

10/31/21

att 39
FB 8

Sermon – Overcoming Oneself

Scripture – 1 Kings 1:1-4 & 2:1-3 & 2:10 , 2nd Samuel 12:1-23, Romans 6:23, 1 John 1:9

Main Message – The burden in our heart we bear, hidden from others, we are not meant to bear alone.

I read this the other day, "... to endure oneself maybe the hardest task in the universe." There is truth to that for those who are not completely emotionally or intellectually broken. By that I mean their conscience is seared or they have not retreated to a place where an individual may think they are GOOD no matter what. In other words they have deceived themselves.

For those who have a memory that still functions along with a conscience that is not seared, sometimes a failure in our past comes out of our subconscious to plague us with our own failure. For a moment we recall that and grown inwardly. It might be a wrong we did to another, an oath that we have broken in some capacity, an injustice done to others to protect our own self-esteem – only to be occasionally haunted at somewhat random times.

Allow yourself to recall such a thing for a moment. Got it? Great, now think about another. And another. Because we are gathered here together, most will become stoic and impenetrable in this moment, not letting anyone in. Most are stone faced not giving any hint of our inward calamity and failings. We want to be viewed as close to perfect as possible. When we are alone with no one else around we let loose some emotion; a tear, a groan, a scowl will escape from us. In public if we slip up, someone will ask, "what's wrong?" Our response is always something along the line of, "Nothing."

So come out of that reverie of bad times gone wrong and join me again in the present. King David, who accomplished so much for God during his life, embodied this dilemma. He was not killed by sword or famine. He was killed by his own sin.

READ 1 Kings References. Yes, the man who was after God's own heart perished in his bed wasting away. David, being king carried a lot of burden, that of those he ruled and the decision's in life he made. Unlike us who hide carefully our innermost failures, David was confronted by the Prophet Nathan for all to know.

Read 2nd Samuel Reference Now David had to live with this knowledge of everyone knowing openly his failures and also the death of his son was due to his sin - nevertheless he had to linger on. Remember my opening phrase, "... to endure oneself maybe the hardest task in the universe." This is so true. There is no escaping it. Romans 6:23a, says, "for the wages of sin is death... David only lived to 70 years old. One of the greatest in the Bible and he only made it to 70 years old. He was simply worn out. Nevertheless, he knew that he would go to join his son in the hereafter.

How do we break this cycle in our own life. We perish because we have all sinned. Well the rest of Romans 6:23b comes with a "BUT" statement. But the gracious gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Yes of course we know that he forgive us all our sins. He forgave David's sins. He was a man of great passion, sometimes well placed and sometimes poorly placed. Sound familiar? That is each and everyone of us. We will have eternal life for our believe upon the Lord Jesus Christ. BUT.... What about now? Those burdens in your heart that you can not seem to let go or forget about are there for a reason. You cannot avoid God like you can those around you when it comes to these internal groanings. He knows our heart.

The next time, whatever it is leaves your subconscious and comes to the forefront of your thought, do this. 1 John 1:9. If we confess our sins, HE is faithful and righteous so that HE will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. You're all fixed now. However, there is still a caveat. God has forgotten this sin, but you haven't. You haven't because your flesh is incapable of forgetting (as long as you still have your mental faculties in place). So the next time it pops into your head, Ask forgiveness again and know that it has already been done. Do it every time, not so that God hears you, but so that your own mind hears yourself. God is faithful where you are not. This burden will never leave you fully until you realize through the HOLY SPIRIT that this no longer is who you are. You can try all day long to get rid of this terrible memory but until you accept through the Holy Spirit that you are indeed forgiven, you will always be in bondage.

Because of our imperfect faith, we all perish ultimately, but we can still be overcomers. Do not let this latent evil depower you as a Christian and thereby succumb to untimely death, but overcome evil with your Good thoughts that flow down from heaven above to free you from the bondage of sin.