
Growth Group Notes: David 6 – an utter failure?

Warm Up...

Have you ever been knocked off balance by the ungodly or sinful behaviour of another Christian? (*let's make sure we are not sharing gossip as we answer!!*)

Why do you think it knocked you so much?



Do you ever surprise *yourself* by the wrong things you do?

Background to 2 Samuel 11

This week we see a very different side of David. Having been described as "a man after God's own heart", up till now we have seen David in a good light. Last week we saw the impressive promises God had made him and his son, and by chapter 11 he has defeated many of Israel's enemies. But he was far from perfect and this chapter shows a very different, less attractive, side to him.

(*do encourage people to read as much of the intervening chapters as possible either before or after the session*)

Read 2 Samuel ch 11

Taking an overview of the chapter, what wrong actions of David can you identify? (take a look back at Ex 20:1-17 for some clues)

How clear do you think the Bible is on these things?

How did he get there?

What does the text tell us David should have been doing at the start of this chapter, v1-2?

What does he actually do instead?

>> what do you think the implied lesson might be here?

What do we know about David's approach to women so far (checkout 2 Sam 3v2-5, 5v13, 15v16 for clues)?

How might this have contributed to adultery with Bathsheba?

>> what do you think a learning point might be here?

"... nobody gets fat overnight. It's one pizza after another, one ice cream cone after another. And you hardly notice it until one of your children comes up, pokes you in the stomach and says, "Dad, you've got a big belly."

Immorality begins with tiny things sown in your youth. Little things, little attitudes, little habits. Maybe some casual petting on a date, maybe some pornography that fell into your hands, maybe a fascination with sensual novels and stories. Little things. Yet if you don't crucify them--if you don't bring them to judgment--if you don't face up to them for what they are--SIN--they can destroy you. They can blur your moral judgment at a critical, irreversible juncture in life."

Luis Palau in his book Heart After God.

At what points could David have stopped and changed direction?

Why do you think he didn't?

How does he try to cover up what he's done?

Do you think that there was any recognition that what he was doing was wrong? Why / why not?

Jeremiah 17:9

⁹The heart is deceitful above all things

and beyond cure.

Who can understand it?

Reflecting on sin, temptation and a way through!

What do these verses teach us about temptation?

What can we learn about how to resist temptation?

What temptations do you think we, here in Burpham in 2017, face on a regular basis?

How about you personally?

What do you think is a bigger issue for you personally – knowing what God says is right or wrong OR doing it?

Taking a moment to be really honest – what things lead you to *give in* to temptation and behave badly?

What steps can we make to help ourselves BEFORE the temptation is right in front of us?

What can we do practically in the moment of temptation?

How can we assist one another in resisting temptation?

How does David's behaviour and character here compare with Uriah's? (look especially at v7-13)

What motivates Uriah's behaviour? And David's?

Who is affected by David's sinful choices?

At the end of this chapter who is aware of David's sin?

Does it matter?

¹² So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! ¹³ No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

1 Corinthians 10v12-13

Reflecting on our transparency

Does anyone really know what is going on in your life?

What are the benefits of deep honesty and being known?

What happens to our relationships - with one another? – with God? if we are always pretending.....

How can we bring more transparency into our lives?

Pray together:

....what can we praise God for?

....what do we need to ask his forgiveness for?

....what do we need to ask his help for?