

## Reflection Questions: Bathsheba

It is interesting that Bathsheba makes it into the family album of Jesus. As with Rahab, it would have been very easy to leave her out, as the list mentions "David was the father of Solomon." This would have sufficed. But the verse continues: "...whose mother had been Uriah's wife" (Matt. 1:6).

What do you think of Bathsheba's role in this episode? Did your view change when you heard her story?

While we often like to hide scandal and things we are ashamed of from our past, Matthew's family album highlights the dark episode in the life of King David for all to see. The fact that Bathsheba's name is not used, but simply listed as "Uriah's wife" means that Matthew meant for the episode where David takes Bathsheba and then has Uriah murdered to cover it to come to mind when you read this list. Again, it was not strictly necessary to put it this way, for the first child born to David and Bathsheba (conceived by the adulterous liaison while Uriah was still alive) died when he was only a week old. Solomon was conceived after Bathsheba had legally become David's wife.

Anne Clement writes: "God's mercy outweighs his judgement. In God's economy and grace there is always new life at the borders of death. God's judgement on David's abuse of power followed by David's repentance leads to forgiveness. God's mercy and forgiveness is demonstrated through Bathsheba the abused and marginalized woman who becomes the bearer of Solomon, the one who fulfills God's promise and perpetuates David's line." (*Mothers on the Margin?* Loc.3699-3700).

- 1) Why do you think that the writer of Matthew's Gospel wanted this particular episode in David and Bathsheba's life to be emphasized, rather than downplaying it?
- 2) Can you think of a place in your life where new life came out of darkness?
- 3) Have you ever felt powerless? Is there anything about Bathsheba's life that resonates with your life?
- 4) Is there anything about Bathsheba's story that you can apply to your story?

## Putting it together

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Choose a bead to represent Bathsheba's story for the chain you are assembling.  
Why did you choose this bead? What about it makes you think of Bathsheba's story?

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