

10. BATHSHEBA

UNJUST DESERTS

2 Samuel 12:24

'She gave birth to a son and they named him Solomon. The LORD loved him'

Everyone needs a hero. The people of Israel had King David. The problem was that he messed up, big time! How? Well, while everyone went to war, David hung around at home.

Then there was Bathsheba. Beautiful, mysterious and naked!

David wanted her but she was someone else's wife. What's a king to do? Well, he got her pregnant! He couldn't cover it up so he murdered Bathsheba's husband and then married her himself. It's sordid and godless. It's what you'd expect from an ordinary king but not God's chosen king, not Israel's hero.

The Bible blames David. But let's not forget Bathsheba. She managed to get undressed while only visible from the king's private rooms? How dangerous, how exciting... how ambitious? Did Bathsheba know what she was doing? Well, she didn't resist, and she became an accomplice to adultery and murder. She became a partner in the fall of Israel's great king and, possibly, in the fall of Israel as a nation.

So you'd think that Bathsheba would be a serious Bible-scum-bag! Well, think again. Although clearly condemned for her misdeeds, God's favour rests upon her. David had many wives and many sons but God chose Bathsheba's son, Solomon, to be his special king. The New Testament refers to her as a direct ancestor of Jesus.

This is not fair!

She should have been judged and condemned! But God does the opposite. He uses one of the most shameful and depressing episodes in the whole of the Bible to work out his purposes for great good.

What about you? How many things have been swept under the carpet of your life? Well, God can use even the worst things about us for great good. He is merciful. Confess your sin to him and he will cleanse you.

God's grace is not fair, that's good news for us!