



"Fear of Death"

February 6 - 12, 2011

PRAYER:

Begin with a few moments of sharing thanks and praises in prayer.

OPENER:

What was your first realization of death? (family pet, grandparent, etc.)

What's the first funeral you remember attending?

REFLECT:

1 Samuel 17:11, 24, 37 (David deals with Goliath) | Samuel 20:3b, 1 Samuel 21:12-13, 1 Samuel 23:17 (David deals with Saul's jealousy and attempts to kill him.) In 1 Samuel 17:11-24:1, we read of David's fearlessness against Goliath and his fear at the hands of the jealous Saul.

1. Why is Saul so eager to kill David? (jealousy, insecurities)
2. If you knew the boss was out to get you fired or worse, how would you behave? (quit and quietly leave; stand up and defend yourself)
3. Where would you find a "haven" during this time? (safe in your home, with a trusted friend, sharing with your small group, prayer)

READ:

Psalm 9:13, Psalm 18:4-6, Psalm 23:4, Psalm 55:4-6, Psalm 68:20, Psalm 88:15, Psalm 94:17, Psalm 141:8

FOUR LESSONS TO LEARN FROM DAVID'S EXPERIENCES REGARDING DEATH:

1. Planning for our death can help to eliminate the fear of death
2. As Christians we may still have fear because we're human
3. Remember God is faithful
4. Set your affections on things above

The best way not to fear death is to prepare for it physically, emotionally, but most importantly, spiritually. The cure for that fear is not to refuse to think about it but to repent of sins and have a relationship with the One who is the giver and taker of life, Jesus Christ.

DISCUSSION:

1. What do you think makes us afraid to die? (the unknown, pain, loss, etc.)
2. In what ways can we plan for death? (keep short accounts with God and others, etc.)
3. How can we "set our affections above?" (not allow our appreciation for things overshadow our love for others, seek ways to honor God with our lives, follow Christ as closely as we can)

From the life of David we realize through because of David's continued growing relationship with God, he becomes more confident, reliant, and dependent on God's abilities not his own.

Every one of us deserves to experience spiritual death, because not one of us can meet God's standards of perfection. **Read Romans 3:23, 6:23.**

The good news is that God loved us so much he sent his Son to die for us and to pay the penalty for our sins. **Read Romans 5:8, 1 Peter 3:18.**

When a person trusts Jesus Christ to be his own Savior, he is "born again." This spiritual birth transfers him from the state of spiritual death in to the state of spiritual life. God Himself comes to live in that believer in the person of the Holy Spirit. Consequently, a Christian can know that if he should die; he would immediately be with Christ. **Read 1 John 5:13, 2 Corinthians 5:8.**

4. Why did Jesus come to die for us? (without the shedding of blood, there can be no forgiveness of sin – Hebrews 9:22)
5. When the Bible describes the "sting" of death, what do you think it means? See 1 Co. 15:55. (The sting of death is sin)
6. How would our lives change if we did not fear death? What would that look like?
7. How can I start living my life without fear of death? (Realize I'm a sinner, Repent of my sins, Receive Christ)

How can this group pray for you this week?

Further reading: Hebrews 9:27, Hebrews 2:9, Isaiah 53:5, Hebrews 2:14, 1 Corinthians 15:4-57, Psalm 23:4, 1 Corinthians 10:13, Colossians 3:2, Psalm 141:8, 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, 2 Corinthians 5:8, 2 Corinthians 5:1, John 14:1