

Life Group Discussion

Based on: Sunday, April 3, 2022

Sermon Title: Dealing with Sin After God's Own Heart

Sermon Series: After God's Own Heart

Sermon Passage: 2 Samuel 11 & 12

APPETIZER:

Prayer: Take a moment just to have everyone settle. Have a moment of silence and then ask the Holy Spirit to bring his presence into the discussion, bring comfort to our hearts, and encouragement to our lives.

Scripture: Have someone read 2 Samuel 11:1-27. Have someone else read 2 Samuel 12:7-10.

Question: If someone is brave enough to do it, have someone describe how one of their strengths turned into a weakness due to their passions betraying them.

The basic thesis of the sermon was that our confession frees our convictions and helps with correction. The key assumption in that phrase is that sin takes our convictions—what we really believe—and imprisons them. Sin often means that good people do things that go against their values.

Discussion: Do you agree with that statement, that sin often makes good people do things that go against their values? Are their problems with that assumption?

MAIN COURSE:

The nature of sin: Pastor Jeff attached the principles learned from wilderness to the characteristics of sin. In the wilderness, we learn that (1) We are not in control, but God

is, (2) Our senses are heightened, and (3) Our resolve is tested. Although wilderness is not always fun, it has the ability to shape our faith and mature us. In contrast, sin (1) assumes we are in control, (2) dulls our senses, and (3) weakens our resolve.

Discussion: Have you ever thought about the connection between wilderness and sin? Can wilderness lead to sin? Are there times in our lives when we are more susceptible to sinning (feeling in control, growing dull and weak, etc)? What can we learn about the relationship between these two worlds (wilderness and sin)?

Discussion: If people feel comfortable, have them share about a “wilderness experience” they have had in their own life.

MAIN COURSE:

David seemed to have gotten away with his sin, but then his pastor, Nathan the prophet came and visited him, told him a story, and then told him that he was guilty.

Reflection: Think through the passage that was read about Nathan accusing David of sin (2 Samuel 12:7-10). What was the tone of God's words being expressed? What does that tell us about how God feels about our sin?

Discussion: Confession is incredibly important to freeing our convictions and starting the process of change. But confession is hard to do. Why is confession so difficult?

Question: Nathan had to accuse David of sin before David confessed. Why do we sometimes need others to help bring out a confession? What are the dangers of others

taking on the task of pointing out sin in a person's life? How do we avoid those dangers?

DESSERT:

C.S. Lewis wrote once that, "The safest road to hell is the gradual one—the gentle slope without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts."

Take some time in private reflection to write down or reflect on some areas of your life that you may have become numb or dull to. Even if it hasn't led to sin (something destructive that goes against God's plan for you, which is vibrant living), write down some things that you will need to pay attention to if you continue to walk down this road with your senses dulled or resolve weakened.

PRAY: Pray a prayer of confession to God, presenting the list to him, asking him to take control of your life again, empower you by his Holy Spirit to be alert and sharp to the temptations around you, and to strengthen your resolve to live a Jesus-Shaped life.