



DEVOTIONS FOR LIFE

Aldersgate Church ~ St. Louis Park, MN

Week of October 23, 2022 (2 Samuel 11:1-5, 26-27, 12:1-10, Psalm 51:1-12)

Prayer for Groups & Personal Devotion:

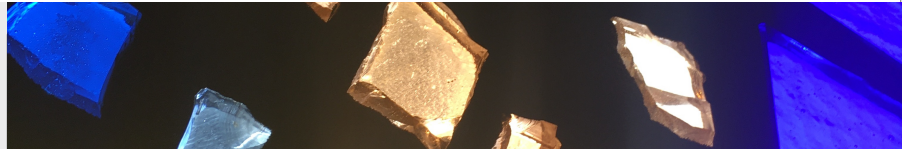
Merciful God, wise and just, the world you created is rich beyond our imagination. But the greed of the few denies the need of the many. Billionaires and world wide corporations want more and more and share less and less. And yet so often the poorest give all they have in hospitality, seeking only to serve.

O God, we pray for wisdom to come and enlighten those who are rich that they might see what effect their greed has on others and that they might change their ways.

O God, we pray for mercy and grace to flow and bring people to realise their need of each other.

O God, we pray for the rich to be humbled and the poor to be honoured.

O God, we pray that your kingdom might come and that all would realise that to be rich is to be loved by



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The Story: 2 Samuel 11:1-5, 26-27, 12:1-10, Psalm 51:1-12

Context: Ok. Let me explain. No. There is too much. Let me sum up. This week we skip over the book Judges, Ruth, and 1 Samuel, and now suffice it to say, everything has changed. Israel is firmly established in the promised land, and we've moved into a whole new existence for Israel. First of all, we skipped the book of Judges, which is important because this book (among a whole host of other things) explains how Israel is led and governed by Judges.

We see this in the Book of Ruth, which comes next and begins, "In the days when the judges ruled..." This is important to understand because what happens in the Book of 1 Samuel is the people of Israel begin clamoring to be led by a king, "so that we also may be like other nations, and that our king may govern us and go out before us and fight our battles" (1 Samuel 8:20). God is to be there King, so Samuel who is a prophet charged with making this decision, resists the people's request. Ultimately God says, "go ahead Samuel, give them a king (1 Samuel 8:22, paraphrase).

So Samuel appoints Saul as Israel's first king. It does not end well, and ultimately leads to a young man- an underdog- named David assuming the throne. David becomes the namesake of the kingly lineage of Israel. This is important to understand, because the Messiah-

you and to share that love with others.

In the name of Jesus, your Son, our redeemer we pray.
Amen

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Compassion & Justice: **"Violence Against Women -** **It's a Men's Issue"**

As violence against women really is central to this week's story, consider watching the TED Talk by Jackson Katz called "Violence Against Women - It's a Men's Issue". Just go to www.ted.com/talks and search that title and look for the one by Jackson Katz. I especially encourage all cis men out there to do this. It impacted me greatly.
-pastor paul

Community Outreach Focus: **Funds for UMCOR**

This month we are raising funds for UMCOR's (United Methodist Committee on Relief) Menstrual Hygiene Kits. This is an often overlooked need in relief efforts after a natural disaster. If you have the means, simply contribute funds to Aldersgate and designate it "UMCOR". We will collect the supplies, and then we will assemble these kits after worship on October 30th.

whom we believe to be Jesus- must come through this line (more on that when we get to Matthew's genealogy of Jesus).

The reason the Book of Ruth is important is that, while it is loaded with beautiful stuff regarding relationships, loyalty, and love, it is also in this short beautiful book (give it a read!) that we get to David himself.

David is, of course, upheld even today as Israel's great king. He is the one who defeated the giant, Goliath (which is the beginning of his rise to king), and is said to be a man "after God's own heart". But in our story for this week, we see a whole other side to David, as well as the ways in which absolute power can corrupt absolutely. Finally, the Psalm is included because it is attributed to David as a response to this week's story.

Questions for Reflection & Discussion:

1. What stood out to you in these verses from 2 Samuel?
2. What do you know about the story of David?
3. How does David's actions in this story impact how we view him?
4. What did David do wrong in this story (maybe make a list)? What did he do right?
5. How do you think Nathan felt having to confront him?
6. Why do you think stories of men in power, who sexually assault others, is so common across the ages? What can we (especially cis men) do about it?
7. What is repentance? Has David fully repented?
8. What stands out to you in Psalm 51?
9. What is the purpose of Psalm 51? Why do we have it in the Bible?
10. What can we learn from Psalm 51 and the Psalms in general about prayer?
11. Does Psalm 51 get David off the hook?

