

Friday, July 13, 2018

Displeased

2 Samuel 10-11

"But the thing David had done displeased the LORD."

2 Samuel 11:27b

God makes it possible for us to know David well. The Bible has preserved much of David's life story for us. There are many victories and many defeats. David is a man who loves the LORD deeply and recognizes well God's presence and touch upon his life. He is a man who has written poems and songs to the LORD. He has danced before the LORD. He has declared the majesty of the LORD to his whole kingdom. He has stood as a beacon for the LORD, as the LORD has again and again gone before him and defeated his enemies. God has spared his life. God has anointed him king and given him an eternal and everlasting covenant. God has bestowed him with riches beyond compare. David has it all, and he knows that it has come from God. But he is still a man, and a man is rarely, if ever, content with all he has. The sin nature will always lust for more. Jealousy will cause the person to desire the blessings others have received. The man after God's own heart has succumbed to the sin nature. The results are devastating and the consequences will be severe. God will forgive the man, but the thing David did displeased the LORD. I think about all the things that the LORD has given me. I have riches beyond compare in glory that are being held for me. I have eternal life in the presence of my God. I have been given everything I could ever need, yet so many times it is not enough and the thing I do displeases God.

Dear LORD, please forgive my sin. Forgive my lust and jealousy. Forgive the things that I do that displease You. Help me to be content with all You have given me. Amen.

Saturday, July 14, 2018

Taken away

2 Samuel 12-13

Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." Nathan replied, "The LORD has taken away your sin. You are not going to die."

2 Samuel 12:13

David feels the conviction of the LORD through Nathan. It has not really been a secret, but apparently no one else has spoken of this to the king. No one else has come to confront him with the truth. He had convinced himself that it was hidden but it was not. Nothing is hidden from God. David knew that he had sinned. He was fully aware. I am quite sure that the hand of God had been pressing on him. Psalm 51 makes that clear. David knew that his sin was not primarily against Bathsheba or Uriah, but it was against God. All sin is against God—all sin. Sin rightfully earns God's wrath and judgment. Because all sin is against God, only God can ultimately forgive and only God can take away the punishment of death that sin earns. There will be consequences—which will become apparent as David's story unfolds—but sin is taken away. I must regularly repent and agree with the LORD that I have indeed sinned against Him, and that I am in desperate need of a Savior. That Savior is Jesus. Because of the sacrifice of Jesus, my sin can be taken away and I will not die. I live because of Christ. I live in the consequences of my sin, but I live free of the sin, guilt, and shame. I do not deserve this amazing grace and forgiveness. It is truly a gift.

Dear God, thank You for the gift of forgiveness. My sin weighs me down with guilt and shame and yet I do not easily repent. Stir in my heart a constant longing to live in the light of the freedom that Jesus secured for me. Amen.

July 9 - 14, 2018



by Senior Pastor Chuck Cervenka
a daily devotional of Calvary Community Church

Monday, July 9, 2018

Kindness

2 Samuel 2-3

“When David was told that it was the men of Jabesh Gilead who had buried Saul, he sent messengers to the men of Jabesh Gilead to say to them, “The LORD bless you for showing this kindness to Saul your master by burying him. May the LORD now show you kindness and faithfulness, and I too will show you the same favor because you have done this.” 2 Samuel 2:4b-6

David saw what these men had done for Saul as an act of kindness. Saul has rescued the city of Jabesh (1 Samuel 11:1ff). When they heard what the Philistines did to Saul, they boldly went and honored his remains. I am constantly and consistently amazed at David’s understanding of the will of God. In his heart, he longs for the will of God to be understood and embraced. He blesses those who adhere to the revealed will of God and stands strongly against those who do not. The kindness David speaks of here is a kindness that derives ultimately from God. He is the source of this kindness and David here asks the LORD to show kindness to those who have revealed His kindness. He declares that he will show them kindness as well. I must learn how to show kindness in my actions and in my words. I must be ready to see those who have allowed the kindness of God to show through them and bless them with the same words David used in these powerful verses.

Dear God, thank You for Your lovingkindness lavished on me. Help me see when Your kindness is moving through the hearts of others. Help me be ready to quickly offer a blessing and kindness to those I meet today—and every day. Amen.

Tuesday, July 10, 2018

With

2 Samuel 4-5

“David then took up residence in the fortress and called it the City of David. He built up the area around it, from the supporting terraces inward. And he became more and more powerful, because the LORD God Almighty was with him.” 2 Samuel 5:9-10

David is placed as king over the whole of Israel and once more the twelve tribes are united under the king anointed by God. David determines that he should have a more central city from which to rule and Jerusalem is chosen and delivered into his hands by the LORD. David grew in power as a king for one reason: the LORD God Almighty was with him. This name of God represents the God who fights. It is literally the God of angel armies, the LORD of hosts. While Jerusalem is here called the City of David, it will come to be known as the City of God—Zion (Psalm 87). This will be a city that is special in the eyes of the LORD. While it has a location that allows for it to be easily defended, it is the hand of the LORD that will protect it from siege—again and again—and it is the removal of the hand of the LORD that will cause it to be overthrown. David has a special anointing from the LORD. He is an ordinary man—a shepherd boy turned king. He will now establish the City of God into which, one day, his heir—the one true King—will ride on a donkey. I am an ordinary man who lives and serves an extraordinary God. I must seek for Him to do extraordinary things through me!

Dear God, I am Yours! I seek for You to do extraordinary things through me for Your glory. I long for You to be with me and allow me the joy of fighting with You against Your enemies. I am Your servant LORD. Amen.

Wednesday, July 11, 2018

Who am I?

2 Samuel 6-7

Then King David went in and sat before the LORD, and he said: “Who am I, O Sovereign LORD, and what is my family, that you have brought me this far?”

2 Samuel 7:18

The question that should be on every person’s lips is on the lips of a man who has just been given an eternal promise from God. This is the Davidic covenant (7:5-16). While it has a conditional element that calls for punishment to fall on kings in the line who are not faithful, it is unconditional in that God promises that this throne will be established forever. Only God can make and fulfill that promise. David realizes, at least in part, the magnitude of what is being promised and the covenant that is being made. Of course, as time passes, the depth of this promise is revealed more and more and salvation history unfolds. David knows his roots. He knows from where he has come and he understands what little he has brought that he should be offered this eternal promise. I must ask the same question. “Who am I?” Who am I that the LORD of lords and King of kings should come to earth and die for me on a cross, taking my sin and guilt and shame on Himself and offering me an eternal covenant—an eternal promise of salvation and intimate relationship with the God that I have treated as an enemy? Who am I that I should be chosen by Him when I have tried so hard to make myself unchoosable? Who am I that God should love me to this depth? Who am I?

Dear Lord, please keep this question on my lips so that I remember that it is You and You alone who has made and kept a covenant with me. Amen.

Thursday, July 12, 2018

Worship

2 Samuel 8-9

King David dedicated these articles to the LORD, as he had done with the silver and gold from all the nations he had subdued: Edom and Moab, the Ammonites and the Philistines, and Amalek. He also dedicated the plunder taken from Hadadezer son of Rehob, king of Zobah. 2 Samuel 8:11-12

Worship requires an understanding of stewardship. David dedicates all these things to the LORD. This is an act of worship. It recognizes that it is God’s. While God has brought it into David’s possession, David gratefully and joyfully gives it back, acknowledging his role and God’s role. I wonder if this is a struggle for him. It surely does not seem so. God allows David to use these items, but David remembers they are God’s. At a future point, he will bring much of the wealth as an offering so that the temple can be built. True worship realizes the generosity of God and responds with generosity. All I have is the LORD’s and I must learn how to dedicate it to Him for His use when He needs it, even as He allows me to use it as I wait for that time.

Dear Lord, teach me this lesson of worship. I hold so tightly to the things You have given me to steward. Help me learn to dedicate it all to You. Help me look for places and ways that I can be investing what You have entrusted to me. Keep me in Your will in this. Amen.