

Devotional from Pastor Ho
September 24, 2020

2 Samuel 12:13, *“David said to Nathan, ‘I have sinned against the LORD.’ And Nathan said to David, ‘The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die.’”*

We shall pick up from where we left off last week. The prophet Nathan’s indictment against David was that by doing what was evil in God’s sight, David was despising the word of the Lord. David’s response was simple yet profound, “I have sinned against the Lord.” This response is corroborated in one of David’s penitential psalms, which bears the superscription: A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba. Ps 51:4 in particular says, “Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.”

David’s response is starkly different from that of Saul, when the latter was confronted. Instead of fessing up, Saul shifts the blame (1 Sam 13:11-12; 15). We could even say that Saul lost sight of the seriousness of his sin, even after he was convicted; he didn’t get it. David, on the other hand, hit the nail on its head the first time his sin was laid out before him; he got it. No wonder he is called “a man after God’s own heart” (1 Sam 13:14). He knew that when he did what was evil in God’s sight, he had despised God’s word, and therefore had sinned against God. He knew not to put up a façade of innocence after he had sinned. In essence, he had known the depth and the height and the breadth of the Lord’s love, that when he sinned, he wasted no time seeking God’s mercy and forgiveness, like a child running to the father’s embrace (Ps 103:8-13).

COVID-19 brings out the best of God’s common grace in us, when human beings who are God’s image-bearers, even unbelievers, show kindness and courage and sacrificial love to one another in times of need. Yet, the indwelling sins in all of us are also exposed in the face of death and sufferings, or even as slight as boredom and inconvenience, even if we do not murder or commit adultery. Every sin is against God. If we have received his saving grace, let us also run to him in faith and repentance, believing that he is merciful to forgive and hence repenting.

Prayer: O Lord of David, we all have sinned against you, but have no candor like that of David to call sin sin. May the Holy Spirit continue to help us weed out those sins for your glory. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

何牧師的靈修

2020年9月24日

撒母耳記下 12 篇 13 節：“大衛對拿單說：我得罪耶和華了！拿單說：耶和華已經除掉你的罪，你必不至於死。”

我們將繼續上週所述。先知拿單指控大衛的罪狀是，當大衛行神眼中看為惡的事，他在藐視耶和華的命令。大衛的回應很簡單，但很深刻：“我得罪耶和華了。”大衛的懺悔詩之一印證了這個回應，這篇詩的開頭如此註明：大衛與拔示巴同室以後，先知拿單來見他；他作這詩，交與伶長。特別是詩篇 51:4 如此說，“我向你犯罪，惟獨得罪了你；在你眼前行了這惡，以致你責備我的時候顯為公義，判斷我的時候顯為清正。”

大衛的反應與掃羅被指控時的反應截然不同。掃羅沒有坦白承認，而是推卸責任（撒母耳記上 13:11-12; 15）。我們甚至可以說，即使在被定罪後，掃羅沒有意識到自己罪的嚴重性。他不明白。另一方面，當大衛的罪在他面前攤開時，他第一時間的反應就很準確。他明白。難怪他被稱為“合神心意的人”（撒母耳記上 13:14）。他知道當他行神眼中看為惡的事時，他在藐視耶和華的命令，因此，他得罪了神。犯罪後，他知道不假裝無罪。從本質上講，他知道主愛的深度，高度和廣度，因此，當他犯罪時，他沒有浪費尋求主的憐憫和饒恕的時間，就像一個孩子奔向父親的懷抱裡（詩篇 103:8-13）。

新冠病毒彰顯了神在我們身上的普遍恩典，當擁有神形象的人，甚至不信神的人，在急需時彼此表現出恩慈，勇氣和犧牲的愛。然而，面對死亡和痛苦，或只是無聊和不方便，即使我們沒有謀殺或淫亂，我們所有人內心深處的罪也暴露無遺。每個罪都得罪神。如果我們領受了祂的救恩，讓我們也以信心和悔改奔向祂，相信祂有憐憫來饒恕，也因此悔改。

禱告：大衛的主啊，我們所有人都得罪了你，但沒有像大衛那樣坦率地稱罪為罪。願聖靈繼續幫助我們為著你的榮耀拔掉那些罪根。奉耶穌的名。阿們。

何牧师的灵修

2020年9月24日

撒母耳记下 12 篇 13 节：“大卫对拿单说：我得罪耶和华了！拿单说：耶和华已经除掉你的罪，你必不至于死。”

我们将继续上周所述。先知拿单指控大卫的罪状是，当大卫行神眼中看为恶的事，他在藐视耶和华的命令。大卫的回应很简单，但很深刻：“我得罪耶和华了。”大卫的忏悔诗之一印证了这个回应，这篇诗的开头如此注明：大卫与拔示巴同室以后，先知拿单来见他；他作这诗，交与伶长。特别是诗篇 51:4 如此说，“我向你犯罪，惟独得罪了你；在你眼前行了这恶，以致你责备我的时候显为公义，判断我的时候显为清正。”

大卫的反应与扫罗被指控时的反应截然不同。扫罗没有坦白承认，而是推卸责任（撒母耳记上 13:11-12; 15）。我们甚至可以说，即使在被定罪后，扫罗没有意识到自己罪的严重性。他不明白。另一方面，当大卫的罪在他面前摊开时，他第一时间的反应就很准确。他明白。难怪他被称为“合神心意的人”（撒母耳记上 13:14）。他知道当他行神眼中看为恶的事时，他在藐视耶和华的命令，因此，他得罪了神。犯罪后，他知道不假装无罪。从本质上讲，他知道主爱的深度，高度和广度，因此，当他犯罪时，他没有浪费寻求主的怜悯和饶恕的时间，就像一个孩子奔向父亲的怀抱里（诗篇 103:8-13）。

新冠病毒彰显了神在我们身上的普遍恩典，当拥有神形象的人，甚至不信神的人，在急需时彼此表现出恩慈，勇气和牺牲的爱。然而，面对死亡和痛苦，或只是无聊和不方便，即使我们没有谋杀或淫乱，我们所有人内心深处的罪也暴露无遗。每个罪都得罪神。如果我们领受了祂的救恩，让我们也以信心和悔改奔向祂，相信祂有怜悯来饶恕，也因此悔改。

祷告：大卫的主啊，我们所有人都得罪了你，但没有像大卫那样坦率地称罪为罪。愿圣灵继续帮助我们为着你的荣耀拔掉那些罪根。奉耶稣的名。阿们。