

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 29, 2018



THE LESSON 2 Samuel 11:1-15

In the spring, when kings go off to war, David sent Joab, along with his servants and all the Israelites, and they destroyed the Ammonites, attacking the city of Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem.

¹One evening, David got up from his couch and was pacing back and forth on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing; the woman was very beautiful. ²David sent someone and inquired about the woman. The report came back: "Isn't this Eliam's daughter Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" ³So David sent messengers to get her. When she came to him, he had sex with her. (Now she had been purifying herself after her monthly period.) Then she returned home. ⁴The woman conceived and sent word to David.

"I'm pregnant," she said.

⁵Then David sent a message to Joab: "Send me Uriah the Hittite." So Joab sent Uriah to David. ⁶When Uriah came to him, David asked about the welfare of Joab and the army and how the battle was going. ⁷Then David told Uriah, "Go down to your house and wash your feet."

Uriah left the palace, and a gift

from the king was sent after him. ⁸However, Uriah slept at the palace entrance with all his master's servants. He didn't go down to his own house. ⁹David was told, "Uriah didn't go down to his own house," so David asked Uriah, "Haven't you just returned from a journey? Why didn't you go home?"

¹⁰"The chest and Israel and Judah are all living in tents," Uriah told David. "And my master Joab and my master's troops are camping in the open field. How could I go home and eat, drink, and have sex with my wife? I swear on your very life, I will not do that!"

¹¹Then David told Uriah, "Stay here one more day. Tomorrow I'll send you back." So Uriah stayed in Jerusalem that day. The next day ¹²David called for him, and he ate and drank, and David got him drunk. In the evening Uriah went out to sleep in the same place, alongside his master's servants, but he did not go down to his own home.

¹³The next morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it with Uriah. ¹⁴He wrote in the letter, "Place Uriah at the front of the fiercest battle, and then pull back from him so that he will be struck down and die."

THE RESPONSE Psalm 14

Fools say in their hearts, There is no God.

They are corrupt and do evil things; not one of them does anything good.

²The LORD looks down from heaven on humans to see if anyone is wise, to see if anyone seeks God,

³but all of them have turned bad. Everyone is corrupt. No one does good—not even one person!

⁴Are they dumb, all these evildoers, devouring my people like they are eating bread but never calling on the LORD?

⁵Count on it: they will be in utter panic because God is with the righteous generation.

⁶You evildoers may humiliate the plans of those who suffer, but the LORD is their refuge.

⁷Let Israel's salvation come out of Zion! When the LORD changes his people's circumstances for the better, Jacob will rejoice; Israel will celebrate!

THE EPISTLE Ephesians 3:14-21

¹⁴This is why I kneel before the Father. ¹⁵Every ethnic group in heaven or on earth is recognized by him. ¹⁶I ask that he will strengthen you in your inner selves from the riches of his glory through the Spirit. ¹⁷I ask that Christ will live in your hearts through faith. As a result of having strong roots in love, ¹⁸I ask that you'll have the power to grasp

love's width and length, height and depth, together with all believers. ¹⁹I ask that you'll know the love of Christ that is beyond knowledge so that you will be filled entirely with the fullness of God.

²⁰Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by his power at work within us; ²¹glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus for all generations, forever and always. Amen.

THE GOSPEL John 6:1-21

After this Jesus went across the Galilee Sea (that is, the Tiberias Sea). ²A large crowd followed him, because they had seen the miraculous signs he had done among the sick. ³Jesus went up a mountain and sat there with his disciples. ⁴It was nearly time for Passover, the Jewish festival.

⁵Jesus looked up and saw the large crowd coming toward him. He asked Philip, "Where will we buy food to feed these people?" ⁶Jesus said this to test him, for he already knew what he was going to do.

⁷Philip replied, "More than a half year's salary worth of food wouldn't be enough for each person to have even a little bit."

⁸One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said, "A youth here has five barley loaves and two fish. But what good is that for a crowd like this?"

⁹Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass there. They sat down, about five thousand of them. ¹¹Then Jesus took the bread. When he had given thanks, he distributed it to those

who were sitting there. He did the same with the fish, each getting as much as they wanted. ¹²When they had plenty to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather up the leftover pieces, so that nothing will be wasted." ¹³So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves that had been left over by those who had eaten.

¹⁴When the people saw that he had done a miraculous sign, they said, "This is truly the prophet who is coming into the world." ¹⁵Jesus understood that they were about to come and force him to be their king, so he took refuge again, alone on a mountain.

¹⁶When evening came, Jesus' disciples went down to the lake. ¹⁷They got into a boat and were crossing the lake to Capernaum. It was already getting dark and Jesus hadn't come to them yet. ¹⁸The water was getting rough because a strong wind was blowing. ¹⁹When the wind had driven them out for about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the water. He was approaching the boat and they were afraid. ²⁰He said to them, "I Am. Don't be afraid." ²¹Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and just then the boat reached the land where they had been heading.