



**B**orrowing from the popular slogan, “Can you hear me now?” I ask you, “Can you see this now?” Are you reading this to yourself, is someone reading it to you, is the lamp shining brightly on the text, are glasses or contacts assisting, are you stretching your arms just a bit longer, or are you bringing the text a little closer? Whatever the case, I am hopeful you’re focused.

About 10 years ago, my arms began to shrink and I was no longer able to read much of anything, especially things like hymnals and bulletins. So, my dear brother-in-law, who just happens to be a world-famous eye surgeon, told me I needed these things called “cheaters” to set on the tip of my nose. He said a good place to begin would be a pair of cheaters marked as 1.5. That worked for a while. The focus was beautiful. But soon I began to lose focus again. So he said go to 1.75, and I have been going up ever since. And the point? What I am trying to focus on has not changed, only my need to refocus on what was always before me. Now when I can’t find my cheaters (and I have them strategically placed all around the house, the car, the office, and anywhere else I might be), I can’t see much of anything — and when my vision is blurry, to say the least, I am not worth a whole lot. The same is true for each of us. When our vision is messed up, when our focus is off, we are unable to clearly see what is really important.

*So what’s your focus on today?* School, work, sports, marriage, illness, forgiveness, reconciliation, family, spiritual growth? More than likely it’s a combination of these, with many more included. This was the case for King David as well.

## Opening Prayer

*Heavenly Father, as we begin this time together in Your Word, focus my eyes on what You would have me see as I grow in my relationship with You. Help me see with clearer vision how You continually refocus me on what is important, as Your called and redeemed child, through the faith my Holy Spirit has given and continues to nurture in me. I make this bold request in the name of Jesus, my Lord and Savior, because the time is now to regain my focus. Amen!*

Read **2 Samuel 11:1–2**.

What was King David’s initial focus that fine spring evening? \_\_\_\_\_

Read **2 Samuel 11:3–15**.

David’s focus continues to change as Satan leads him further and further down a slippery slope. To what does his focus shift to in the following verses?

**2 Samuel 11:3–4a** \_\_\_\_\_

**2 Samuel 11:4b** \_\_\_\_\_

**2 Samuel 11:8** \_\_\_\_\_

**2 Samuel 11:14–15** \_\_\_\_\_

King David, a man as we hear in **Acts 13:22** about whom God said, “*I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will,*” had shifted his focus.

King David’s focus had shifted from what it should have been — taking care of the battles, protecting and providing for his people, running his country, doing the things God had in mind for him to do as the king of His people — to a fine-looking Bathsheba, how to cover his tracks that led to the conception of a son and soon his birth, how to keep all of this out of the Jerusalem Daily Tribune, and how to make it all look so right, at least in the eyes of the world.

How easy it is for us to follow in these footsteps of King David. Rest easy. We are not going to go that far in this study and uncover any of our dirty little secrets; but how easy it is for us, *people after God’s own heart*, people called by God and redeemed by Him through the water and Word of Holy Baptism, to lose our focus.

And as we said before, it is very easy for us to lose focus in so many areas of our lives. Share a time in your life when you have found it easy to lose focus.

We all do that same thing over and over again. Satan is very good about distracting us with things that don’t matter as much, taking our eyes off of what is truly necessary. It is so easy for Satan to convince us to “major in the minors,” to get all worked up about minor things in the grand scheme of things, making them into major issues, while the major issues and what really matters don’t get dealt with.

How does he do this in our families?

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How does he do it in our communities?

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How does he do this in our churches?

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How does he do it outside the church?

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How does he do it in the LWML?

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It is also very easy to lose focus when we are too close to a situation and, at times, when we are too far removed from a situation. Then comes the need to refocus. Of course, it is not easy or enjoyable to evaluate what we are doing. You know how painful the yearly evaluations can be at work.

Read **2 Samuel 12:1–12**.

What happened with King David when he had reached the bottom? \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor Nathan shared the well-known story of the little ewe lamb with his king and pointed out to David, very clearly, that the “children’s sermon” just shared was about him. Not the David who was “Da Man” in celebration of his immorality, but that David who was “the man who has so lost focus and done the unthinkable.”

And David’s response: “I am the man.”

Read **2 Samuel 12:13–14**.

What happened next? \_\_\_\_\_

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Was life a piece of cake for him from then on? Sadly no.

He had already dealt with an unwanted pregnancy, his murder of a trusted friend, and a dead baby. But that wasn’t the end of it. If time permits, refer to the following verses to find out what else transpired.

**2 Samuel 13:1–22** \_\_\_\_\_

**2 Samuel 13:23–33** \_\_\_\_\_

**2 Samuel 15:1–12** \_\_\_\_\_

**1 Kings 11:1–8** \_\_\_\_\_

As God blessed him with a refocusing on what mattered, Nathan assured David that his sins were forgiven. In the exact same way, God comes to us when we lose our focus, through our personal “Nathans,” to show us our sin and offer to us the sweet assurance of forgiveness of all of our sins through faith in Jesus Christ, our crucified and risen Savior.

Want some proof? Read the following verses.

**1 John 1:8–9** \_\_\_\_\_

**Romans 8:1–4** \_\_\_\_\_

David was blessed to write, for his and our edification, many Psalms; he was blessed to be a part of the royal line that would ultimately bring into this world his Savior from sin, death and the devil, as well as ours; and God would use him, even though he would not have the blessing of building the temple, to prepare the people for that crowning glory under the reign of his Son.

And God uses us. Just like the forgiven and refocused King David, through the working of the Holy Spirit through the Means of

Grace, our eyes are refocused to concentrate on what really matters: God’s Kingdom, both here on earth and for all eternity in heaven, through faith in our crucified and risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We refocus on the task at hand, for the time is now, through the power and working of the Holy Spirit through the Means of Grace, to bring the lost and the erring into eternal fellowship with our Triune God, as our heavenly Father gives us those opportunities and the tools with which to accomplish His purpose.

### Closing Prayer

“Chief of Sinners Though I Be” (*LSB* #611; *TLH* #342; *LW* #285; *LBW* #306)

Chief of sinners though I be,  
Jesus shed His blood for me;  
Died that I might live on high,  
Lived that I might never die,  
As the branch is to the vine,  
I am His, and He is mine.

Oh, the height of Jesus' love!  
Higher than the heavens above,  
Deeper than the depths of sea,  
Lasting as eternity.  
Love that found me — wondrous thought!  
Found me when I sought Him not.

Only Jesus can impart  
Balm to heal the wounded heart;  
Peace that flows from sin forgiven,  
Joy that lifts the soul to heaven;  
Faith and hope to walk with God  
In the way that Enoch trod.

Chief of sinners though I be,  
Christ is All in all to me;  
All my wants to Him are known,  
All my sorrows are His own.  
He sustains the hidden life  
Safe with Him from earthly strife.

O my Savior, help afford  
By Your Spirit and Your Word!  
When my wayward heart would stray,  
Keep me in the narrow way;  
Grace in time of need supply  
While I live and when I die.

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