

Welcome to Rev Darren King's Bible Study – 28 July 2024

PENTECOST 10

IT'S NOT FAIR

Opening Prayer (please pray together)

Loving God, please make our Church a faithful witness to your Word. When we speak of fire, judgment, or sin, let us do so humbly and lovingly, but also honestly and fearlessly. Help it always point to Jesus, the man of mercy, perfecter of our faith, and the Salvation of the world, Lord hear our prayer, Amen.

Welcome 🙏

Q 1 Have you ever felt that sometimes life just isn't fair? Imagine living in Gaza or Ukraine right now - homeless, afraid and little hope for the future. I guess many of us take our current circumstances for granted yet sometimes life just isn't fair.

Please discuss

Read Psalm 14 together

¹ The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, their deeds are vile; there is no one who does good.

² The LORD looks down from heaven on all mankind to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God.

³ All have turned away, all have become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one.

⁴ Do all these evildoers know nothing? They devour my people as though eating bread; they never call on the LORD.

⁵ But there they are, overwhelmed with dread, for God is present in the company of the righteous.

⁶ You evildoers frustrate the plans of the poor, but the LORD is their refuge.

⁷ Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion! When the LORD restores his people, let Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad!

Music Worship

As the deer pants for the water

Amazing Grace

Breathe on me breath of God

Word 2 Samuel 11.1-15 David and Bathsheba

11 In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king's men and the whole Israelite army. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem.

² One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, ³ and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, "She is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite." ⁴ Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her. (Now she was purifying herself from her monthly uncleanness.) Then she went back home. ⁵ The woman conceived and sent word to David, saying, "I am pregnant."

⁶ So David sent this word to Joab: “Send me Uriah the Hittite.” And Joab sent him to David.

⁷ When Uriah came to him, David asked him how Joab was, how the soldiers were and how the war was going. ⁸ Then David said to Uriah, “Go down to your house and wash your feet.” So Uriah left the palace, and a gift from the king was sent after him. ⁹ But Uriah slept at the entrance to the palace with all his master’s servants and did not go down to his house.

¹⁰ David was told, “Uriah did not go home.” So he asked Uriah, “Haven’t you just come from a military campaign? Why didn’t you go home?”

¹¹ Uriah said to David, “The ark and Israel and Judah are staying in tents, and my commander Joab and my lord’s men are camped in the open country. How could I go to my house to eat and drink and make love to my wife? As surely as you live, I will not do such a thing!”

¹² Then David said to him, “Stay here one more day, and tomorrow I will send you back.” So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the next. ¹³ At David’s invitation, he ate and drank with him, and David made him drunk. But in the evening Uriah went out to sleep on his mat among his master’s servants; he did not go home.

¹⁴ In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it with Uriah.

¹⁵ In it he wrote, “Put Uriah out in front where the fighting is fiercest. Then withdraw from him so he will be struck down and die.”

COMMENTARY **David knew he was doing wrong, yet he did it.**

He acted on feeling and impulse instead of thinking - he would have not seen the cost that was so much greater than he wanted to consider at the time.

If David had only known that this illicit pursuit would directly, and indirectly, result in an unwanted pregnancy, the murder of a trusted friend and much, much more.

Q 2 One of my favourite stories is David and Bathsheba. I love this story because it teaches us that none of us are immune to temptation yet the consequences can be very painful for us and others. Please discuss your temptations and how you dealt with this.

Q 3 David went from seducing Bathsheba and impregnating her to committing murder. Compare David to some of our modern leaders, do you agree/disagree that GREAT power corrupts absolutely.

Q 4 This story teaches us to look at those who hurt us and those impacted by our own choices. God’s justice insists we deal with it, to look within and outside ourselves.

Please discuss

Works

Think of those we may have hurt. Pray for each other and those we may have hurt.

Ending Prayer (please pray together)

Loving God, let us pray for everyone who is afflicted by the powers of sin, suffering, and sorrow. Especially, we remember before you those in our hearts and minds. Be their sure hope and strong deliverer. Strengthen their faith in times of trial. Bring them safely into the fellowship of those who love them and into closer communion with you, Lord hear our prayer, Amen.

Shalom Rev Darren King (Roots on the web, The Message)