



Prayer As Relationship With God

Teaching Tool Text: 2 Samuel 12:1-25

Series: The Beautiful Life (Sermon on the Mount)

Date: 06/27/10

LEADER NOTE

This is a discussion guide that is based on the same topic of the Sunday night sermon at Joshua House. It has been created to be a *tool* to help you teach and facilitate discussion in your group, not a *rule* to constrict you. So feel free to adapt it to fit your personality and discussion style as you see fit. You may want to add verses or skip questions as you adapt it to fit what your needs are. Make it your own.

SUNDAY NIGHT SYNOPSIS

[Leader: this section is here to remind you of the direction of the weekend message.]

Insoo preached on Sunday night about a very difficult text that is often misunderstood. Matthew 7:1-6 speaks about judging others. As followers of Jesus, we should not have a reputation as being judgmental and critical in how we view and interact with other people. We are to be a people who exercise discernment in addressing sin in our lives and in the lives of others, free from a critical/judgmental attitude. We need to learn when it is appropriate and when it is not. We need to embrace the whole gospel, even the parts that are uncomfortable for us.

TONIGHT'S BIG IDEA

We are going to explore 2 Samuel 12:1-25, where the prophet Nathan lovingly confronts David regarding his sin with Bathsheba. Nathan could have easily been categorized as a judgmental individual because of his willingness to confront David's sin, but Nathan was not coming from a posture of judgment, but rather a posture of truth and love. He understood the mind and heart of God and how destructive sin is to the individual, their relationship with God, his purpose for their life, and for those who are impacted by the sin.

GETTING STARTED

Read Psalm 32: Reflect on God's forgiveness—the things you have done, the person you were...Begin by thanking God for his grace and goodness.

GETTING INTO THE TEXT

Read 2 Samuel 12:1-25



1. Briefly describe what David did with Bathsheba (cf. 2 Samuel 11) to provide context. Who was affected by this sin?
2. Who do we see speaking to David in the opening verses (1-4) of Chapter 12? Who is Nathan? (*Nathan was a Prophet. The function of prophet was quite unique in the Old Testament. Prophets were responsible to speak the very words of God to His people.*)
3. How does God hold up a mirror in front of David in these verses, showing him his own sin? (*In Jesus-parable fashion, he tells a story to create feeling and to paint a clear picture to David to show him what he had done.*)
4. How does David respond (verse 5-6)? (*He got angry at the injustice and demanded that the man die!*)
5. Have you ever had this experience—Where you saw wrong in someone else and then realized you do the very same thing? Or maybe God showed you that you are capable of the same thing (*A silly example would be getting angry at someone for cutting you off while driving and then doing the very same thing to someone else. Or maybe you get angry at the injustice of racism, but then you notice how you react to a person of a different race...and God calls you out on it?*) Have someone share an example.
6. What does Nathan say in response to David? What does he share on the Lord's behalf (7-10)?
7. What do you see in God's response to David? What aspects of God's love do you see? (*You see both truth and grace: You see how generous and loving God is---that he would have given David anything. He gave him so much freedom, and yet he chose destruction! And he gets angry because of the injustice of it all and allows him to experience the consequence of his choices.*)
8. What is the severe consequence of David's actions (verses 10-21)? Do you ever think about the consequence of your sin? *Note: The Hebrew mindset understands God's ultimate sovereignty, so the words of Scripture read "I will take your wives" and "the Lord struck the child". This grates against our modern ears, but what the text is showing is more about the direct consequence of David's sin.*
9. How did God show David grace, even despite his sin (verses 13, 24-25)? (*David felt the man deserved to die when Nathan told him the story. God responded in grace. He also continued to demonstrate his love to him, by speaking to him, being present to him, and giving him a son.*)
10. Why do we have trouble seeing God's grace when our actions have consequence? Why do we blame God and get angry at him for things that we have done?



11. How has God shown you grace, even despite your sin? *(Have someone share a story about how God has spared their life or been good to them, even when they knew they had turned their back on God).*

Ministry Time:

-Ask God to examine you and show you if there is anything he wants to confront in you? In your life? In someone you love? If it is your own sin, confess it and receive prayer.

Ask him how to respond in the future.

-Ask him to show you where you have judgment and/or a critical spirit. Confess this and receive prayer ministry.