

**Worship Material**  
**God confronts who we are**  
**Material from Roots Bible Study**  
**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August**

**Begin with opening prayer**

Holy God,  
you know our hearts and all that has happened in our lives this week.  
Draw us to yourself, convict us of anything that keeps us from you  
and transform us by your redeeming love.  
**Amen.**

**Read 2 Samuel 11:26–12:13a**

**Bible notes**

God's silence is broken. The death of Uriah did not solicit mourning or regret from King David; nor did Uriah receive any military honours. However, it was a time of lament and despair for Bathsheba and possibly Uriah's family (v.26). Fasting might typically accompany the mourning period (2 Samuel 1:11-12), but a pregnant Bathsheba would risk herself and her baby to honour her husband this way. The king, still with control over events, made Bathsheba his wife.

God, from whom no sin is hidden, now challenges the king's sense of justice and righteousness. Through the prophet Nathan, God's displeasure is pronounced. The shepherd king has strong convictions about the actions of the rich man. He was once the poor shepherd in a rich man's household (that of King Saul). The profound injustice and perverse hospitality that cost the host nothing, and the poor man everything, rightly kindled deep anger in David. Using his royal prerogative, he pronounced restitution and death to the offender, which is consistent with Israelite laws (Exodus 22:1; 21:12-14).

It was self-condemnation! David was the unreasonable, rich and perverse man who showed no pity (v.7). A generous God testifies to his faithfulness (vv.7-8) and willingness to have doubled his gifts if David wanted more. To despise God is to be dissatisfied with his provision and to use unscrupulous ways to gain more (vv. 9-10). Therefore, God considered David's indiscretions evil, which must always be rejected. Further, they must not be trivialised with 'but for the grace of God go I'. In verse 9, there are two mentions of Uriah's murder that bookend David's marriage to Bathsheba. The 'word of the Lord' here indicates the Law of God. When the king breaks God's laws, it sets a precedent for the nation to do the same. Yet God's confrontation with David dispenses both justice and mercy (vv.11-13).

**Prayer**

**A prayer of praise**

Thank you, Father, for stopping us in our tracks  
when we are stubbornly plunging into darkness.  
You shine your light on our sins, and we are revealed  
in all our foulness and foolishness.  
Thank you for forgiving us when we truly repent.  
We praise you for your love and understanding,

which are beyond our limited comprehension,  
and for the generosity of your forgiveness,  
so powerful we can hardly take it in.  
All praise and thanks be to you, now and forever.

**Amen**

### **A prayer to conclude**

Holy Lord, you are just and true.

We receive your forgiveness and carry it with us this week.

Give us courage to confront those in power who have forgotten to act with your love and care. Inspire us to speak in a way that will help them to hear your voice and live according to your love.