

Where Are You? Part III

Echo Church | Week 7 | February 16, 2025 | Rich Saunders Jr. |

“Out of Position, Out of the Presence and Displeasing God”

II Samuel 11:1-27 (NKJV)

*1 It happened in the spring of the year, at the time when kings go out *to battle*, that David sent Joab and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the people of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem.

*2 Then it happened one evening that David arose from his bed and walked on the roof of the king's house. And from the roof he saw a woman bathing, and the woman *was* very beautiful to behold.

*3 So David sent and inquired about the woman. And *someone* said, “*Is* this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?”

*4 Then David sent messengers, and took her; and she came to him, and he lay with her, for she was cleansed from her impurity; and she returned to her house.

*5 And the woman conceived; so she sent and told David, and said, “*I am* with child.”

*6 Then David sent to Joab, *saying*, “Send me Uriah the Hittite.” And Joab sent Uriah to David.

7 When Uriah had come to him, David asked how Joab was doing, and how the people were doing, and how the war prospered.

8 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.

9 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.

10 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?”

11 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.”

12 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.

13 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.

14 In the morning it happened that David wrote a letter to Joab and sent *it* by the hand of Uriah.

15 And he wrote in the letter, saying, “Set Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retreat from him, that he may be struck down and die.”

16 So it was, while Joab besieged the city, that he assigned Uriah to a place where he knew there *were* valiant men.

17 Then the men of the city came out and fought with Joab. And *some* of the people of the servants of David fell; and Uriah the Hittite died also.

18 Then Joab sent and told David all the things concerning the war,

19 and charged the messenger, saying, “When you have finished telling the matters of the war to the king,

20 if it happens that the king’s wrath rises, and he says to you: ‘Why did you approach so near to the city when you fought? Did you not know that they would shoot from the wall?

21 Who struck Abimelech the son of Jerubbesheth? Was it not a woman who cast a piece of a millstone on him from the wall, so that he died in Thebez? Why did you go near the wall?’—then you shall say, ‘Your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.’ ”

22 So the messenger went, and came and told David all that Joab had sent by him.

23 And the messenger said to David, “Surely the men prevailed against us and came out to us in the field; then we drove them back as far as the entrance of the gate.

24 The archers shot from the wall at your servants; and *some* of the king’s servants are dead, and your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.”

25 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.”

*26 When the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she mourned for her husband.

*27 And when her mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord.

Sermon Outline

Title: "Out of Position, Out of the Presence, and Displeasing God"

Scripture Reference: II Samuel 11:1-27 (NKJV)

Introduction

- Family, there’s one thing I know about *positioning*—where you are determines what you see, and what you see determines what you pursue. Position matters! It’s not just about where you are physically but spiritually.

- Here in II Samuel 11, we see David—a man after God’s own heart—make some huge mistakes, all because he was out of position. He wasn’t where he was supposed to be. And when you’re not where you’re supposed to be, trust me, drama is just around the corner.
- Today, I want us to walk through this story, not just to point fingers at David, but to check ourselves. Are we in position, in His presence, and pleasing God? Or are we setting ourselves up for spiritual disaster?

Point 1: When You’re Out of Position, You Abandon Your Assignment.

- Verse 1 opens with a small but significant line—*“It happened in the spring of the year, at the time when kings go out to battle”*—but guess where David is? Not on the battlefield, but chilling on the balcony with a smoothie in his hand.
- Can I tell you something? Where you’re positioned matters! David was called to lead his army, but instead, he stayed behind. And when you’re not where you’re called to be, you’re vulnerable to distractions you were never meant to face.
- David’s idle time became a trap. He wasn’t on assignment, and one glance at Bathsheba turned his downtime into a disaster.

Scripture Insight: Verse 2 says David *“saw a woman bathing”*. Why? Because when you’re out of position, you see things that can pull you out of purpose.

Application Question: Are you where God has called you to be—or are you out of position and making room for distractions?

Point 2: Unaddressed Sin Compounds into Collateral Damage.

- It all started with a look, but that look turned into lust, and that lust turned into *taking something that didn’t belong to him*. Family, hear me loud and clear—sin doesn’t shout. It whispers. It starts small, but its effects are massive.
- David sent for Bathsheba, and she became pregnant. That was moment 1 where David should’ve confessed and repented. But instead of hitting pause and coming clean, he hit fast-forward on more sin.
- He manipulated Uriah to cover things up, and when that didn’t work, he plotted the man’s murder! Sin has no brakes when it goes unaddressed. David destroyed an innocent man to keep his secret, but in trying to save himself, he caused even more pain.

Scripture Insight: Verses 14-15 show the depth of David’s fall—he handed Uriah his death sentence. His sin didn’t just hurt him; it destroyed Uriah, his family, and ultimately even the child that came from this union.

Application Question: What sin have you been trying to hide instead of confront? And who’s paying the price for your denial?

Point 3: Just because something is producing or has produced, that is not an indication that it’s part of the Plan, Purpose, or Provision of God.

- Can we talk about the aftermath for a moment? Bathsheba becomes pregnant, but that baby wasn’t evidence of God’s blessing. Just because something is producing doesn’t mean it’s purposed. Don’t confuse results with righteousness.

- Sometimes we look at what we've produced and say, "Oh, God must be in this." But family, David's situation with Bathsheba was all flesh, not faith. What he produced wasn't a promise—it was a consequence.
- Activity is not the same as alignment. Just because something *looks* like it's working doesn't mean God's hand is on it. Never confuse movement with divine motion.

Scripture Insight: Verse 5 highlights Bathsheba's pregnancy, but everything after reminds us that production can't override purpose or obedience.

Application Question: Have you been mistaking production and progress for God's endorsement?

Point 4: Where there is no Faith, God is not pleased.

- Faith isn't just believing God will rescue you—it's trusting Him enough to stay aligned with His will. David's faithlessness led him to fear, and that fear drove him to take matters into his own hands. Instead of owning his sin, he hid it. Instead of repentance, he ran from responsibility.
- Family, can I remind you that fear makes you do stupid things? David didn't trust God enough to fix it, so he tried to control it. And when fear runs the show, faith takes a backseat.
- Hebrews 11:6 says it plain—"without faith, it is impossible to please God." And if you flip back to verse 27 of II Samuel 11, it says, "but the thing that David had done displeased the Lord." Why? Because faith and fear cannot coexist.

Scripture Insight: Verse 27 is a mic drop moment. Faithlessness doesn't just displease God—it fractures your relationship with Him.

Application Question: Are you making fear-driven decisions or faith-fueled moves?

Closing

- David's story isn't in the Bible so we can gossip about his mistakes. It's here so we can learn how to avoid his pitfalls. Being out of position doesn't feel dangerous at first, but it pulls you further from God's presence and deeper into a cycle of sin.
- Here's the hope, though—David's story doesn't end here. He repented, and God restored him. Yes, there were consequences, but God's grace is bigger than your failure.
- Family, it's time to check your position. Are you where you're supposed to be? Are you in His presence? Are you pleasing Him? If you've gotten out of position, today is the day to come back—into His will, into His presence, into the purpose He has for your life.

Final Call: Don't stay out of alignment another second! Repent, reposition, and realign your life with God's purpose. He's waiting to restore and redirect you. It's not over; it's just time to get back in position!