

Sermon Based Discussion (March 13, 2011)
Sermon Series: "Lessons Learned"

OPENING QUESTION

1. Describe a time when you got in trouble but you don't think you deserved it. Then describe a time when you got in trouble and you knew you deserved it.

Looking back, most of us can think of times we got reprimanded or punished but didn't deserve it. We can also probably think of times when we absolutely knew we deserved our punishment.

This session is about knowing we deserve to pay, not just for specific mistakes, but for our whole lives. We'll see how to respond to this realization, and how the gospel addresses that.

INTO THE BIBLE. Read 2 Samuel 12:13-25

2. What is the basic plot here? (It might help to get the fuller context if someone summarizes chapter 11 and 12:1-12 for the group.)
3. Why were the members of David's house so concerned and confused by David's behavior? (vv.16-20)
4. In your own words, what was David's thought process behind his behavior? (vv.21-23)
5. The prophet Nathan comes into this story at the start and at the end to represent God. What can we learn about God from Nathan's different roles in this story?

GOING DEEPER (Sharing/Application)

In the preceding verses, we see David pronouncing judgment on crimes that turned out to be his own (12:1-7). God brings David to see that he deserves condemnation for his sins. When you realize you deserve to be condemned for your sin, you are broken.

6. What is the significance of being forgiven only after one is broken, i.e., believes we deserve condemnation?
7. Why does David's unexpected behavior (vv.16-20) only make sense if one is broken and believes the gospel of grace?
8. If God forgave David, why does God still have David's son die because of David's sins?

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Brokenness in the Bible is being fully aware of your fallen-ness, your sin. It's also the times when God's grace is most sweet and life-giving.

9. Talk about a time you were broken: you knew you deserved to be condemned for something you did. If you're a Christian, also talk about what it's like to know God has forgiven you.
10. Looking ahead, what areas in your life might God be working to break your heart and create in you a clean heart?

CHANGING YOUR MIND

You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;

You do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;

A broken spirit and a contrite heart,

O God, you will not despise. (Psalm 51:16-17, NIV)

Create in Me a Clean Heart (2 Samuel 12:13-25)