

Prayer Points

Pray for the leaders and youth going to the Satellites camp, as the preparations get more serious and date for departure approaches. Also pray for the organisers of Satellites in their own physical and spiritual preparations.

There is a possibility that China-Korea borders could open in 2023: we pray that this will herald the opening of people's hearts to the gospel, despite the risk of severe hardship for those who believe.

There is little new information about Coronavirus in North Korea. Please pray for the health of the people, that the virus does not spread, and for the nurses and other healthcare workers in the country.

Sermon Notes

If you would like to join a Connect Group, please contact the church office 01424 730001



BIBLE STUDY

July 9th 2023

The Life of David:

A Fall from Grace

2 Samuel 11:1-26

David is an extraordinary person in the Bible. He was a skilled musician, he was a formidable warrior who won a legendary battle against a great champion and he attracted the greatest soldiers of his day to serve under him. He was a poet, writing Psalms that expressed the deep longing of the human heart for God. His words were so personal and powerful that thousands of years later, they remain. As much as all the things listed earlier are impressive to other human beings, God was far more interested in David's heart. A close study of the life of David will open our eyes to both how much God cares about the condition of our hearts and the foreshadow of Jesus who truly redeems our hearts. The world spends a lot of time pressing us to focus on exterior issues, but God looks on the inside.

After David extended mercy to Mephibosheth, he learned that the king of the Ammonites had died. David sent ambassadors to express his condolences as a gesture of goodwill, but this was treated with contempt when the Ammonites disgraced the ambassadors and sent them home in shame. As a result, war broke out between the Ammonites and Israel. Job led the army in a siege against their city of Rabbah, but David decided to stay at home in his palace. David's place during this conflict was on the battlefield with his men, not on the roof of his house. This temporary lack of diligence led him into grievous sin.

Sin is humanity's greatest problem that we all struggle with. Sin comes in countless shapes and forms, but it comes knocking on each of our doors, more often than we want to admit. Sin played as big a part in David's life as it does in our own. The story of his affair with Bathsheba is about the sinister power of sin, but also God's desire to free us from its clutches. The question is: how could it happen? How could a man who loved, served, and worshiped God with such passion end up in this deep pit of sin? In the story of David and Bathsheba we are forced to face a truth that we don't like to talk about. Every human being - everyone - is fallen, and we will all carry the possibility of committing serious sinful acts.

Read 2 Samuel 11

A person wrote. 'Followers of Christ sub-consciously divide sin into two categories. We sometimes view certain sins as acceptable and others as scandalous but God doesn't view things this way.'

1. What are some of the sins we might unconsciously label as "acceptable"? – (Do you keep to the speed limit?) What sins are most commonly seen as scandalous (the really bad sins)?

Though not intentional, do you think people make these kinds of distinctions quoted above about sin?

2. When we avoid our responsibilities, we often set ourselves up for sin. On the other hand, as we see in the life of Joseph, when we are faithful to our responsibilities, the Lord often blesses that faithfulness. What led David to be tempted by sin? What might he have done to avoid the temptation? Are there things you put in place to avoid temptation? Read Matthew 5:27-28. Where does sin begin?

3. What steps did David take to cover up his sin? Why did his first plans fail? Can you think of any recent events whereby people have tried to cover up their failings? In what ways do we cover up our own sins or short-comings? What motivates us to cover up our sin?

4. How did David's sin multiply? In reflecting on the 10 commandments, what are the different sins that David committed? What does David's multiplying of sin, teach us about the nature of sin?

5. Who was Bathsheba's Father and Uriah in connection to David? See 2 Samuel 23:8, 34, 39. Note whose father was Eliam and read chapter 15:12. David's sin continued to haunt him, even when his son Absalom rebelled against him. Who suffered due to David's sin? Why does the innocent often suffer as a result of other people's sins?

6. How does understanding the nature of sin, help us as Christians? See Rom 7:24-25. If we become too obsessed with avoiding sin, what is the consequence for us as a Christian and as a church? See Luke 18:9-14.

7. Read John 17:15-19, how does Jesus' prayer help us in understanding our relationship with the world around us and how we are to be?