

## CHRISTMAS HOPE: BATHSHEBA

Matthew 1:5-7

2 Samuel 11:1-12:25

### Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- What dampens your Christmas spirit?
- Is there any pain, sorrow, shame, or trauma in your life story? Does it ever impact your celebration of Christmas?

Pain, sorrow, and shame can feel especially acute at Christmas when everything around us demands that we feel cheerful and full of the Christmas spirit. But the truth is that a season, however cheerful, cannot erase reality. The fallout of past mistakes and the brokenness of trauma do not disappear just because it's Christmas. Our sorrow can leave us feeling left out and unworthy of celebrating Christmas. Yet, as Matthew continues to tell the story of Jesus' family tree, he shows us that our stories do not surprise God. It is for stories like that of "Uriah's wife," Bathsheba, that Jesus came at Christmas in the first place. God enfolded Bathsheba into his own family and into his story of redemption and restoration. How God dealt with David's sin encourages us to seek the truth of God's love and abundant forgiveness. These are the reasons we can lean in, give thanks, and celebrate the hope Christmas offers.

**Listen:** [\*Christmas Hope: Bathsheba\*](#)

### Reflection

After listening, consider:

- As you listened to the story of David and Bathsheba in the context of Christmas, were there any details that surprised you or made you think about the story differently than you may have in the past?
- Hosts Darrell Delaney and Scott Hoezee twice discussed the power dynamics at work between David and Bathsheba. How might the fact that God included Bathsheba, a socially powerless woman, in Jesus' genealogy encourage you when you recognize unfair power dynamics in your own life or in the situations of others you observe? How might it impact your approach to the people and circumstances involved?
- God SAW Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah the Hittite. He saw her vulnerability; he saw her brokenness; he saw how David sinned against her. God SAW David. He saw David's abuse of power: he saw David's adultery; he saw David's murder of Uriah; he saw David's imperfection. In his unfathomable mercy, he drew them both in and gave them an integral place in Jesus' family tree. Likewise, God SEES you. How does that truth make you feel? What emotions does it stir in you? Relief? Hope? Comfort? Guilt? Shame? Where might you need God to intervene in your story today?

### Related Passages

- **Psalm 32**
- **Psalm 103**
- **Psalm 10:14-18**
- **Romans 8:35-59**

## **Conclusion**

As part of your Christmas preparation, dedicate some time to reflection and prayer.

- Identify some of the brokenness in your life or in our world.
- Pray for God's continued intervention in this brokenness.
- Give thanks for the first Advent, Jesus' first coming into our world at his birth.
- Look ahead to the second Advent, the second coming of Jesus, and pray for when all will be made well, all of our sins forgiven, and all of our brokenness healed.
- Close your prayer with the words of [Psalm 103](#).

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<https://groundworkonline.com/episodes/christmas-hope-bathsheba>

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