

Sermon for 8-9-09
2 Samuel 11:26-12:13

Displeasing the Lord

LA Fitness violence: Such contempt for life, for other people. Taking the place of God. Violence and death, not God's mission of bringing life, abundant life.

Recap of David's sin: not enough he kills her husband, but week later marries her.

David's perspective: All hopes realized, new wife, honor publicly preserved. Matter is settled.

God's perspective: "But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord." What David thinks does not change what God finds evil; the fix David finds cannot control God's judgment.

Nathan's Parable

-Parable is told to bring God's perspective into play.

Parable: a story where actual events reverse expectations of the hearer and in doing so make the point. It disguises the real situation so the guilty party would pass judgment on themselves. No justifying excuse can then be made.

-Retell parable

-Insert questions: Why not use own lamb he has plenty? He had the power not to. (Illustrate-one kid had at home a whole bag of Halloween candy. On front porch sees little kid with candy bar. Takes it.)

How does this story make you feel?

-David was angry – shocked and angry at arbitrary taking -- rich man should die – David makes judgment -- restore lamb fourfold because man did this and had no pity.

Awareness

"You are the man." We use it more positively, but meaning is the same. You did it, no doubt about it.

How could David be unaware of his sin. – David and we can be like rich man whose disgusting act was disguised as hospitality. LA Fitness killer saw himself as victim. David sees the reality he wants – he is caring for a widow.

We see others as the sinners.

Do we see the reality of our sin? (Ignoring family to make money for them; Ignoring spouse to care for kids; Just caring for selves, when community/church has helped shape us.)

How are we made aware of our sin? – ?When/how do we help others be aware of this?

God's generosity: Aware of –point others to – remember

-Reminder of what God has done for David– I made you king, I rescued you from Saul, I gave you his house and wives, I gave you the people. “If that was too little, I would have added as much more.”

-Reminder of what God has done for us (again) – life, faith, all we have. “If that was too little, I would have added as much more.”

When connected to God: know what he will do for us, aware of our evil.

Courage to ask God to reveal it to us, individually and corporately.

Sin

“You have despised me” (done evil, looked down on God, God didn't matter in his actions.) (Illustrate: despising someone – not respecting. Like wanting to go to a concert but you don't ask parents because you don't want to know what they will say.)

David's evil stated – Killed Uriah, used others to kill him, taken his wife.

Not being aware of sin=despising God. What is our evil? What do you lack that you ignore and dishonor God to get it?

Judgment

God won't accept being despised.

David's judgments – Violence: Sword will never depart from your house.

(death of child, rape, murder of revenge, son's death) Dissension: Trouble

raised up from w/i house. (son Absalom's rebellion) Public humiliation:

Wives taken from you publicly. (sign of weakness) It all happens.

Judgment is real for us. Ultimate punishment for sin and despising God is death.

David's repentance and forgiveness

“I have sinned against the Lord.”

Even in sin David and we have not lost capacity to choose for the Lord, there is a way back to relationship with God – confession and repentance.

We give up trying to be in control.

The Lord puts away sin. For us in Jesus Christ. (David's son still dies, but he is forgiven; God's son Jesus dies and we are forgiven.) God's grace shown where there should only be death.

Life can be reclaimed and continue despite sin and its consequences.

1) Aware of our sin, 2) Confess and receive forgiveness, 3) Offer that life to others. Even LA Fitness killer could receive forgiveness in Jesus.

Read Psalm 51 - meditate