

Uriah

Uriah was a Hittite and one of David's "mighty men" [2 Samuel 23:39; 1 Chronicles 11:41], both Uriah's name meaning "my light is Yahweh" and his conduct suggested that he had committed his life to the Hebrew religion.

When David was told by Bathsheba, Uriah's wife, that she was pregnant as a result of their adulterous act, he sent for Uriah, with the idea that he could be passed off as the father of the child.

2 Samuel 11:6-13 [New King James] *"Then David sent to Joab, saying, 'Send me Uriah the Hittite.' And Joab sent Uriah to David. When Uriah had come to him, David asked how Joab was doing, and how the people were doing, and how the war prospered. And David said to Uriah, 'Go down to your house and wash your feet.' So Uriah departed from the king's house, and a gift of food from the king followed him. 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. So when they told David, saying, 'Uriah did not go down to his house,' David said to Uriah, 'Did you not come from a journey? Why did you not go down to your house?' And Uriah said to David, 'The ark and Israel and Judah are dwelling in tents, and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are encamped in the open fields. Shall I then go to my house to eat and drink, and to lie with my wife? As you live, and as your soul lives, I will not do this thing.' Then David said to Uriah, 'Wait here today also, and tomorrow I will let you depart.' So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the next. Now when David called him, he ate and drank before him; and he made him drunk. And at evening he went out to lie on his bed with the servants of his lord, but he did not go down to his house."*

The deceptive plan did not work because of Uriah's loyalty and sense of duty to his comrades, also he felt a duty to defend the Ark of God that had been taken to the battle, symbolic of the presence of the Creator God he worshipped.

Had Uriah been less virtuous, David would have had no need to resort to the desperate expedient of his murder by proxy, [2 Samuel 11:14-24].

2 Samuel 11:25 [New King James] *"Then David said to the messenger, 'Thus you shall say to Joab: "Do not let this thing displease you, for the sword devours one as well as another. Strengthen your attack against the city, and overthrow it." So encourage him.'"*

David's response to Uriah's death seems flippant and insensitive. While David grieved deeply for Saul and Abner, his rivals, [2 Samuel 1:1-16; 2 Samuel 3:31-39] he showed no grief for Uriah, a good man with strong spiritual character. Why?

David had become callous to his own sin. The only way David could cover up his first sin of adultery was to sin again, and soon he no longer felt guilty for what he had done.

David's response to his murder by proxy of Uriah shows us that feelings are not reliable guides to determining right and wrong.

Deliberate, repeated sinning dulls our sensitivity to God's laws and the rights of other people.

Also, the more we try to cover up our sin, the more insensitive we become towards it.

Do not allow ourselves to become hardened to our sins, as David did.

Confess our sinful actions to the Creator God, repent of them and seek His forgiveness, before we forget that we have sinned and remain cut off from our Creator God, [Isaiah 59:2].

These recorded events of the life and death of Uriah can remind us of how deceitful sin can be, **[Hebrews 3:13]** and how easy it is to become insensitive to the effect our sinful life can have on other people.

The good and loyal man called Uriah will then not have died in vain!