

The Faith of Bathsheba – Part II

Matthew 1:1-6

Last week, I told you that I wanted to do a part two to the sermon.

I was very interested to see the response before I committed to that.

I asked at the end of the service if anyone had ever heard a positive message about Bathsheba, and only one person raised their hand.

I am not trying to be controversial.

I am not trying to find something new in Scripture.

I have tried to vet all my points through commentaries and authors I trust.

If anything, I think I caused some people to think and check it out for themselves.

Most of what I have said and will say is just compiling different facts into one framework.

Kind of like a mosaic, where you take little rocks or tiles and place them together to create a picture.

There is so much to Bathsheba's story than just her affair with David.

I am afraid our prejudices have kept us from seeing a beautiful story of faith and redemption.

The points we look at last week I think are foundational for what we will look at today.

In some ways, I think we saw last week the either her salvation or her repentance that changed her life.

It could be that she did not have true faith in God until David helped lead her to it.

It could also be, and I think it is the case, that she had faith but fell in sin and had to be brought back through repentance.

Quickly, let's review her life and our observations last week.

Bathsheba was the wife of Uriah, one of David's mighty men.

He father was Eliam, another of David's mighty men.

Her grandfather was Ahithophel, David's chief advisor.

She and David committed adultery together.

Both sinned, both were guilty.

David tried to cover the sin and ended up murdering Uriah so that he could himself marry Bathsheba.

Their scheme seems to have worked, until Nathan the prophet confronted David.

David confessed his sin and repented.

We have evidence of this repentance in Psalm 51.

Also possibly written at this time is Psalm 32.

B.H. Carroll – “But if Psalm 51 is the highest expression of penitence, Psalm 32 is the model expression of the joy of forgiveness.”

Through faith, Bathsheba received God's mercy

We spent a lot of time looking at II Samuel 12:24.

How David comforted Bathsheba – convincing her not only of her place being safe with him, but also with God.

By Faith, Bathsheba grew beyond her shame.

How Bathsheba was no longer called the “wife of Uriah”, but now the “wife of David”.

By Faith, Bathsheba received a fresh start

We saw that “she bare a son” and named him Solomon.

I am convinced that he was marked as David's successor.

We saw how in Proverbs 31, that if King Lemuel is a nickname for Solomon himself, that his mother – Bathsheba – faithfully instructed and trained him

By Faith, Bathsheba's children were blessed.

We saw in these things that through faith Bathsheba repented, overcame her sin, found forgiveness in God, and changed the course of her life and her children.

Today, we will examine more examples of her faith bearing fruit.

We will pick back up her story after the birth of Solomon:

I. By faith, Bathsheba refused to carry grudges

For this point, I want to examine Bathsheba's relationship with the prophet Nathan.

Her **first interaction** with him is when he was confronting David and said that Bathsheba's child would die.

2Sa 12:13 And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die.

2Sa 12:14 Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also that is born unto thee shall surely die.

A few days later, Bathsheba's newborn son was dead.

I don't know about you, but I don't think I would invite someone who did that to my next baby shower.

I am not sure I want to ever see someone ever again that had proclaimed such a thing.

But what do we see about a year or so later?

2Sa 12:24...and she bare a son, and he called his name Solomon: and the LORD loved him.

2Sa 12:25 And he sent by the hand of Nathan the prophet; and he called his name Jedidiah, because of the LORD.

Here is Nathan again with a message about her newborn son.

But the message is quite different - he blesses this child by giving him the name Jedidiah – "Beloved of Jehovah".

That is the **second interaction** between the two, and I would say much more positive than the first.

But this is not the only other connection between Bathsheba and Nathan.

There is a **third interaction** is twenty years later in I Kings 1,

David is 69 years old and in rapidly failing health.

His oldest surviving son, Adonijah, tried to seize the throne by proclaiming himself as David's successor.

Nathan and Bathsheba had to work together to counter this plot and to ensure Solomon inherited the throne as David had planned.

1Ki 1:11 Wherefore Nathan spake unto Bathsheba the mother of Solomon, saying, Hast thou not heard that Adonijah the son of Haggith doth reign, and David our lord knoweth it not?

1Ki 1:12 Now therefore come, let me, I pray thee, give thee counsel, that thou mayest save thine own life, and the life of thy son Solomon.

We'll come back to that story in just a bit, but for now note that Bathsheba and Nathan see each other as trusted allies.

That is quite a roller coaster ride of a relationship!

Again, I do not think if I had gone through the trauma of losing a child, like Bathsheba did, that I would want anything to do with the man who prophesied of its death.

But there is one more element to their relationship that I find astounding.

David and Bathsheba would have more sons after Solomon.

You find them listed over in I Chronicles 3, which you may miss at first because Bathsheba's name is spelled differently.

1Ch 3:5 And these were born unto him in Jerusalem; Shimea, and Shobab, and Nathan, and Solomon, four, of Bathshua [alternate spelling] the daughter of Ammiel:

Did you catch those names?

Shimea, Shobab, Solomon, and Nathan.

One of David and Bathsheba's children was named after the man who publicly rebuked their sin.

That is not something a human being does in their human reasoning, but rather it is evidence of a Divine change of their character.

Have you ever tried to help someone, to have a difficult conversation with them that needed to take place, and have them turn on you?

Pro 27:6 Faithful *are* the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy *are* deceitful.

If this were the only evidence I had of Bathsheba's life after her sin with David, it would be enough to satisfy me that her faith in God had truly made a change in her life.

II. By faith, she fought for what was right.

As we just discussed, there was a succession crisis in the final year of David's reign.

Adonijah tried to claim the throne, but David had already appointed Solomon as his rightful heir.

The prophet Nathan came to Bathsheba to ask for her aid.

What follows reminds me quite a bit of the Book of Esther.

In both cases a queen had to approach a king to stop great evil.

In both cases the history of Israel hinged on if the queen's appeal worked.

Bathsheba goes before the bedridden king.

She does not approach him as a wife, but as a humble subject.

1Ki 1:15 And Bathsheba went in unto the king into the chamber: and the king was very old; and Abishag the Shunammite ministered unto the king.

1Ki 1:16 And Bathsheba bowed, and did obeisance unto the king. And the king said, What wouldest thou?

She was not here to force her own will on the king, but to make him acknowledge and enforce his own.

She reminds him of his promise that Solomon would be king.

She informs him of Adonijah's traitorous actions.

She reminds him that if he does not intercede that both she and Solomon would surely be killed.

Nathan enters to give the same report and Bathsheba exits.

1Ki 1:28 Then king David answered and said, Call me Bathsheba. And she came into the king's presence, and stood before the king.

1Ki 1:29 And the king sware, and said, As the LORD liveth, that hath redeemed my soul out of all distress,

Ki 1:30 Even as I sware unto thee by the LORD God of Israel, saying, Assuredly Solomon thy son shall reign after me, and he shall sit upon my throne in my stead; even so will I certainly do this day.

1Ki 1:31 Then Bathsheba bowed with her face to the earth, and did reverence to the king, and said, Let my lord king David live for ever.

Just in passing, not her response – “Let my lord king David live for ever.”

This is genuine love for her husband and sovereign.

She would rather have David live on than have her son on the throne.

This is further proof to me that she is not being manipulative here.

No, she is standing for what is right.

I am convinced that David, Nathan, and Bathsheba knew that it was God’s will for Solomon to be the heir since his birth.

I am convinced they knew that the great Davidic Covenant of II Samuel 7 would continue through Solomon.

In the moment of crisis, Bathsheba and Nathan stepped in to ensure that right was done.

Is there any great expression of faith than to take a stand when all seems lost?

Moses proved his faith in God when he was backed up to the Red Sea.

Daniel proved his faith when he was cast in the lion’s den.

What about us this morning?

What are we standing for?

What will we lay down our lives for?

I have a short list of things I pray I am strong enough to die for – my faith, my family, my country.

How sad it is to see those who claim to be Christians melt away when adversity comes!

III. By faith, she was honored at the end

There is one last story involving Bathsheba and it is in I Kings 2.

David has died and Solomon reigns alone over Israel.

Adonijah had been forgiven by Solomon for attempting to take the throne before David's death, but he has not given up on his schemes.

In I Kings 2:13, he comes to Bathsheba with a request to marry David's wife/caretaker Abishag.

He must have laid some kind of sob story on Bathsheba, who failed to see the machinations behind the request.

This is not the focus of this point, but here I think Bathsheba is being kind to a fault.

If anything, she seems more endearing for trusting this man too much.

Bathsheba agrees to take the request to king Solomon, who of course sees through the ploy and has Adonijah executed along with other conspirators.

What I want us to focus on is the way Solomon honors his mother.

1Ki 2:19 Bathsheba therefore went unto king Solomon, to speak unto him for Adonijah.

And the king rose up to meet her, - kings passively accept homage, here he actively gives honor to his mother.

and bowed himself unto her, - he humbles himself and exalts his mother – the Hebrew word here is *shachah* which is a root word for worship.

and sat down on his throne, and caused a seat to be set for the king's mother; - he honors her with a throne to sit upon

and she sat on his right hand. – this is the place of honor

By the way, a precedent seems to be set here of honoring the queen mother.

See I Kings 15:13, II Kings 11:1-3, 24:15.

Also note how the name of the mother is highlighted for all the succeeding kings whereas there is no record in Scripture of the names of either Saul or David's mothers

I am reminded here of these verses:

Psa 75:6 For promotion *cometh* neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south.

Psa 75:7 But God *is* the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another.

Bathsheba, the unfaithful wife, forgiven by God, transformed by faith, is now the queen mother.

Remarkable, isn't it?

That was not through her power or strength.

That was not through her plots or schemes.

Friends there is only one answer for how Bathsheba goes from II Samuel 11 to I Kings 2.

It is the grace of God.

Did she deserve it? By our human estimation she did not.

But I believe God honored her faith and her repentance to exalt her and use her to bring Solomon into this world.

The question I would ask is: Do we deserve what we have?

Do we deserve to be children of God?

Do we deserve such a fine church family?

No, God has surely poured out His grace on us!

Heb 11:6 But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

CONCLUSION

- I am afraid that we have let our prejudices against Bathsheba and her sin with David rob us of a beautiful story of redemption.
- She overcame that sin, was greatly used by God as a mother and queen, and was a vital part of Jewish history.
- If God can do that with her, I guarantee you can do great things with you.
 - o Illus? – Sam Jones.
- Have you found forgiveness and redemption in Christ?