



*Written by  
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## **“The Monologue of King David”**

**Scripture:** 2 Samuel, chapter 11

**Dramatic Category:** Monologue

*\* NOTE: Please see “The Ten Commandments of Oral Interpretation and Monologues” that follows this monologue. In it you will find helpful hints to maximize this intimate art form that reveals so much individual emotion.*

**Topic:** When power becomes a license to sin.

**Performance Time:** 3 minutes

**Number of Players:** 1 man

**Sound Needs:** One wireless microphone, hidden in his clothing.

**Lighting Notes:** A spotlight anywhere on stage

**Set Suggestions:**

Set up a small table that is draped, so he can lean on it or write on it during his monologue.

**Props:**

A quill pen and a piece of parchment

Something that will resemble a royal seal and sealing wax.

**Costume Needs:** Dress him in biblical attire befitting a king who is at his leisure.

**SPOTLIGHT UP:**

HE STEPS INTO THE LIGHT.

## The Monologue:

*(Calling over his shoulder, behind him as he enters)* Stand ready to give this letter to my messenger. I will pen it with my own hand.

*(He looks anxiously behind him to be sure no one is listening.)* I have no recourse left. I have done all I can do to make good this deed. I am after all, a king; I make the laws of Israel, so it is well that the laws should bend to me. I can have any woman I want; it is the privilege of my rank. I wanted Bathsheba, even if she is another man's wife. Both she and Uriah are my subjects, so subject they shall be to my plan; for it is the plan of a king.

*(He begins to write)* I David, the Lord's anointed, issue this order regarding Uriah the Hittite.

*(He stops writing and reflects.)* Uriah, why couldn't you go to your house when I sent for you. I called you away from the battle so that you might refresh yourself and lie with your wife, Bathsheba; then the child born of my union with her could have been claimed as yours; but no, you had to sleep on your doorstep out of honor to your Captain Joab and to your comrades who sleep in the open fields on the battle line. Now you leave me no choice.

*(He resumes writing repeats the first line mumbling:)* I David, the Lord's anointed, issue this order regarding Uriah the Hittite. Put Uriah in the front line where the fighting is the fiercest.

*(Stops writing and reflects again.)* Oh Uriah, I tried to spare you. When I heard that you did not lie with your wife, I made you drunk at yet another feast and sent food home with you for you to share with your wife, but no...even then, you claimed homage to the Ark of God that dwells in a tent, and so you would not dwell in your house. I am forced now to do this to protect the good name of the King; there can be no vile thing that issues from a King over Israel.

*(He begins writing again and repeats this:)* Put Uriah in the front line where the fighting is the fiercest. Then, withdraw from him so he will be struck down and die.

*(He gets out the royal seal and the sealing wax)* Joab will no doubt decide that Uriah has done me some heinous wrong, and he will not question my command. Once Uriah is dead, no one will ever know that I took his wife to my bed, and child she carries is mine. As the Lord's anointed I have the covering of Jehovah's mantle to shield me from prying eyes and tongues that would question my sovereignty. To challenge King David, is to challenge God.

*(He seals the letter)* I, the great warrior King in whom the Lord showed himself strong in the face of Goliath; I, David, the man after God's own heart; do seal this letter with my mark.

*(He calls out into the distance.)* Take this letter to Joab, the captain of my forces, who are at war.

**Option #1:**

*He walks out of the light pool as the LIGHT FADES OUT SLOWLY.*

**Option #2:**

*He freezes in a comfortable position. The Pastor steps into the light pool and talks about King David's frame of mind and what can happen when one begins to rely on one's power to the extent that even the laws of God seem beneath him. After this introduction to his sermon, the LIGHTS FADE as he steps out of the light pool, and King David leaves the stage.*

# The Ten Commandments of Oral Interpretation and Monologues

**#1: Thou shalt know the purpose of Oral Interpretation.**

*The “Oral Interpreter” is a human bridge between the author and the audience, conveying the author’s purpose for writing the selection. One who delivers a “monologue,” is one who actually becomes the character and represents his/her inner-most thoughts to the audience.*

**#2: Thou shalt know how to select an appropriate passage.**

*Select a passage that has impacted you profoundly and is 3-5 minutes in length. Poetry, prose, comedy, or drama is fine, but it must have had a significant impact on your life in order to be worthy of being read; scripture is, of course, the most important material to read and deserves the greatest application of all of these principles. Some other sources include: The Chicken Soup Series, the works of Max Lucado, Chuck Swindoll, C.S. Lewis, etc. Some Children’s stories and fables are also extremely effective in preparing the audience for receiving a Christian messages.*

**#3: Thou shalt prepare the selection properly.**

*Divide it into phrases for breathing & timing. Re-type it in phrases. Bind it into a small black notebook, 3-hole punch it, and highlight the words of emphasis. If this interpretation is a “monologue,” be sure to memorize it completely and internalize each phrase so that you are becoming the character speaking, not merely representing the author.*

**#4: Thou shalt use eye contact.**

*Make eye-contact with the audience. Look up from your manuscript 2/3rds of the time. Scan the audience from left to right; make everyone feel included. If this is a “monologue,” speak directly to the audience as though they were eavesdropping on an intimate time of “true confession.”*

**#5: Thou shalt use voice inflection.**

*Use all of your vocal options. Vary the pitch (high/low); vary the pace (fast/slow); vary the volume (loud/soft); vary the tone (emotion: satire, mystery, joy, etc.)*

**#6: Thou shalt maintain an impressive appearance.**

*Dress up (church clothes) for this presentation. Dress in costume if this is a “monologue.”*

**#7: Thou shalt use facial expression.**

*Your voice is your least effective tool. Your body and face are more expressive. Use your eyes, mouth, eyebrows, nose, everything to communicate.*

**#8: Thou shalt use gestures for emphasis.**

*When the body moves, people notice. Use gestures wisely, for emphasis of a word or a mood. Do not let the free hand lie limp at your side. Hold the notebook in either your right or your left hand; brace it by placing your little finger in the spine, so it does not flop around. Restrict movement. Imagine that one foot is nailed down & the other can move one step to the left or right of center. For “monologues” move freely across the stage as though you were alone in a room.*

**#9: Thou shalt know the selection.**

*Rehearse this over & over & over, until you know it so well that you don’t have to have your nose in the book, except to glance down occasionally for added confidence. Monologues require tremendous practice. (Here’s a hint: story board out your monologue in stick figures, then place the series of pictures on the floor. The audience will never see it, but you will! Glance down if your mind goes blank; the pictures will help you remember what comes next. Remember, if you make a mistake in a “monologue,” you are the only one who know it, so move on to your next confident point, and don’t get flustered. Plan your gestures & pauses. Read it before some peers for practice. Sit your audience 25 ft. away & practice projecting to them.*

**#10: Thou shalt craft an interesting introduction.**

*Tell us why you chose this piece, then introduce it by title and author. (20 sec. into)  
For “monologues,” have someone else introduce you or set the stage for your presentation.*