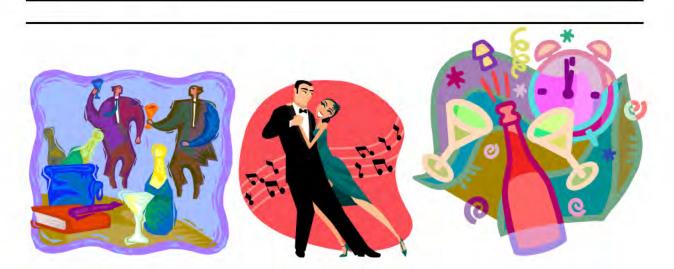
Session 3: David



What do these short sentences mean to you?

- The Road to Glory is Rocky!
- Rocks are placed in our path to keep us from being successful!
- How rocky has your life been? (On a scale of 1 to 10)
- That rock is too heavy to carry...it is too much of a burden and I can't endure it!

What is sin to you?



What does sin do as to our relationship with a holy God?

Today's culture tends to look at sin as something that is "none of anybody else's business"....and "what is a sin to one might not be a sin for another." Many bible scholars...or prominent religious leaders feel that "there are no absolutes."

For instance:

Many in our society feel that sexual promiscuity is normal...maybe not desired by parents...or the clergy...but normal in that "most everybody has been sexually promiscuous or active by the time they are 19-20."

The media sources tell us that:

- The "virgin" is the "nerd of the world."
- One person should not have the right to tell someone else how to live their life, i.e. abortion, alcohol, apparel.
- Sex sells clothes, cars, perfume, beverages, and tickets to or a seat in front of the television to watch a football game.
- The man is the dunce of the house....or the office....and the women are the authority in the house, the job, and certainly can challenge the man in judo, karate, boxing, and any **task normally dedicated to man....or** beast.

The person that tells the world that certain acts committed is sin...and that anything that is against the laws of God is sin will be ridiculed, laughed at, and put down as "ignorant and old fashioned."

The Truth....

The truth is that sin breaks the heart of God...and breaks our relationship with a Holy God.

Is the following the truth?

- Although truth sometimes is **hard to swallow and difficult to accept...** the truth is always right!
- Sin is sin whether we believe it or not!
- Sin is not sin if we ask forgiveness from God!
- Today's sins are different from sins in Jesus' time!
- Ten sins forgiven are ten sins forgotten!
- God is never too busy to forgive sin!
- Repentance can be repeated over and over again in order to get your sins forgiven!



Jesus said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30).

Did Jesus mean what he says...and is it always clear what he means?

NOTE:

Yoke = Definition: (1) a bar or frame of wood by which two animals are joined at the heads or necks for working together, as for drawing a plow or a load; (2) servitude, bondage; (3) a tie, bond; as, the yoke of matrimony.

Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6)

David was a man after God's heart...he was anointed by God to be King of His chosen people....and yet David committed terrible and, in most societies, the most awful sins that a person can commit! Sin is sin...but one must understand that God hates sin!



God forgives David! 2 Samuel 11:1-12; Psalm 51:1-12

- Approximately 10 years after David had been established as King of Judah, he started remaining at home while the soldiers of Judah fought the battles to keep Judah in power.
- David frequented the roof of his palace to find peace and to be able to concentrate on the methods for solving the various problems of the kingdom. The roof was a place to get away from the hectic and constant concerns that plagued the kings of the day.
- While concentrating and resting, he noticed a beautiful woman (Bathsheba) bathing in the house next door.
- David was tempted and, as king...summoned the woman to his quarters.
- David commits adultery with Bathsheba; a married woman to Uriah (a military soldier fighting for the commander-in-chief and his king, David).
- Bathsheba becomes pregnant by David.
- David tries to cover his sin by summoning Uriah home where he can be with Bathsheba, Uriah's wife.
- Uriah refuses to sleep with his wife while other soldiers are in battle.
- David orders Uriah to the front of the battle...through one of his commanders.
- David knew that Uriah would probably die in battle in that the front line forces take the heaviest casualties.

Note: One sin brings about even greater sin....sin multiplies problems and divides homes and God's relationship with man.

- Nathan, a prophet, confronts David concerning David's sin.
- Nathan prophesies that David's son will be the one to suffer for this terrible sin. It comes true (David and Bathsheba's firstborn son dies)...
- David's son, Absalom, rebels against his father, David...even to the point of inciting war against his own father, forcing David to leave Jerusalem, and sleeps with David's concubines.
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Sin is what we think, say, or do that breaks the laws and heart of God.

David repents and proclaims his remorse in Psalm 51.

David's sin devastated him, his kingdom, his family, his friends, and his walk with God.

DAVID REPENTED ... HE TURNED AWAY FROM HIS SIN, CONFESSED, AND RECEIVED HIS FORGIVENESS.

Receiving God's Forgiveness....

Why God gives it and why we have to receive it to enter into the kingdom of God:

God gives it because He loves us (John 3:16)...and He is not willing that any should perish, but have eternal life (2 Peter 3:9).

"You are forgiving and good, O Lord, Abounding in love to all who call to you."

Psalm 86:5

"If you, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness; therefore you are feared."

Psalm 130:3-4

"He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy."

Proverbs 28:13

"Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the Lord, and He will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon."



What does Scripture say on forgiveness and repentance?

There is no place in Scripture that suggests that God forgives the unrepentant, those who persist in rebellion against him. But Scripture does say that God forgives the repentant, even those who had deserved death.

Note: Nowhere in the Word of God does it say that the one who sins and repents does not have to face the consequences of his sin while here on earth. God forgives...but justice on earth does not. The repentant person who takes the life of another person must still face the consequences of his/her sin while living on this earth.

The entire chapter of Ezekiel 18 is devoted to repentance and God's forgiveness. After a long and thorough teaching, its closing words:

"For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent and live!" (Ezekiel 18:32)

John the Baptist taught in the same vein: **Mark 1:4...**preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. (Mark 1:4)

Jesu's began his preaching on the same note when he came out of the wilderness after his baptism:

From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." (Matthew 4:17)

And again,

I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance. (Luke 5:32)

Jesus' summary of his message and blessing to the world, recorded at the end of Luke's gospel, showed that this is the continuing message of his church for all times:

...repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem (Luke 24:47)

This same message was taken up at Pentecost by the apostles, as their spokesman Peter proclaimed,

Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. (Acts 2:38)

Peter, knowing the teachings of God in Ezekiel, knowing the teachings of Jesus, explained it to those who were impatient with waiting for the last day:

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:9)

Paul also taught that God's kindness and patience also lead people to repentance (Romans 2:4). Peter wrote again of God's grace, and of the humility of repentance, saying "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble" (I Peter 5:5). John the apostle also taught the same, that in humility and repentance we hope in God who has decreed forgiveness for those who turn to him:

If we claim we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (I John 1:8-9)

God has promised forgiveness to the humble, the penitent, those who call on him and turn to him. Conclusion:

Time and again, Scripture answers that God forgives the repentant and lifts up the humble. Those of us who turn to him and call on him and admit our sin are promised the goodness of God, who is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

God has provided the way....It is up to the sinner (you and me) to ask for

forgiveness and repent of the sin that separates us from Him!

