

# the Royal

## MAKING SENSE OF THE BIBLE

**"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." 1 Pet. 2:9**

### **Week 8: "Warrior Part 3"**

This was a great three-week series on the genre of biblical narratives. We were able to properly understand what we should be looking for while studying this genre. We looked at the basic fundamentals of reading a story, such as the main characters (God's friends and Satan's friends), the plot, the plot resolution, and the drama. Much like the last two weeks, we will use what we learned in examination of another text.

In doing so we will examine:

- ▶ A brief review of Mark 9:14-22, 23-24, 28-29 as discussed on Sunday by Pastor Miles in our conclusion of the study of biblical narrative.
- ▶ A closer in-depth look at Tuesday's devotion in 2 Samuel 11.
- ▶ Optional weekly challenges to help grow in devotion to Christ and His Word.

In Him,

Rock Church Small Group Team

## **Part 1: Opening/Recap Weekly Challenge/Small Group Sermon Discussion**

### **Opening:**

- Open in Prayer
- Worship (optional)
- Recap Week 7 Homework
- Small Group Sermon Discussion

### **Recap Week 7 Weekly Challenge:**

- 1. Recite Phil. 4:6.**
- 2. Discuss experiences practicing the Discipline of Fasting.**

### **Small Group Sermon Discussion:**

- 1. Review the narrative of Mark 9:14-22, 23-24, 28-29 as discussed in the sermon last week. Review the basic narrative observations below to better understanding these texts.**
  - ▶ Narratives are stories of God's attempt to redeem humanity to a right relationship with Himself.
  - ▶ Narratives involve real people, places, and times.
  - ▶ Narratives are stories about how God uses imperfect people who trust Him to accomplish extraordinary things by trusting Him.
  - ▶ Narratives explain what did happen, but not necessarily what will happen to you.
  - ▶ Narratives don't teach but illustrate doctrine and theological concepts.
  - ▶ Narratives illustrate how to be more like Jesus.
- 2. Using the (6) Narrative Observations, what new insights did you learn about Mark 9:14-22, 23-24, 28-29 from the sermon on Sunday?**
  - ▶ **Author:** Mark, traditionally by the testimony of Peter.
  - ▶ **Characters:** Jesus, demon possessed boy, and boy's father.
  - ▶ **Drama/Plot:** Demon's are tormenting the boy.
  - ▶ **Plot Resolution:** Jesus, our hero, casts out the demon.
  - ▶ **Dialogue:** one of the men in the crowd is pleading with Jesus to heal his son. The boy is demon possessed, but Jesus becomes disappointed because of their unbelief.

## Part 2: Read, Reflect, and Respond – 2 Samuel 11

### Read 2 Samuel 11:

2 Samuel is the continuation of 1 Samuel, by the Prophet of the same name. The main theological point of these books is presenting the positive and negative points of the new kingship of Israel, rather than the loose tribal government under the Judges. 2 Samuel highlights the kingship of David, whereas 1 Samuel highlights the events of Saul's kingship. David's kingship is pivotal for the future of Israel because it presents the Davidic Covenant (cf. 2 Sam. 7:13-16). This covenant is simply the promise of the coming Messiah that will come as a Holy representative of God to destroy all of Israel's enemies once and for all. As we approach the text of 2 Samuel 11, we observe the following points to understand proper context:

- ▶ David and his army defeated and destroyed the Ammonites (cf. 11:1).
- ▶ David has had much success in the midst of battle (cf. 2 Sam. 8).
- ▶ David made a name for himself when he returned from killing 18,000 Arameans in the Valley of Salt (cf. 2 Sam. 8:13).
- ▶ David makes plans to start building a temple for God, rather than placing the Ark in tents (cf. 2 Sam. 7:1-3).
- ▶ In his arrogance he lusts after a beautiful woman named Bathsheba, bathing during the day (cf. 11:2).
- ▶ In his lust, he slept with her, causing her to be impure, because she was married to Uriah the Hittite (cf. 11:3).
- ▶ She reported that she was pregnant because of their affair (cf. 11:5).
- ▶ To hide his affair, David sent for Uriah to return from battle to sleep with his wife, so that Uriah may claim the child as his own (cf. 11:6).
- ▶ Uriah refused because his fellow soldiers were still in battle (cf. 11:11-13).
- ▶ Because of Uriah's faithfulness to his country and king he maintained his position of resisting relations with his wife. So David then sent him to the frontlines of battle to die and have his sin covered up (cf. 11:14-17).
- ▶ News came back to Bathsheba that her husband Uriah had died in battle, and she mourned greatly. After the mourning David took her as his wife (cf. 11:26-27).

The last sentence in chapter 11 states, "But the thing that David had done was evil in the sight of the Lord." David's excessive sins, as stated in this chapter, shape the future of David's life and legacy.

- ▶ Read 2 Samuel 11 as a group.
- ▶ You are also encouraged to read chapter 12 as well. The outcome of David's sin is clearly revealed in this chapter. This should help shape discussion in relation to the "Reflect and Respond" sections of this study.

## Part 2: Read, Reflect, and Respond – 2 Samuel 11

(continued)

### **Reflect 2 Samuel 11:**

The pride and arrogance of David led him into acting upon his lust. He allowed that same power for lust to drive him into a pattern of lies and ultimately murder. This did not come without a price. He paid that price greatly in chapter 12. In this chapter, the reflections are numerous, but we will focus on only a few key points:

1. After reading the chapter, go around and discuss all the points of David's sin. If possible, site the verse and his reasoning for the sin.
  - ▶ Lust (cf. 11:2-3).
  - ▶ Adultery (cf. 11:4-5).
  - ▶ Lying/Trickery (cf. 11:6-13).
  - ▶ Murder (cf. 11:14-21).
  - ▶ Deception/Concealment (cf. 11:25).
2. What is so significant about the last verse, "But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord."?
  - ▶ The word displeased is an "imperfect" tense in the Hebrew language. This means that the action of God, to be displeased, is an unfinished condition. Basically, David is going to pay for his sin.
  - ▶ This question should not surface level in its answer. So in order to properly understand the punishment David received, it is suggested that you review with the group 2 Sam. 12:15-23, and the death of his newborn child.

### **Respond 2 Samuel 11:**

1. How has sin entered your life? Did it lead you into further sin? Can you to relate David's situation, and the desire to cover up a horrific sin? Or were you much like Bathsheba, a victim of someone else's sin? Try to explain.
  - ▶ This may be deeply personal for people to share. If nobody opens up, I would encourage you to be transparent and share first. Remember the past is over, His grace and mercy has cleansed all of our past sins.
2. If you read further into 2 Sam. 12:15-23, what personal applications can you take away from his response to his son's death?

## Part 2: Read, Reflect, and Respond – 2 Samuel 11

(continued)

- ▶ Much like the first question, how can we deal with the situation right now, or how have they dealt with it in the past?

## Part 3: Weekly Challenge

- ▶ **Scripture Reading Guide:** Go through the devotions that correspond with each day. These are given to everyone in their lesson plan every week. (June 21-27)
- ▶ **Scripture Memory:** "Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; According to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions." **Psalm 51:1 (NASB)**
- ▶ **Bible Study Tool:** Navigate through [www.equip.org](http://www.equip.org) and discover the great resources available for free for your personal gain.
- ▶ **Spiritual Formation Practice:** Each week we will introduce a "spiritual discipline" that each person can try to adapt to their personal devotion. This week is the **Discipline of Study.**

We have already looked at the discipline of study in week 1, but in order to emphasize the importance of the study of Scripture, we will encourage you in your further study of the different biblical genres once we conclude each genre on the third week. As Pastor Miles concluded the three week lesson of the biblical narrative, we want to introduce a great article from the great Preacher of the First Great Awakening, Jonathan Edwards, and his love for the biblical narrative. Please read this article, and be encouraged to continue the study of this wonderful genre.

[http://www.desiringgod.org/Blog/2484\\_the\\_beautiful\\_simplicity\\_of\\_biblical\\_narrative/](http://www.desiringgod.org/Blog/2484_the_beautiful_simplicity_of_biblical_narrative/)