

“So the next morning David wrote a letter to Joab and gave it to Uriah to deliver. The letter instructed Joab, “Station Uriah on the front lines where the battle is fiercest. Then pull back so that he will be killed.” 2 Samuel 11:14-15 NLT

lectio // 2 Samuel 11:14-21

Oh brother David. This is where your whole life story takes a nasty turn. All that it took to get him to the throne, and this is what he does with his kingly power. He rapes a neighbor and tries to cover it up with murdering her husband, one of his own soldiers. Uriah carries his own kill order to Joab! People have said, “yeah, but he repented.” Sure AFTER he gets called out. And, the king’s repentance still means that justice was not served by his followers - God did judge him and did deliver justice on him and his entire house. And David’s repentance can’t undo a pregnancy or bring a loyal soldier back to his family. Uriah must have been fairly important, his house was CLOSE to the palace. Only trusted families lived close to the king’s quarters. David’s hubris life and cavalier, cold hearted ways are captured when he responds to Joab. “David said. “The sword devours this one today and that one tomorrow! Fight harder next time, and conquer the city!” Makes me throw up in my mouth! Oh well, people die! It is clear that he devalued human life at this point in his rulership, both with Bathsheba and with Uriah. Others mean nothing to him. This, and a couple of other stories, are why I can’t stand it when people hero-ize David. “He’s a type, a forerunner of Christ.” No, he’s not. He was just a broken man like the rest of us. He fought much of his young life to obtain the right to rule and when he got it, he consumed all the privileges on himself and abused the very wealth and power given to him. Who would vote for this guy as president? Maybe over a Jezebel type?

oratio

Dad,

Yes, as much as I am glad this story is in the Bible and telling it like it is, I still don’t have to like it and for sure build this guy up as some kind of leadership, family life expert. He started out humble, but ate of the forbidden fruits of power, wealth and arrogance and it killed him and destroyed everything he had worked for. And yes, people still want a king, even with all the abuses. If that person gets them what they think they want, then they can get away with murder.

contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root