesus as captive. Their intent is to slay Him. Peter joins the servants who are observing the proceedings. He has declared to Christ Jesus his full allegiance. But as our text declares, Peter has now denied Jesus three times before the cock crows twice. What can he expect now that he is guilty of denying and even cursing and swearing that he is not a disciple of Jesus Christ, who is being sentenced to death?

Can we find a source of God's love, a reason for this man born in Bethlehem of the lineage of David to show forgiveness to one who has openly betrayed Him?

1. Uriah's Wife's Story -- Bathsheba.

A. We are introduced to her because of King David's absence in going to war with his army.

2 Sam 11:1 It happened in the spring of the year, at the time when kings go out to battle, that David sent Joab and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the people of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem.

1. The army has successfully defeated the people of Ammon.

2. David remained in Jerusalem.

B. David spots this woman bathing.

2 Then it happened one evening that David arose from his bed and walked on the roof of the king's house. And from the roof he saw a woman bathing, and the woman was very beautiful to behold.

1. David scans the horizon and spots a woman bathing.

2. Instead of turning his head, he observes her beauty.

C. King David inquires about her.

3 So David sent and inquired about the woman. And someone said, "Is this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?"

1. He sends a servant to find out who she is.
2. She is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite.

D. King David sent for her to come to the palace.

2 Sam 11:4 Then David sent messengers, and took her; and she came to him, and he lay with her, for she was cleansed from her impurity; and she returned to her house.

1. She comes to David's house.
2. He takes advantage of her.

5 And the woman conceived; so she sent and told David, and said, "I am with child."

3. She later sends word that she has conceived his child.

E. David seeks to remedy the situation.

1. King David sends for Uriah.

2 Sam 11:6 Then David sent to Joab, saying, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent Uriah to David.

7 When Uriah had come to him, David asked how Joab was doing, and how the people were doing, and how the war prospered.

2. King David sends Uriah home to be with his wife.

8 And David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house and wash your feet." So Uriah departed from the king's house, and a gift of food from the king followed him.

3. King David even sends along a meal.

9 But Uriah slept at the door of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and did not go down to his house.

4. But Uriah was too tired and he slept with the servants.

5. King David is told of Uriah's actions

2 Sam 11:10 So when they told David, saying, "Uriah did not go down to his house," David said to Uriah, "Did you not come from a journey? Why did you not go down to your house?"

6. Uriah will not follow King David's instructions.

11 And Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah are dwelling in tents, and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are encamped in the open fields. Shall I then go to my house to eat and drink, and to lie with my wife? As you live, and as your soul lives, I will not do this thing."

7. King David's plan to cover his sin does not work.

F. King David devises an alternate plan.

1. King David tries again to get Uriah to go home.

2 Sam 11:12 Then David said to Uriah, "Wait here today also, and tomorrow I will let you depart." So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the next.

13 Now when David called him, he ate and drank before him; and he made him drunk. And at evening he went out to lie on his bed with the servants of his lord, but he did not go down to his house.

2. Uriah did not know that his loyalty to the king would bring about his death.

2 Sam 11:14 In the morning it happened that David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it by the hand of Uriah.

3. Uriah even carries the letter that assures his death.

15 And he wrote in the letter, saying, "Set Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retreat from him, that he may be struck down and die."

16 So it was, while Joab besieged the city, that he assigned Uriah to a place where he knew there were valiant men.

17 Then the men of the city came out and fought with Joab. And some of the people of the servants of David fell; and Uriah the Hittite died also.

4. Uriah is killed according to the instructions of King David.

5. This was a fool-proof plan.

6. Bathsheba mourns her husband's death.

2 Sam 11:26 When the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she mourned for her husband.

G. Bathsheba is taken as a wife by King David.

2 Sam 11:27 And when her mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD.

1. She becomes the king's wife.

2. She gives birth to the king's son.

3. But David's actions displease the Lord.

H. Nathan, the prophet confronts David and pronounces judgement.

1. King David was guilty of murder.

2 Sam 12:9 Why have you despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in His sight? You have killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword; you have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the people of Ammon.

2. David acknowledged his sin.

2 Sam 12:13 So David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." And Nathan said to David, "The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die.

3. The child will die because of the openness of the sin.

14 However, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also who is born to you shall surely die."

15 Then Nathan departed to his house. And the LORD struck the child that Uriah's wife bore to David, and it became ill.

12:18a Then on the seventh day it came to pass that the child died..."

2. Peter's Story.

A. Jesus warned Peter of his fall.

Mark 14:27 Then Jesus said to them, "All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: 'I will strike the Shepherd, And the sheep will be scattered.'

1. Peter was defiant about his ability to stand.

Mark 14:29 Peter said to Him, "Even if all are made to stumble, yet I will not be."

2. Jesus reaffirms to Peter that he will deny Him.

30 Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you that today, even this night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times."

3. Peter makes a very bold statement of his loyalty.

31 But he spoke more vehemently, "If I have to die with You, I will not deny You!" And they all said likewise.

B. Peter does not take a stand but follows from a distance.

Mark 14:53 And they led Jesus away to the high priest; and with him were assembled all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes.

54 But Peter followed Him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. And he sat with the servants and warmed himself at the fire.

1. The first step in falling back on your commitment to God is to follow Him from a distance.
 2. That step will cause you to warm by the wrong fire.
- C. Peter will hear accusations made but will not step forward as a faithful witness.

Mark 14:63 Then the High Priest tore at his clothes and said, "What more do we need? Why wait for witnesses? You have heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict?" And the vote for the death sentence was unanimous.

65 Then some of them began to spit at him, and they blindfolded him and began to hammer his face with their fists. "Who hit you that time, you prophet?" they jeered. And even the bailiffs were using their fists on him as they led him away.

- D. Peter denies his association with Jesus of Nazareth.

Mark 14:66 Meanwhile Peter was below in the courtyard. One of the maids who worked for the High Priest noticed Peter warming himself at the fire. She looked at him closely and then announced, "You were with Jesus, the Nazarene." 68 Peter denied it. "I don't know what you're talking about!" he said, and walked over to the edge of the courtyard. Just then, a rooster crowed.

69 The maid saw him standing there and began telling the others, "There he is! There's that disciple of Jesus!"

70 Peter denied it again. A little later others standing around the fire began saying to Peter, "You are, too, one of them, for you are from Galilee!"

71 He began to curse and swear. "I don't even know this fellow you are talking about," he said.

- E. Three times Peter is confronted about being a follower of Jesus

1. Each test is more affirmative of his being a follower.
2. Each of his response is more verbal and his denial greater.

F. Peter is reminded of Jesus' Words'

Mark 14:72 And immediately the rooster crowed the second time. Suddenly Jesus' words flashed through Peter's mind: "Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times."

1. Jesus was right about him.
2. He had denied Him three times before the cock crowed twice.

G. Unfaithful Peter.

1. What will be done about his unfaithful actions?
2. What will Jesus do with this disciple who so loudly and vehemently denied he knew Him?

Conclusion: The response of the risen Lord to Peter's denial can be better understood when we look further at what transpires in the life of Uriah's wife, Bathsheba.

1. Peace is restored with God.

2 Sam 12:24 Then David comforted Bathsheba his wife, and went in to her and lay with her. So she bore a son, and he called his name Solomon. Now the LORD loved him,

A. Bathsheba is blessed with a son - Solomon -- "peaceful."

25 and He sent word by the hand of Nathan the prophet: So he called his name Jedidiah, because of the LORD.

B. Nathan, the prophet calls him Jedidiah -- "loved of Jah [God]."

2. Bathsheba represents those in the Body of Christ that have been affected by actions, words or deeds of those who are in the Church.

A. Look again at what God's response is to King David's taking advantage of her.

2 Sam 11:27b "...But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD.

1. God was displeased with David lying with Bathsheba.
 2. God was displeased with David's murdering of Uriah.
 3. Not one time did the prophet pronounce judgment upon Bathsheba.
- B. There are many like her in and around the Church world.
1. Someone in authority or someone who professed Christianity by action, word or deed has affected the commitment or actions of another.
 2. Bathsheba should have resisted and probably did.
 3. But how do you tell someone who is in authority that should know right from wrong that this is wrong.
- C. How many innocent people have been lead astray by the actions, attitude and deeds of professing Christians who were acting in disobedience to God's Word.
3. But there is forgiveness for any and all who will repent.
- A. David was confronted by the prophet Nathan.

2 Sam 12:7a "Then Nathan said to David, "You are the man!..."

1. David describes his feelings during his time of rebellion.

Ps 32:3 When I kept silent, my bones grew old Through my groaning all the day long.

4 For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was turned into the drought of summer. Selah

2. David acknowledged his sin.

2 Sam 12:13 So David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." And Nathan said to David, "The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die.

Ps 32:5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD"-- and you forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah

B. David's confession allowed God to restore him.

1. David cried out for mercy.

Ps 51:7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

8 Make me to hear joy and gladness, That the bones You have broken may rejoice.

12 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me by Your generous Spirit.

2. God's forgiveness allowed a son born of this union with Bathsheba to sit on the throne.

3. God's forgiveness placed Bahtsheba in the lineage of Christ

But what about Peter, Pastor? What happened to him? I removed from the text earlier a very important clause concerning Peter's remorse.

Luke 22:61 The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times."

62 And he went outside and wept bitterly.

Look at what Jesus had said concerning Peter's denial. Luke 22:31 "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat.

32 But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."

Did you hear that? "And When you have turned back, strengthen your brothers." God is not through with you yet!

Surely, you have failed Him and by your actions have denied His power to keep those who obey Him but there is restoration for you today.

Paul in his defense of the gospel of Jesus Christ shares a very interesting verse concerning Peter.

1 Cor 15:3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,

5 and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve.

When Christ Jesus arose from the grave, the first person that He was seen of was Peter. Most theologians believe this personal visitation by Christ was meant to reassure Peter that he was forgiven and that God had a place for him in His kingdom.

The book of Acts tells the stories of God's mighty work through the life of Peter. What does He have for a restored you to do? Bathsheba raised a mighty king, the wisest man that ever lived save Jesus Christ. What does God want to do through you? Why don't you give Him a chance?