

[SERMON NOTES]

Grave Sin, Greater Grace

(2 Samuel 11–12)

****Parental Advisory Warning:** *As we seek to be true and faithful to the text that is Scripture, we want to give everyone a heads up that this week's sermon will contain graphic terms and imagery not suited for young children and may also be triggering for those who have suffered through sexually-traumatic events in their past history. We offer this warning as a means of love and grace for you to determine what is best suited for yourself and/or your children. Our desire is for all to walk away from this text interacting with God's unending mercy, compassion, and hope on display. Further, FIRST believes in seeking professional help by offering assistance to professional counseling for such matters – so, if you would like to inquire more about these services, please reach out to info@fcc-online.org***

Sermon Notes:

[QUICK REVIEW]

Looking at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

[MY STORY]

We all have a grave to grace story. We've all been rescued from brokenness, sin, and despair—both from our own and from the sins of others—(the grave) and been forgiven and welcomed into God's family (grace). **Share part or all of your grave to grace story.**

[DIGGING DEEPER]

This week, we wrestled through the story of David and Bathsheba in 2 Samuel—the grievous sin of David that resulted in both punishment *and* mercy from God. The reality is that we serve a God that is both gracious *and* holy, just *and* merciful. When it comes to our own sin, we often lean toward desiring grace and mercy, but when it comes to the sin of others perhaps we more strongly desire justice and consequences. Parts of our culture are so caught up in justice and consequences that there seems to be no place for forgiveness and grace, while other parts seem apathetic towards issues of injustice and sin in the name of forgiveness and grace.

Discuss any tensions between mercy and justice or grace and consequences that you feel in your life as well as the surrounding culture. Be honest and hold space for grace for those who may feel differently than you do.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-21 and Isaiah 61:1-3, 8-9. *What do these passages tell us about God's heart for mercy and grace and justice? How are these things reflected in the message of the Gospel?*

We can learn a lot of what not to do from the life of David, but we can also learn from his ability to always return to the Lord in humility, meekness, and repentance. **Read Psalm 51.** This is David's response of prayer and worship when he realized what he was guilty of doing. **In the space below, list out 1) the core confessions that David prays, 2) the primary requests he makes of God, and 3) the promised actions he commits to in repentance.**

Core Confessions:

Primary Requests:

Promised Actions:

Which of these aspects of David's Psalm of repentance are things that you need to work on the most whenever you are guilty of sinning against someone else?

[WEEKLY READINGS]

Studies say that someone who reads their Bible 4 times or more a week improves their joy, happiness, contentment, and overall approval of their life. (*1 Tim. 4:8-10,16; 2 Tim. 3:16-17*). As a church, we believe that! Below are 4 passages of Scripture this week to dive into to pull deeper on our weekend's message. We encourage you to take notes in your Bible, and ask yourself: *What does this teach me about God? Myself and others? And how do I follow Jesus better?*

2 Samuel 11-12

Isaiah 61

Luke 15

Romans 8