

Welcome to Rev Darren King's Bible Study – 4 August 2024

PENTECOST 11

GOD CONFRONTS WHO WE ARE

Opening Prayer (please pray together)

Lord of all Creation, help us to make room in our heart and lives for you. Teach us to live in a good and right balance between faith and works, between being and doing, being nourished and serving others. Forgive us, revive us, and reshape us in your image, Amen.

Welcome 🙏

Q 1 Have you ever felt your conscience speaking to you?

Do you feel God can speak to us through it?

Please read together; Psalm 51.1-12

¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

² Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

³ For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

⁴ Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge.

⁵ Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

⁶ Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place.

⁷ Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice.

⁹ Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

¹⁰ Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

¹¹ Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.

¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

Music Worship

As the deer pants for the water

Amazing grace

How great they art

Word; 2 Samuel 11:26-12.13a

²⁶ When Uriah's wife heard that her husband was dead, she mourned for him. ²⁷ After the time of mourning was over, David had her brought to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing David had done displeased the LORD.

Nathan Rebukes David

¹² The LORD sent Nathan to David. When he came to him, he said, "There were two men in a certain town, one rich and the other poor. ² The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cattle, ³ but the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb he had bought.

He raised it, and it grew up with him and his children. It shared his food, drank from his cup and even slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him. ⁴ "Now a traveller came to the rich man, but the rich man refrained from taking one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare a meal for the traveller who had come to him.

Instead, he took the ewe lamb that belonged to the poor man and prepared it for the one who had come to him.”⁵ David burned with anger against the man and said to Nathan, “As surely as the LORD lives, the man who did this must die!⁶ He must pay for that lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and had no pity.”

⁷ Then Nathan said to David, “You are the man! This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul.’⁸ I gave your master’s house to you, and your master’s wives into your arms. I gave you all Israel and Judah. And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more.⁹ Why did you despise the word of the LORD by doing what is evil in his eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites.¹⁰ Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.’

¹¹ “This is what the LORD says: ‘Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity on you. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will sleep with your wives in broad daylight.’¹² You did it in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel.”

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.”

COMMENTARY We can rage against injustice. We can decry the inhumanity of sin. We can call for punishment. Those are very human responses. That is what David did with Nathan! However, David is not condemned to death, but his offspring will bear the consequences – do we really rage against our own injustices? the ones we cause fear and pain to are ourselves and this is bourne by our children.

Q 2 Have you ever felt upset when someone has challenged you on something you may have said or did?

Q 3 David didn’t realise that the story Nathan was telling him was about him. The truth often has a way of making us defend our actions or protest against that which is been told to us. Please discuss

Q 4 David reminds us that all of us can be tempted and none of us like to be told off or dressed down. Anyone can fall, even kings. Please discuss

Works

Pray for each other and our world in this time of global unrest.

Ending Prayer (please pray together)

Lord of all Creation, we pray the words that Jesus taught us;
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever, Amen.

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