

# The Psalms of Ascents

## Week 4 – Friday

2 Sam. 11:1-4 – Footnote 4<sup>1</sup>

During David's entire life, except for one thing, everything that David did was pleasing to God. This is God's own testimony for David, but if you back and read 2 Samuel and 1 Kings, David failed twice. We don't know why God did not count the second time. When God counted David's failures, He only counted that one time, the first failure that is recorded in 2 Samuel chapter 11. It was a great sin; he took the wife of another man. Even today this is considered a great sin. He took Bathsheba and then tried to hide this matter. One day David was sleeping until late one afternoon while his army was away fighting a battle. He had become loose and was sleeping in his palace. He rose from his bed and began walking around the roof of his house and saw a woman taking a bath. Then he took the woman to himself. At that time he thought that this was nothing, but he did not realize that Bathsheba would get pregnant because of him. When David faced that situation the first thing he wanted to do was to cover up his sin. So he told the captain of his army to send the husband of the woman back to Jerusalem. This man, Uriah, was a great man in David's army, one of his mighty men. The reason that David wanted Uriah to come back was he wanted Uriah to go home to be with his wife so that it would not be suspicious if his wife got pregnant. This would cover up what he had done. However, Uriah was a very faithful soldier. He said that while the rest of the soldiers are fighting the battle he would not go home to eat and drink and lie with his wife. Uriah slept at the door of the king's house and refused to go home to be with his wife. What did David do? He did not go to Uriah to confess his sin. He did not say, "I am sorry. I offended you." Rather he wrote a secret letter and asked Uriah to take it to his general. The letter instructed that Uriah should be placed at the front of the battle so that he would be killed. It is hard to imagine, but when God withdrew His hand from David a little bit, he could do such an evil thing. After Uriah died, then David took Bathsheba to be his wife.