

## 24—Uriah's View of David—Blindly Loyal

2 Samuel 23:39

Betrayal hurts. In William Shakespeare's play, *Julius Caesar*, there is a famous line spoken by Caesar just prior to his assassination. As Caesar looks around at the murderous mob of Roman senators who have come to attack him he makes eye contact with his friend and protégé, Marcus Brutus. Feeling dispirited at the sight of his friend conspiring against him Caesar no longer resists the attack but simply asks, "Et tu, Brute?" meaning "You too, Brutus?" It is a famous line which well expresses the shock and pain when we are betrayed by those we thought would treat us with loyalty and admiration.



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**"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."**

2 Samuel 11:9 (NKJV)

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more when a friend twists it. It must be a painful final memory to realize the one who has become your worst enemy acted like your best friend.

Interestingly, in the history of David we read about a man who was being betrayed but never realized it. His name is Uriah. As we read 2 Samuel 11 we often think of David, Bathsheba, and Joab. Yet, there are great things to learn from Uriah the Hittite. In fact, though he dies in battle he is still listed as one of David's thirty-seven "mighty men" in 2 Samuel 23:39. David might have betrayed him, but God's Word has the final word on Uriah and declares him a "mighty man." Consider a few reasons why Uriah should be revered as we look at the text of 2 Samuel 11 from another angle.

Biblically, the most well-known betrayal is that of Judas betraying Jesus. Jesus had already predicted His betrayal prior to its occurrence (Matthew 26:20-24). This had also been the subject of divine prophecy (Psalm 41:9). Yet, it still must have been a shock for the eleven disciples to see Judas show up with a crowd of enemies on the night Jesus was betrayed. After Judas kisses Jesus, memorably, says to Judas, "*Friend, why have you come?*" (Matthew 26:50).

These two betrayals, one uninspired history and the other inspired history, are sad to read about because we can just imagine the pain of these two JC's at the moment they were betrayed. We expect an enemy to stab us with a knife, but it hurts so much

### Discussion Questions:

1. Read 2 Samuel 11:1-5. What were David's men doing while he was at home in Jerusalem? How is Uriah's wife described in this passage? What does Uriah's wife do in this passage while he is away from home in battle? How do you think it makes a spouse feel when they find out this type of information?

2. Notice 2 Samuel 11:3, 6 and 23:39. How is Uriah described in each of these passages? How were the Hittites generally viewed by the people of Israel (see Exodus 34:10-12)? What kind of courage would it have taken to switch sides in the case of such a national rivalry?
  
3. After David's sin with Bathsheba, he calls Uriah home to try and make it look like Uriah had impregnated Bathsheba. Yet, what does Uriah refuse to do when he comes home and why (2 Samuel 11:6-11)?
  
4. After David's initial plans fail, he tries to get Uriah drunk. Strong drink has the tendency to weaken our restraint (see Proverbs 23:29-35). Yet, does this change Uriah's convictions (2 Samuel 11:12-13)?
  
5. So, David's only recourse to try and cover up his sin is to send Uriah to the front lines of a difficult battle (with Joab's help) and leave him alone to fight. Uriah does not shirk from the task and dies in the battle. Again, what kind of character traits must Uriah have had to go into such danger as ordered (2 Samuel 11:14-17)?

**Key Lessons:**

- Do not choose a woman for beauty alone. Bathsheba may have been beautiful, but she betrayed her husband.
- Sometimes we can learn great lessons from those we least expect it. Uriah, a Hittite, shows us about honor, conviction, and loyalty. David, the king, acts disgracefully.
- God will have the final verdict! Uriah may have never been honored for his great sacrifice while living but God's word pronounced a great honor upon him (23:39).

**Additional Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_

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