
Growth Group Notes: David 7 – an undeserved forgiveness

Warm Up...

When someone has been wronged, what is our natural human response?

How often do we hear the concept of forgiveness in our contemporary society?

If it is appropriate, share some experiences of forgiveness or lack of forgiveness that you have observed or experienced.



Background to 2 Samuel 12 & Psalm 51

Last session we discovered that David, the man after God's own heart was also David, the grasping, adulterous, manipulative murderer. Was this the end of the road for David and his offspring – to whom so much had been promised, just a short while ago? We left him in ch 11, seemingly unaware of how far he had fallen. But God tackles him which is what we read in 2 Sam 12. Psalm 51 is David's personal response to the whole sordid event.

(do encourage people to read both chapters BEFORE the session if possible)

Read 2 Samuel ch 12:1-14

What is so clever about the way God tackles David v1-4?

How does David react to Nathan's story, v5-6?

What does Nathan say is at the core of what David has done, v9, v14?

Reflecting on our "blindness"

"It is much easier to see other people's sin than our own". How do you react to this statement?

When have you seen this in practice – in the lives of others? – in yourself?

Are there particular areas of life that you think we are especially prone to such blindness?

Our society has a very private morality – each person's decisions are considered to be their own responsibility and it would generally be considered inappropriate to comment on the morality of someone else's choices. How might this conflict with the Bible's approach to sin and morality within the people of God?

Discuss how we might help each other become more aware of our own poor choices and lack of "clear sight".

How comfortable are we with the idea of "rebuking" one another from God's word?

How might this become an area we can develop a new openness and willingness to help each other in?

2 Timothy 3:16-17

¹⁶All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

What will be God's judgement on David's sin

v11? (See 2 Sam 16:22 for this being fulfilled)

v14? (If you have time read 2 Samuel v15-25 – or summarise for the group)

How is God's grace to David shown in this passage?

How does David react to God's judgement, v13, v20?

Let's turn briefly to David's fuller response in the words of Psalm 51 which he penned after the incident:

Read Psalm 51v1-5 confession

What has David discovered about himself?

How does he see God?

Read Psalm 51v6-8 confidence

How is David's confidence in God seen in these verses?

How and why can Christians have more confidence in their forgiveness?

Read Psalm 51v9-12 renewal

What are the different things that David is longing for, v9, 10, 11, 12?

Read Psalm 51v13-20 response

How are David's intentions now?

What is it that God requires from us?

Bible Words

Transgressions = acts which break a law

Iniquity = immoral behaviour

Justified = right and fair

¹³ For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. *Colossians 1:13-14*

Reflecting on our own response to sin

How easy do you find it to identify and own up to your own sin?

Do you tend to wallow in self-judgment and guilt or assume that you are alright really?

How easy do you find it to accept God's forgiveness?

How easy do you find it to extend God's forgiveness to others?

How can Jesus' example help us? (Luke 23:34)

The New Testament application of Zion prospering and building up the walls of Jerusalem in v18 is the strengthening and building up of the Church. How might a right understanding of sin, guilt and forgiveness build up God's people – the Church?

⁸ If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. **1 John 1:8-9**

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?