

6th of December 2015

Fear God and hate sin (Pt 5 David).

Introduction.

This is our fifth study on the person of David in the scriptures.

Question from our previous teaching:

* Given that scriptures record that David walked wisely in all his ways, yet he sinned in the “matter of Uriah the Hittite” (1Kg.15: 5), what else did David need to do other than acknowledge his sin, for him to have a heart after God?

From our previous study we covered three points that contributed to our answer.

(1) David had a broken spirit and a contrite heart and (2) David believed God could create in him a right spirit and a new heart, and (3) David promised God he would do work meet for repentance.

Three points are established from the Scriptures that further contribute to our answer.

1. David’s repentance included him singing aloud of God’s righteousness.
2. David owned his sin and asked that the consequences only be on him.
3. David was afraid of the Lord.

1. David’s repentance included him singing aloud of God’s righteousness.

Supporting verse.

Ps.51: 14 “Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: [and] my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness.”

Context & setting of verse.

* The setting for Ps.51 is David’s realisation that he has sinned before God in the matter of Uriah the Hittite, where he committed adultery with Bathsheba and then put her husband Uriah in the frontline of the battle where he was killed (2Sam11). It is in the context of David realising his sin before God (2Sam.12: 4) that he wrote Ps.51. David acknowledged his sin (verse 3), that his transgression was against God only (verse 4), and that he was born in sin (verse 5). He sought God to purge his sin (verse 7), to cast him not away (verse 11), and our verse: “deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness” (verse 14).

Application of verse today.

* The Psalm is written to the children of Israel, and today when we believe the gospel of Christ crucified and call on His name we are delivered from the guilt of all of our sin. Paul encourages us to admonish “one another in psalms...singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord” (Col.3: 16).

Illustration.

* Julian is an evangelist that Karen and I met at BCNZ and his passion is to engage the whole church in evangelism. He often writes about his reasons why the church in his opinion does not get involved (100%) in evangelism of any sort.

Learning from our illustration.

* Perhaps, Julian, the reason the main stream churches are not motivated to tell others of Christ and His work on the cross is because they themselves are still in their sins, like I was when I attended a Presbyterian church for 16 years and didn’t know the first thing about salvation or the Bible.

Challenge & or encouragement.

* A person who believes that their sin is on Christ is commanded to repent (Acts 17: 30) and do work meet for repentance. So if you know of someone, like I was, that calls themselves a Christian, believes God, goes to church, but has never had the courage to speak of the Lord’s righteousness, then be encouraged to proclaim the gospel of Christ crucified, that when they believe in the heart unto righteousness they will desire to confess with their mouth the Lord Jesus unto salvation. Because repentance from sin includes telling others, and singing aloud of God’s righteousness.

2. David owned his sin and asked that the consequences only be on him.

Supporting verse.

* 1Chr.21: 17 “And David said unto God...even I it is that have sinned and done evil indeed; but [as for] these sheep, what have they done? let thine hand, I pray thee, O Lord my God, be on me, and on my father's house; but not on thy people, that they should be plagued.”

Context & setting of verse.

* In verse 1 we see the scene set, “Satan stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel.” In verse 2 David instructs Joab to “Go, number Israel”, in verse 3 Joab challenges David as to whether or not the “thing” that he is asking is of the Lord. But “the king’s word prevailed against Joab” (verse 4). However, Joab stopped short of numbering Levi and Benjamin because “the king’s word was abominable to” him (verse 6). Verse 7 we see that “God was displeased with this thing; therefore he smote Israel”. In verse 8 David confesses before God that he has “sinned greatly...I have done very foolishly.” But the Lord responded via David’s seer (Gad), saying, “Go and tell David, saying, Thus saith the Lord, I offer thee three things: choose one of them, that I may do it unto thee” (verse 10). And then Gad offered David either three years of famine, or three months of being destroyed by his foes, “or else three days the sword of the Lord, even the pestilence, in the land” (verse 12). Then verse 13 David said to Gad, that he wanted to “fall now into the hand of the Lord; for very great are his mercies: but let me not not fall into the hand of man.” The consequences of David’s sin affected the lives of “seventy thousand men” (verse 14) whom the pestilence smote (verse 14). But this could have been much higher had David not beseeched the Lord as we see in our verse 17, saying that it was he who had sinned and done evil, and he asked God that the consequences “be on me, and on my father’s house; but not on thy people”.

Application of verse today.

* In Paul’s testimony he owns his sin of persecuting “this way unto death, binding and delivering unto prisons both men and women” (Acts 22: 4). Hence, today we say with surety that just as David owned his sin and accepted the consequences, so did Paul as an example to the church, and therefore our verse is applicable to us today.

Illustration.

* Throughout my life there have been times where I have hated receiving the consequences for my disobedience and so I would often lie about what I had done so I did not have to suffer the consequences. But the truth inevitably comes out, and the consequences are worse than if I had simply told the truth, and accepted the consequences.

Learning from our illustration.

* When David committed adultery and killed Uriah the Hittite, God slew the son born from the union. And in our example from 1Chronicles God slew seventy thousand men (verse 14). Today, we do not see God killing 70,000 men for another man’s disobedience, but nevertheless there are always consequences for our disobedience.

Challenge & or encouragement.

* A non-believer’s punishment for rejecting the Lord Jesus is hell for eternity, whereas a believer is chastised for their disobedience. And when a believer disobeys the Lord he is encouraged to own his sin, accept the Lord’s chastisement, and His consequences, and not deflect any to others.

3. David was afraid of the Lord.

Supporting verse.

1Chr.21: 30 “But David could not go before it to enquire of God: for he was afraid because of the sword of the angel of the Lord.”

Context & setting of verse.

* Our verse is in the same setting as our previous point which concluded at verse 17 with David owning his sin before the seer (Gad) whom God had sent to him. Verse 18 continues with the angel of the Lord commanding Gad to say to David that he should go and set up an altar unto the Lord in the threshingfloor of Ornan. Verse 19 we see that David obeyed Gad as he would the Lord.

Verse 22 David seeks to buy the threshing floor explaining that he needed it to build an altar to the Lord. Verse 26 David built there an altar unto the Lord, and offered according to the law of Moses, "burnt offerings and peace offerings", and he "called upon the Lord; and he answered him from heaven by fire". Wow, the Lord answered David by fire! Verse 27 the Lord God commanded the angel (that had his sword drawn in his hand and stretched out over Jerusalem – in verse 16) to "put up his sword". Then David knew that God had answered him, and then he sacrificed there (verse 28). Verse 29 points out that what Moses had set up in the wilderness as a tabernacle unto the Lord, and the altar of burnt offering, were at that season in the threshing floor of Ornan. Then we have our verse, "But David could not go before it to enquire of God: for he was afraid because of the sword of the angel the Lord" that was ready to smite the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

* When we turn to Ps.27: 1 we see that David links being afraid with fear, and hence in the application of our verse today, and in the learning from our illustration we will include the fear of the Lord, whilst we also note that there is more to fearing the Lord than being afraid of Him. i.e. to fear the Lord also includes reverence (Heb.12: 28).

Other scriptural support.

2Sam.6: 9, 1Cor.13: 12, Ps.27: 1, Prov.1: 7 & Eph.5: 21.

Scriptural examples.

* 1Chr.13: 10 and Acts 5: 1-10.

Application of our verse (1Chr.21: 30) today.

* Moses said to Israel in the wilderness: "Fear not; for God is come to prove you, and that his fear may be before your faces, that ye sin not" (Ex.20: 20). For Paul, this fear of God was to aid believers in "perfecting holiness", hence it is a motivator for us to depart from evil (Prov.16: 6).

Illustration.

* There were two men on a train. One a preacher of righteousness who believed the Book, rightly dividing the word of truth, and preaching the gospel of Christ crucified, whilst the other man believed "another gospel", he believed that baptism was necessary for salvation. The preacher rebuked the man for believing "another gospel" and said that he was accursed of God for believing a false gospel (according to Gal.1: 8 & 9). The believer of "another gospel" stood up and said, "may God strike me down if what I believe is wrong". One month later the man who believed "another gospel" was struck down by a train!

Learning from our illustration.

* Imagine if every time a man sins and provokes the Lord to anger that the earth opened her mouth and swallowed him up, as the Lord did to "all the men that appertained unto Korah" (Num. 16: 30, 31 & 32). Would people today be afraid of the Lord? David did not just reverence the Lord in "godly fear" (Heb.12: 28), but he was afraid of Him because he had seen the Lord smite Uzza, and also 70,000 of his countrymen.

* What does it mean to be afraid of the Lord, what does it mean to fear the Lord? See Prov.8: 13 "The fear of the Lord is to hate evil" (see also Job 28: 28, and Ps.36: 1), and hence we are motivated to "depart from evil" (Prov.3: 7).

Challenge & or encouragement.

* How does a man today fear God when he is surrounded by churches that proclaim that God only a God of love? And we know He is (1Jn.4: 16), but He also hates sin, and expects us to hate sin.

* Do you HATE evil? If you do not have an attitude of departing from sin but rather you deny it, or tempt yourself with it, then you do not hate evil and therefore do not fear God. If this is your struggle, then pray and ask God for help to HATE evil, and in doing so to depart from evil, and in doing so you will show God that you fear Him as David did. Hence David had a heart after God because he feared the Lord, and let us be encouraged to do the same today.

A summary of our points.

1. David's repentance included him singing aloud of God's righteousness.
2. David owned his sin and asked that the consequences only be on him.
3. David was afraid of the Lord.