

**2 Samuel 11:1-15**

**It's not fair**

While his troops are away, King David takes a liking to Bathsheba, wife of one of his soldiers, Uriah. Bathsheba becomes pregnant. David tries to cover up what he's done by bringing Uriah home to his wife; but Uriah refuses to be with his wife while others are still fighting. So, David sends Uriah back to the battlefield, instructing his commander to use him where he is most likely to be killed – and he is.



**Bible notes**



King David saw himself as special to God – the apple of God's eye (Psalm 17:8). Yet, what happens in this week's passage is not David's finest moment, nor a kingly example others should follow. In spring, kings went out to war (v.1). Speculation is endless as to why David exempted himself, why his focus was not on the welfare and well-being of his army. The commanders may have insisted and refused him (cf 2 Samuel 18:2-4).

Summoned by the king, Bathsheba, a foreigner undergoing her purification ritual according to her adopted Israelite customs (cf Leviticus 15:19-24), was within her rights to refuse. However, the proximity of her home to the king's palace indicates the high regard the army held for her husband, Uriah. Consequently, refusing an audience with the king might have disrespected her husband. David executed his plan unabated or unashamedly. However, he did not plan for the consequence. Her purification indicates that Bathsheba's pregnancy and the paternity of her child were not in doubt, which became problematic for David and Bathsheba. Instead of acknowledging his guilt, David devises another unethical scheme, this time to deceive Uriah. Heroically and patriotically, Uriah's heart and mind were with the army on the battlefield. Neither a luxurious present nor the king's coercion could persuade him to demobilise (vv.8-11). A naturalised citizen, Uriah displayed the qualities and commitment to the battle that David should have exhibited. However, his loyalty and commitment cost him his life. He was unaware he held his death warrant in his hand.

There is no question – these tragedies are an abuse of power. Is it fair that Uriah's loyalty to the king, his army colleagues, and his nation ultimately cost him his life? Is it fair that commitment to David prevented his household from providing wise and godly counsel? Is it fair that Bathsheba and Uriah became mere collateral damage?

A A D F N Z L U C  
H B S E A R C H K  
G A J B N R P H O



Check out Glassdoor's list of the 50 best places to work in the UK and see what the employees rate as important. Consider if you were a CEO of a company or organisation, what would you put in place to make everyone feel valued and happy?

**ACT** 



Check out the Fairtrade Foundation's short videos on a Fair Future: Look out for fair trade products in the supermarket – can you swap your usual purchase for a fair trade one?

**REFLECT**  
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Watch some Olympic games this week and look out for the values of excellence, friendship and respect. Look out for those athletes who show particular kindness and fairness to others.

**First impressions**

- What motivates us to want what others have? How can we rein in our desire for more?
- Have you ever made a bad choice? What were the consequences? How did you try and rectify it?
- How can you make fair and just choices this week?



**A sending out prayer**

Caring God, we ask you to be with us this week. Open our eyes to see people as you see them, make us a blessing to all who are affected by our choices, whether they are right in front of us or far away. Help us to live by the values of your kingdom, which is fair and just, and to value all people as made in your image. Amen.

**WATCH**



Look up the Veggie Tales interpretation of this passage – King George and the Ducky.