

June 26, 2022

SUMMER

Rescue Party

2 Samuel 11:1-17, 26-27

Everyone messes up big time sooner or later.

There's no exception to this. Moral failures are not relegated to an elite few. Unfortunately, the words 'human' and 'moral-failure' go hand-in-hand. Of course, there are some who appear to have it all together. But anyone who is honest will admit that underneath the façade we all come up short. Thankfully, that is not where our story ends. The occurrence of moral failure is actually the beginning of every great heroic story. That's where people discover their need for rescue more than ever.

THINK IT OVER

When were you most aware of your need to be rescued?

1 It was spring. It was the time when kings go off to war. So David sent Joab out with the king's special troops and the whole army of Israel. They destroyed the Ammonites. They went to the city of Rabbah. They surrounded it and got ready to attack it. But David remained in Jerusalem. 2 One evening David got up from his bed. He walked around on the roof of his palace. From the roof he saw a woman taking a bath. She was very beautiful. 3 David sent a messenger to find out who she was. The messenger returned and said, "She is Bathsheba. She's the daughter of Eliam. She's the wife of Uriah. He's a Hittite." 4 Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him. And he had sex with her. Then she went back home. All of that took place after she had already made herself "clean" from her monthly period. 5 Later, Bathsheba found out she was pregnant. She sent a message to David. It said, "I'm pregnant."

1) You are your own worst enemy. And the temptations you say 'yes' to will become your trap.

THINK IT OVER

Describe a time in your life when everything went 'thud'.

6 So David sent a message to Joab. It said, "Send me Uriah, the Hittite." Joab sent him to David. 7 Uriah came to David. David asked him how Joab and the soldiers were doing. He also asked him how the war was going. 8 David said to Uriah, "Go home and enjoy some time with your wife." So Uriah left the palace. Then the king sent him a gift. 9 But Uriah didn't go home. Instead, he slept at the entrance to the palace. He stayed there with all of his master's servants. 10 David was told, "Uriah didn't go home." So he sent for Uriah. He said to him, "You have been away for a long time. Why didn't you go home?" 11 Uriah said to David, "The ark and the army of Israel and Judah are out there in tents. My master Joab and your special troops are camped in the open fields. How could I go to my house to eat and drink? How could I go there and make love to my wife? I could never do a thing like that. And that's just as sure as you are alive!" 12 Then David said to him, "Stay here one more day. Tomorrow I'll send you back to the battle." So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the next. 13 David invited Uriah to eat and drink with him. David got him drunk. But Uriah still didn't go home. In the evening he went out and slept on his mat. He stayed there among his master's servants.

2) Hiding is never the answer. The only way forward is the way of truth.

THINK IT OVER

Talk about a time when you tried to hide something that you'd done wrong. What happened?

14 The next morning David wrote a letter to Joab. He sent it along with Uriah. 15 In it he wrote, "Put Uriah on the front lines. That's where the fighting is the heaviest. Then pull your men back from him. When you do, the Ammonites will strike him down and kill him." 16 So Joab attacked the city. He put Uriah at a place where he knew the strongest enemy fighters were. 17 The troops came out of the city. They fought against Joab. Some of the men in David's army were killed. Uriah, the Hittite, also died....

26 Uriah's wife heard that her husband was dead. She sobbed over him. 27 When her time of sadness was over, David had her brought to his house. She became his wife. And she had a son by him. But the Lord wasn't pleased with what David had done.

3) When you break other people, it breaks your relationship with God.

THINK IT OVER

When has your relationship with God been the most broken? What caused it to be that way?