

Why Evangelise? Because there is forgiveness!

(2 Samuel 12:1-14 and 1 John 1:5-10)

10-Nov-2024

2 Samuel 12:1-14

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. ¹⁴ But because by doing this you have shown utter contempt for the Lord, the son born to you will die.”

1 John 1:5-10

Light and Darkness, Sin and Forgiveness

⁵ This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

⁸ If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

Sermon: “Why Evangelise? Because there is forgiveness!”

Please have your Bibles opened up at **2 Samuel 12**.

There is an outline if you would like to take some notes!

Let me **pray** first...

Intro/Forgiveness

This morning, we are continuing our five-part evangelism series

Where we are looking at why we are doing evangelism

[Slide-Evangelism]

Evangelism is telling people the Good News

The Good News...

God sent His Son, Jesus, to this Earth on a rescue mission to fix the broken relationship between human beings and God.

*This relationship was broken because of **sin**!*

[Slide-Part 1/2]

In part 1 – we said – we should evangelise – because – **sin entered the world** – through Adam and Eve

In part 2 – we said – we should evangelise - because – **there is an answer to sin – Jesus is the Way** – in fact, the only way that our sin and our death can be fixed!

[Slide-Part 3]

This week – part 3 – why evangelise? Because there is **forgiveness**!

So, we need to **define forgiveness**!

[Slide-Define forgiveness]

- To stop feeling angry or upset with someone who has done something to harm you – and to no longer want to punish or repay them the harm they have done you!
- To accept someone's apology!

- Let go of a debt

In Hebrew [נָשָׂא]– it literally means to bear, carry or take away

In Greek – [ἀφίημι]it literally means to let go of a debt [[mention Lord's Prayer](#)]

In our Old Testament reading – **from 2 Samuel 12** – we have an **amazing example of forgiveness**.

I have two headings this morning

[Slide-Headings]

1. **The reality of sin and its consequences** (2 Samuel 12:1-14)
2. **Confession and forgiveness** (1 John 1:5-10)

Then we'll look at **our response** to these two Bible passages

The Reality of Sin and its Consequences (2 Samuel 12:1-14)

1st then – **the reality of sin and its consequences** – please turn to 2 Samuel 12.

[Slide-Reality of sin]

The context is that – in the previous chapter – chapter 11 - King David of Israel – who as a King had everything he wanted – late one night -was walking on the roof of his palace – when he spied a woman named Bathsheba bathing below in her

house - and even though David knew she was already married to Uriah, one of the soldiers in King David's army, David summoned Bathsheba to his palace and had an affair with her, whilst her husband was busy fighting battles for the King.

When King David discovered that Bathsheba was pregnant with his child, he then tried to persuade Bathsheba's husband, Uriah, to go home and sleep with his wife but Uriah took his military duties very seriously and would not go home whilst the rest of the army were camped in open country.

So, King David then arranged to have Uriah put in the frontline of battle, to ensure that he died in battle. This way, David was able to legitimately take Bathsheba as his wife – and it would seem to everyone that the baby she was having was conceived after Uriah's death - and no one would be any the wiser!

Except - God - that is!

We can't hide ANYTHING from God.

Psalms 139 says – God knows our inner thoughts (v2) and knows what we will say before we say it (v4) – and that there is nowhere we can go to hide from God (vv7-9)

We pick up the story in 2 Samuel chapter 12 verse 1...

God sent the prophet Nathan to confront King David about this grave sin.

Nathan told King David a parable about a rich man and a poor man. The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cattle but the poor man only had a little ewe lamb.

When the rich man was entertaining a visitor, he didn't take one of his own flock to prepare a meal for his guest, instead, he took the poor man's only ewe lamb! David rightly saw the terrible injustice of the rich man and judged the rich man must die and that the poor man must be repaid four-fold for such a terrible act! Then Nathan told King David – that he, David - was the rich man in the parable – and implied that Uriah was the poor man who was so terribly mistreated.

What David did we could easily argue – violated every single one of the 10 commandments:

1. David **made himself God** and put his desires above God
2. David made **Bathsheba an idol** he worshipped ahead of God
3. David brought **dishonour to God's holy name** – as King and spiritual head of Israel – he represented God to the people – David was meant to set a godly example to the people
4. David brought **dishonour to the Sabbath Day** – how can he set aside the Sabbath day as holy – when he covered up this affair for over a year
5. David's actions brought **dishonour to his parent's family name**
6. David **had Uriah murdered** by placing him in such a dangerous battle situation knowing he would most likely die
7. David **committed adultery**
8. David **stole** Uriah's wife

9. David **lied** to Uriah telling him to go home to be with his wife after battle – so it would seem that the child Bathsheba was carrying was his. David **deceived** the soldiers so that Uriah was put in harm's way
10. David **coveted** Bathsheba who belonged to Uriah

It's unforgiveable!

Well – that's what we'd say today – if a world leader did all of that?

Wouldn't we?

But the Bible describes David as '*a man after God's own heart*' (1 Samuel 13:14)

And when we read some of David's Psalms – like Psalm 16, 23 and 139 – he certainly has a loving faithful heart towards God

So, what went wrong?

David was tempted when he saw the beautiful woman, Bathsheba, bathing below him and lust got the better of him.

In the Lord's Prayer – we pray – *lead us not into temptation* – don't we?

Application

I'm sure we have all be tempted to do things that we know are contrary to God's Word?

The Apostle Paul gives us some help with temptation in 1 Corinthians 10:13 when he says:

No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to humankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

God is there to help us when we are tempted.

And He always provides a way out.

We just have to take that way out – rather than give in to the temptation like David did.

(pause)

Once he is confronted, look how quickly David confesses...

See v13 – ***“I have sinned against the Lord!”***

David didn’t argue or deny the accusation or make excuses. He was quick to confess once he was accused!

A lesson for us – to be quick to admit our sins and faults – when confronted with them.

And also, a lesson for us – to confront others when they have sinned – rather than turning a blind eye and sweeping it under the carpet.

If sin is not confronted – it continues – as we saw with David – lust became adultery – followed by lies – followed by murder – followed by cover-up.

And notice how quick forgiveness comes – in the rest of v13.

Nathan replied, “The Lord has taken away your sin. You are not going to die”

This verse was my light globe moment this week.

It applies to all forgiven Christians.

Let me read the verse applying it to myself.

“The Lord [Jesus] has taken away your sin [Paul]. You are not going to die [you are forgiven and going to Heaven]”

(pause)

Now – even though David is forgiven, and his life is spared – there are consequences for his sin.

V10 – the sword will never depart from David’s house!

V11 – there will be calamity in David’s household. One of the people in David’s household will sleep with David’s wives in broad daylight. This is fulfilled in 2 Samuel 16, when David’s son, Absalom, sleeps with David’s concubines.

V14 – Because David showed utter contempt for the Lord, the son Bathsheba is carrying from the affair with David, will die. Even though David pleaded with the Lord, prayed and fasted and wore sackcloth (vv16-18), the child died in verse 18.

Application

When we sin – and confess our sins - and are forgiven – it doesn’t remove the consequences on Earth.

For example – if we drink and drive – and have a terrible car accident and people are killed because of our action. We can confess this and be forgiven. But the consequences for us – our family – and the family of the victims – are lifelong consequences.

In these tragic events in David's life, we have **the reality of sin and its consequences!**

(pause)

So, what are we to do when we commit sin in our lives?

Well – that brings us to the second heading – Confession and forgiveness – please turn to our New Testament (NT) passage – 1 John 1:5-10

Confession and Forgiveness (1 John 1:5-10)

And what we have is a comparison here in verse 5 between God's light and the darkness of this world.

[Slide-Confession and forgiveness]

V5 says God is light and there is no darkness in Him.

He can't abide darkness

As Habakkuk 1:13 says – *God's eyes are too pure to look at evil – He cannot tolerate wrong doing*

That's why God sent His Son Jesus – the Light of the World (John 8:12) to overcome sin and death and to overcome the evil darkness of this world.

So, John's point in verse 6 is that as Christians – we can't claim to be Christians – if we are walking in the ways of the darkness of this world – and if we claim to be Christians and we are following the patterns of this evil world – then we're living a lie – and we're being hypocrites!

Instead – v7 – we are to walk in the light of our Lord Jesus – whose blood has purified us from our sin!

But John acknowledges in v8 – that we all sin – because of our fallen nature – because of the sin we inherited from Adam and Eve – and if we pretend, we don't sin – we're deceiving ourselves!

So what are we to do?

We want to walk in the light but we still sin?

Verse 9 gives us the answer – and we must keep on doing this every time we sin.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Let's just explore what it means when God forgives – and we will use some Bible verses to support this.

Psalms 103:12 says - *as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.*

Isaiah 43:25 says: *I [God] even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more*

Micah 7:18 says: *Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy.*

God is able to forget our past.

It's like God throws our sins into the depths of the sea and puts up a sign on the shore saying: "No Fishing!"

In Ancient times the depths of the sea were completely inaccessible to us. The limits were how far a person could dive with one lungful of air. Now that we have things like submarines we can go deep down in the ocean. So perhaps in our times

we could say “God has thrown our sins into a nuclear waste dump”. That’s totally inaccessible – no one’s going fishing there!

The point is when God forgives - it’s complete – our sins are gone – forgotten about!

Application

How do we forgive?

Here’s how most of us forgive – I think...

A man was telling his mate how he’d had an argument with his wife. He said, “I hate it, every time we have an argument, she gets all historical!”

His mate said – “don’t you mean, hysterical”

“No!” he said “I mean historical. She drags up everything from the past and holds it against me”.

How do we forgive others? Do we get historical? Or is our forgiveness of others complete forgiveness, like God?

(pause)

How are we going to respond to all this - this morning?

Well – let me give us **three responses...**

Our Response

[Slide-1st Response]

1. 1st – if we haven’t already – **examine our hearts of any unconfessed sins – and - confess those sins to God and to the person or persons we have wronged.**

After King David confessed to Nathan – that he had sinned against God.

David went off and reflected on what he had done and he wrote the most amazing Psalm - Psalm 51. Perhaps this afternoon – have a read of this Psalm – it's the most heartfelt honest confession you'll ever read!

V4 - *Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight...*

V5 - *Surely, I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.*

V10 - *Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.*

V11 - *Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.*

V17 - *My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart*

[Slide-2nd Response]

2. 2nd - **Is there someone who we need to forgive?** And we've been saying "*I can NEVER forgive them for what they've done*"

Is that the way God forgives?

When Jesus was on the cross – He said – "*Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing*" (Luke 23:34)

If we consider for a moment just how much Jesus has forgiven us – does that affect how we forgive others?

And if we say we won't ever forgive someone

What are we going to do with Matthew 6:14-15 – where Jesus says:

¹⁴ If you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Sometimes people don't ever apologise – but we can still forgive them.

Reconciliation can only be complete when they come and apologise – but we can still do our part of the transaction and forgive – and the transaction will be complete when they come and apologise.

A word of caution – that forgiveness – does not remove the consequences of a person's actions.

If a poor wife has been bashed by her husband many times – and she forgives her husband. That doesn't mean she should go back for another bashing!

[Slide-3rd Response]

3. 3rd - **God's forgiveness is another tool in our evangelism toolbox.** We may know someone who has made many wrong choices and poor decisions in their lives – and they are lost from God – and feeling like there's no hope – and they feel they are too bad to ever turn their life around. God's grace and mercy is such – that any life is never too far gone – that God won't welcome them back. The Bible is full of stories of people whom God has forgiven and welcomed back into His fold.

King David – broke all 10 commandments – and God forgave Him.

Moses – killed an Egyptian – and ran away – but God called Moses to lead His people

Saul persecuted Christians – but God called Saul to become Paul the Apostle who wrote 13 books in the NT.

Jesus told the parable of the Prodigal Son – who took his inheritance from his father – whilst his father was still alive – basically wishing his father dead. And then squandered all that inheritance – but when the son came to his senses – the Father welcomed him back – that's what God is like!

We have these stories of God's grace and mercy and forgiveness through Jesus – as stories in our evangelism tool box. They are compelling stories – that we can use to lead people to Jesus.

Why evangelise? Because there is forgiveness for all who care to come to Jesus and confess their sins!

Let's pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for your grace and mercy and forgiveness through the precious blood of Jesus.

Help us to be quick to confess our sin.

Help us to be quick to forgive, knowing how much we have been forgiven.

Help us to have opportunities to tell others of your grace and mercy – and the forgiveness and eternal life that is available through our Lord Jesus.

In His Name, we pray.

AMEN.