

Going on to Maturity 4

A study in Christian maturity and what it looks like particularly in relation to the mission of MBC in the Musselburgh Community.

INTRODUCTION

Isaiah 59:2 states that it is our sins that separate us from God and it is this state of separation from God that forms most of the theme of the scriptures. It proceeds that in seeking to get closer to God, the believer will be forced to recognise and deal with that within which is opposed to God and his ways. This study is about just that and to help us we are going to look at King David, a man with a heart yearning after God and a sinful nature pulling him in the other direction!

CAUTION

As you go through this study, it may be that a burden of guilt over sin might come to the surface which is not of the Lord. The Word of God is clear that confessed sin is forgiven (John 1:8,9) and the believer is not under condemnation but is freed from the law of sin and death (Romans 8:1,2)

THE STUDY

To begin we are going to look at one instance of David's sin and resolution. Read the following passage and discuss:

2 Samuel 24:1-25

1. In verse 10 it states that David realised he had sinned. How do you think he recognised that it was a problem (see also v 3)?
2. Discuss together any similar experience you may have had. How did you know it was sin?
3. *John 16:8ff* tells us that an essential role of the Holy Spirit is helping us recognise our sin. In what ways do you think He does this?

Having recognised sin there are two possible responses. One option is to try and ignore it, or the other is to admit it and confess. David, as we will

later discover, tried the first option (like most of us) before hitting on the second. The following psalm is written as a public confession in regards to another occasion that he was found doing the wrong thing.

Read Psalm 51.

4. What is David's motivation in this psalm?
5. What are the key elements outlined in this public "confession" that bring about the resolution that David seeks? (2 Sam 12:13)
6. How might this psalm help you?

Read Psalm 32

This Psalm seems to flow nicely from the previous one in bringing some resolution to David's confession.

7. How do you think David knew he was forgiven? Is the obvious joy that David is expressing significant in this?
8. Is it important to have the assurance of forgiveness? How can this happen?

Reread v 8,9 of psalm 32. These words are from the Lord to David, and to all that seek to follow Him.

9. What do you think this means in the life of the believer?

Finally take heed of the warning and encouragement of verses 3-6 and spend the final moments of the study before the Lord in prayer and confession seeking his will and direction in your life, and that of his Church.