

The Need of the Hour

2 Samuel 12

A Sermon on Politics – 30 October 2016

The single point: the need of this hour is for the church to be the church

Care about Character

- God does – otherwise why would He confront David?
- Typical responses:
 - Downgrade the sin
 - Sometimes by sweeping it under the rug, sometimes by holding on to one little piece of truth to the detriment of every other bit of truth
 - Disparage the messenger
 - “You have your own flaws”
 - “We’re all sinners aren’t we?”
 - Damage another
 - Imagine if Nathan blamed Bathsheba (or let David blame her)
 - Deflect on others
 - “Look how bad those other people are”
 - “That was a long time ago – just look at the problems we have now”
 - David and Solomon – “glad they didn’t have video cameras then”
 - Samson – “land had rest” vs. ongoing decline
 - Cyrus – God’s rescue through Cyrus was a foreshadow of another rescue from an unexpected place
- Biggest lesson: care about *your* character and *our* character

Preach Repentance

- We are sent (v.1)
 - If we do not have the moral clarity of God, we will not have the moral authority of God
 - These (clarity and authority) are the church’s gifts to society
 - We cannot withdraw to a fortress and they cannot afford for us to
- We have a message (v.7)
 - The world is broken and so are you
 - Jesus rescues those who repent (1 John 1.9)
 - No one too far gone that they cannot be saved by Him
 - Repentance does not save you from consequences
 - David’s personal sin had national consequences
- George Orwell (attributed): the further a society drifts from the truth the more it will hate those who speak it
- Jesus (John 15.18-20): they will hate you like they hated Me

Do Right (which always follows repentance)

- Pray
- Find a Clear Conscience
 - If you need to hold your nose and vote for one or the other major candidates and can do so with a clean conscience, do it
 - If you need to vote for a third-party candidate and can do so with a clean conscience, do it
- Vote
- Actions before Arguments
 - Pro-Life? Prove it by your support of pregnant moms or volunteering at a pregnancy center or fostering or adopting
 - Concerned about Education? Go tutor/ volunteer
 - Concerned about Poverty? Habitat for Humanity
- Unify
 - This means not casting judgment on someone who views it or votes on it differently than you
 - The unified church is the greatest force for good the world has ever seen or known
 - John 17.20-23

Questions for Discussion

1. David and Bathsheba is a sordid story. Read the context (2 Samuel 11-12). What insights do you find? Which parts make you cringe? Which (if any) make you grateful?
2. Out of the 4 typical cultural responses to sin (and to the church's charge to care about character), which is most often your go-to excuse? Why? What do you need to do to combat that? What would you tell a younger version of yourself about it?
3. God sent Nathan and gave him a message. Trent argued that God sent us with a similar message (a call to repentance) with even better news (Jesus has paid the price for us). What is one specific action you need to take this week in light of that?
4. Have you ever experienced persecution for your faith before? What level of fear do you have of persecution? What level of comfort do you find in Jesus' words in John 15.18-20?
5. Which of the "Do Right" applications are you going to have the most trouble with? Which will come easiest? Why is that?