

Today:
October 19, 2014

Scripture Focus: 1 Sam. 1-3, 7-12:15, 15-16; 2 Sam. 5-6, 11-12, 24; Jer. 1
When Samuel heard their demand—“Give us a king to rule us!”—he was crushed. How awful! Samuel prayed to God. God answered Samuel, “Go ahead and do what they’re asking. They are not rejecting you. They’ve rejected me as their King. From the day I brought them out of Egypt until this very day they’ve been behaving like this, leaving me for other gods. And now they’re doing it to you. So let them have their own way. But warn them of what they’re in for. Tell them the way kings operate, just what they’re likely to get from a king.”

(1 Samuel 8:6-9, Message)

But God was not at all pleased with what David had done, and sent Nathan to David. Nathan said to him, “There were two men in the same city—one rich, the other poor. The rich man had huge flocks of sheep, herds of cattle. The poor man had nothing but one little female lamb, which he had bought and raised. It grew up with him and his children as a member of the family. It ate off his plate and drank from his cup and slept on his bed. It was like a daughter to him. One day a traveler dropped in on the rich man. He was too stingy to take an animal from his own herds or flocks to make a meal for his visitor, so he took the poor man’s lamb and prepared a meal to set before his guest.”

David exploded in anger. “As surely as God lives,” he said to Nathan, “the man who did this ought to be lynched! He must repay for the lamb four times over for his crime and his stinginess!” “You’re the man!” said Nathan. “And here’s what God, the God of Israel, has to say to you: I made you king over Israel. I freed you from the fist of Saul. I gave you your master’s daughter and other wives to have and to hold. I gave you both Israel and Judah. And if that hadn’t been enough, I’d have gladly thrown in much more. So why have you treated the word of God with brazen contempt, doing this great evil? You murdered Uriah the Hittite, then took his wife as your wife. Worse, you killed him with an Ammonite sword! And now, because you treated God with such contempt and took Uriah the Hittite’s wife as your wife, killing and murder will continually plague your family. This is God speaking, remember! I’ll make trouble for you out of your own family. I’ll take your wives from right out in front of you. I’ll give them to some neighbor, and he’ll go to bed with them openly. You did your deed in secret; I’m doing mine with the whole country watching!”

Then David confessed to Nathan, “I’ve sinned against God.” Nathan pronounced, “Yes, but that’s not the last word. God forgives your sin. You won’t die for it. But because of your blasphemous behavior, the son born to you will die.”

(2 Samuel 11:27b – 12:14, Message)

Notes from Worship:

How did God catch your attention? To what is God calling you this week?

Questions for Discussion:

- Who do you resonate with more: 1) the people asking for a King or 2) Samuel? Why?
- What can we do to reinstate God as King in our world today?
- Which of your sins do you try to hide from others and from God?

This Week:

October 20-25

Scripture Readings:

Monday 10/20	Tuesday 10/21	Wednesday 10/22	Thursday 10/23	Friday 10/24	Saturday 10/25
Leviticus 11-14	Leviticus 15-18	Leviticus 19-22	Leviticus 23-25	Lev. 26-27; Numbers 1-2	Numbers 3-5

Questions for Reflection:

These questions are meant to help get you thinking about the readings for each day. Feel free to also use this space to jot down other questions and insights gleaned from your reading.

Monday

Why do you think cleanliness is emphasized in these chapters?

Tuesday

What does it mean to make atonement (see Leviticus 16)?

Wednesday

How is holiness emphasized in these chapters?

Thursday

What is most radical about the Year of Jubilee (Leviticus 25)?

Friday

What do you think about the rewards for obedience and punishments for disobedience described in Leviticus 26?

Saturday

What catches your attention about the different censuses described in these chapters?

Taking Scripture to Heart:

In this year, we will spend 6 weeks or more as a congregation on selected passages that we will take to heart. We will have monthly times in worship for reviewing and reciting these passages together. Our first memory text is **Deuteronomy 26:5-10a**, the "Covenant Recital".

Next Sunday: October 26

Theme: The kingdom divides/ Israel & its fall to Assyria

Scripture Focus: 1 Kings 11-12, 14, 16:29 —19; 2 Kings 1-6, 16-20