

## Prayer Points

Pray for John Morton and Anne Cook as they both continue to recover at home from their operations. Pray for all the teachers and staff who will be breaking up for the summer term this week.

In a highly fragile Afghanistan, BMS workers and BMS-supported projects have been bringing holistic care to remote communities. Please pray for the £100,000 we need to continue this work.

## Sermon Notes

How to lead a person to repentance

## The Power of Repentance

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



# BIBLE STUDY

July 16<sup>th</sup> 2023

## The Life of David:

### Confronting Sin

### 2 Samuel 12:1-20

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.

As this study opens, time has passed since David's sins of adultery and murder. He has married Bathsheba, and she has borne him a son. Yet even now David has not repented of his sins.

But God is aware, and He is not content to pretend that nothing wrong has been done. David thought he could cover his sin because he was viewing it from the perspective of 'as long as nobody gets upset, there's no problem.' God's perspective, however, is vastly different. David's sin has damaged his relationship with the Lord, and God will not permit that situation to go unresolved.

Nathan once again appears on the scene. This time, God has sent Nathan to confront the king with his grievous sins and lead him to confess and repent before the Lord. Nathan's approach to the confrontation is interesting, for he does not initially "get in David's face" and challenge him with his deeds. Instead, Nathan tells David a story that will lead David to see his sins from God's point of view rather than from the world's.

### **Read 2 Samuel 12:1-20**

1. Is it just people in power who feel that they can get away with wrong doings? Why do we judge those in positions with more intensity?
2. Why do you think David wasn't repentant about his sin? What does it say about our hearts if we are not quick to confess and acknowledge our sin?
3. Nathan approaches David, why was he there? What would you be thinking if you were Nathan, having received God's message and then coming to David?

4. How did Nathan's parable expose the true nature of David's sins? What elements in the parable related directly to those sins?
5. Why did Nathan use a parable to confront David? Why not a direct accusation? What does this teach us about drawing people to repentance? Have you ever needed to confront someone's sin? What does the Bible teach about confronting others? Read Galatians 6:1-5, James 5:19-20, Matt 18:15-17
6. Why did David condemn to death the rich man in Nathan's parable? What did this reveal about David's attitude toward his own guilt? Is guilt always a bad thing?
7. Why did God say David had despised Him? Do you think we despise God when we sin?
8. Why did God not condemn David to die, even though the Law demanded the death penalty for both murder and adultery? What does this reveal about God's nature? There is judgement upon David and his family for his actions, what is David's response? Is the judgement fair to you?
9. Read Psalm 51. The superscription above Psalm 51 reads: "For the director of music. A psalm of David. When the prophet Nathan came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba." This psalm poured out of David's heart after the darkest season in his life. It is about confession of past sin, but also a declaration of hope for the future. What hope-filled statements can you identify? What hope is there in being a Christian when we make mistakes?