

SUNDAY, JULY 18, 2021

COVENANT CHALLENGES

2 SAMUEL 11:1–15

The Next Right Thing

But Uriah slept at the entrance of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and did not go down to his house.

2 Samuel 11:9

What oaths do we make that shape our behavior? Some make scout promises, follow laws, pledge to uphold professional standards, or swear to protect and defend the Constitution. Wedding vows and baptismal vows are recited and witnessed many times during a lifetime.

Keeping our word is as simple and as complicated as doing the next right thing. In times of crisis or complacency, we may become convinced that an exception won't hurt *this one time*. The chinks in our moral armor begin to show.

I think about Uriah upholding his code of conduct as a soldier and of David breaking the Ten Commandments. I think of John Calvin's focus on the Word as the thread that can guide us through life. I think about the times when I have bent the rules and the problems that ensued. When I face the consequences, I am reminded that God's forgiveness is already there. I can revisit my commitment to hold fast to that thread of truth that leads to the next right thing.

*God of justice, lead me to do the next right thing.
When I fail, forgive me and set me straight. Amen.*

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