



## Walking in the *Foot Prints* of Jesus A Discipleship Journey

*The OLD TESTAMENT*- Their Story is Our Story  
God, David, and Bathsheba - 2 Samuel 7, 11-12, Psalm 51

God promised David, "I will raise up your heir after you, sprung from your loins, and I will make his kingdom firm. And I will make his royal throne firm forever," and "Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before Me; your throne shall stand firm forever." This was quite a promise because David was not without sin.

David's army went out on campaign and David stayed in Jerusalem. One day he saw a beautiful woman named Bathsheba bathing. He inquired about her and found that she was the wife of one of his soldiers. David had to have her as his own and she conceived a child by David. David knew he had sinned, but instead of repenting and admitting his fault, he attempted to persuade the woman's husband go against military rules and go home to be with his wife, hopefully so the husband would think that he himself had fathered the child. The next day David tried again, getting the husband drunk before telling him to go home. Neither time did the soldier go home. Desperate, David had the soldier put on the front lines in the midst of the heaviest fighting so that he would be killed, thus making a sin that was bad even worse. The Lord was not pleased with David's behavior and sent his prophet Nathan to tell him so. David was caught in his sin. All of the covering up that he had attempted to do did not fool God. David had to accept the consequences of his sin and the child did not survive. He took Bathsheba as his wife and took care of her in his household. Most importantly, David went to God with humility and asked for forgiveness. He wrote the beautiful Psalm 51 at this time. The Lord forgave David and David was rewarded for his humility. David and Bathsheba conceived another son, Solomon, who would become king.

The gift of free will sometimes leads us down a slippery slope. We sin, attempt to cover it up, and find ourselves getting into deeper and deeper sin, just as David had. David showed us the correct way to deal with our sins - to come to God with humility and ask for forgiveness, to accept the consequences of our actions, and then to try to not sin again. David became a great king and was rewarded for his humility and his willingness to try to remain faithful to God. We will also be rewarded for this behavior by being right with God.

Take some time with Psalm 51. An excerpt:

Have mercy on me, God, in Your goodness; in Your abundant compassion blot out my offense. Wash away all my guilt; from my sin cleanse me.  
Turn away Your face from my sins; blot out all my guilt. A clean heart create for me, God; renew in me a steadfast spirit.  
Do not drive me from Your presence, nor take from me Your Holy Spirit.  
Restore my joy in Your salvation; sustain in me a willing spirit.  
I will teach the wicked Your ways, that sinners may return to You.  
Rescue me from death, God, my saving God, that my tongue may praise Your healing power.

