

Traditional Home service Sunday 13th June

OPENING PRAYER

Lord, you have taught us that all our doings without love are nothing worth: send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the true bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whoever lives is counted dead before you.

Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

PRAYER OF PENITENCE

Let us admit to God the sin which always confronts us.

**Lord God,
we have sinned against you;
we have done evil in your sight.
We are sorry and repent.
Have mercy on us according to your love. Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin.
Renew a right spirit within us and restore us to the joy of your salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

PRAISE

Let everything be said and done in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God through Jesus Christ. Sing psalms, hymns and sacred songs:

Let us sing to God with thankful hearts.
Open our lips, Lord:
and we shall praise your name.

HYMN 1 (The King of love my Shepherd is)

READINGS - 1 Samuel 15.34 - 16.13
2 Corinthians 5.6-17
Mark 4.26-34

TALK

CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Spend some time praying for our nation, our community and our families.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

HYMN 2 (Great is Thy faithfulness)

CONCLUSION

The Lord bless you and watch over you, the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you, the Lord look kindly on you and give you peace; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

HYMNS TO USE

The King of love my Shepherd is,
Whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his
And he is mine for ever.

Where streams of living water flow
My ransomed soul he leadeth,
And where the verdant pastures grow
With food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
But yet in love he sought me,
And on his shoulder gently laid,
And home, rejoicing, brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill
With thee, dear Lord, beside me;
Thy rod and staff my comfort still,
Thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spread'st a table in my sight;
Thy unction, grace bestoweth:
And O what transport of delight
From thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the length of days
Thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
Within thy house for ever.

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my
Father
There is no shadow of turning with Thee
Thou changest not, Thy compassions,
they fail not
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be

*Great is Thy faithfulness, great is Thy
faithfulness
Morning by morning new mercies I see
All I have needed Thy hand hath
provided
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me*

Summer and winter, and springtime and
harvest
Sun, moon and stars in their courses
above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to
guide
Strength for today and bright hope for
tomorrow
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand
beside

Sermon Notes - Adrian Morton
1 Samuel 15.34 - 16.13
God values the heart above all else

This is such a great reading.
Samuel the prophet is asked by God to go and anoint one of Jesse's sons to be king.

The back story is that Saul is currently King of Israel.
But he messed up by not obeying the Lord's command.
So God has rejected him as king.

And the prophet Samuel has been asked to anoint a new King.

It's interesting that God doesn't simply say, go and anoint David, Jesse's youngest son.

There's a process to go through. The Lord just says, "You are to anoint for me the one I indicate."

Often the Lord will only give us the next step. We may want our path ahead all laid out clearly for us to see.

Whereas the Lord will often say, 'just do that, then I'll tell what to do next.'

It builds trust in Him.

So Samuel arrives at Bethlehem..
And he has Jesse and his sons invited to the sacrifice.

Before the procession begins Samuel sees the eldest son Eliab he thinks, surely he will be the Lord's anointed.

v7 - "But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

And all the sons are then passed before Samuel but the Lord doesn't choose any of them.

Finally, David, the youngest is sent for and he is the one anointed.
and it says, "in the presence of his brothers."

How pleased do you think they were!
Well we know they resented it...

How are our hearts when someone is promoted before us?
That can be in our work or ministry life...

When someone, seemingly less qualified, less able, less impressive gets the nod...

People think David was probably 10 - 12 years old at this time.
A young boy!
He wasn't even invited to the party.

If you think you are too young, or you don't look right, or you feel overlooked, this passage should be encouraging to you.

Because the Lord looks at our hearts.

We are never too young, or too quiet...

David had just been watching his sheep.
How many of us have felt insignificant in the unseen things we do.

Well God sees all we do.

God values the heart above all else...

In these days of racial conflict and discussions...

And both football and cricket are wrestling with that at the moment.

Should England take the knee in the Euro's.
Should the ECB ban a cricketer for past tweets..

Its a timely reminder that God values the heart above all else.

And so maybe should we.

Its not the colour of our skin, the race we belong to, how we look, how clever or not we are, the job we do..

It's a person's heart that is important to the Lord.

God values the heart above all else...

Proverbs 4:23 says:

“Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.”

The heart is the seat of our affections and desires.

What was in David’s heart that God valued?

Well, we need to read about David’s life to understand that.

But I want to just use a few passages to help us get a glimpse of what it was that God valued in David...

David wrote Psalm 139:1-4, which reads:

1 You have searched me, LORD, and you know me. 2 You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. 3 You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. 4 Before a word is on my tongue you, LORD, know it completely.

David had cultivated such an intimate relationship with God.
He knew God and was known by Him.

And it started when he was a boy.

After our reading, we get the story of David and Goliath, and if you know that story, you will know that part of the motivation for David to fight Goliath was because he says, “The Lord delivered me from the paw of the lion and the bear.”

So he will deliver me from Goliath.

David knew God and was known by Him.

David didn’t say, “I know you when I’m in church, when the music starts and when I raise my hands...”

“When I sit and when I rise, You know...”
“You are familiar with all my ways...”

David’s heart was such that all his life was open to the Lord.

You know that well known Proverb 3:5-6

It was written by Solomon, David’s son - I think this dad taught him well!

It says:

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.”

In all your ways acknowledge Him...

For us to acknowledge someone, its like we see someone across the street, give them a quick wave... Hello... and we keep walking...

The word here means to come to know in an experiential or intimate way...

The word has the same Hebrew root as the word Adam **knew** Eve and she conceived and brought forth a son!

Adam didn’t walk in the garden and ‘acknowledge’ Eve!

It was experiential, a coming together...

God wants us to come to know him in all the different ways in our life..

Whether that is in our family life, our friends, our financial life, our church life, our emotional life, our mental health,, our business or work life, our school life...

It maybe that in one or more of these areas we have a level of maturity.. or we know God’s grace well in that area...

We may be great at friendships, and we see God’s hand in our friendships, we are able to make friends well, we are able to speak wisdom to our friends and be a great friend to others.

Because God has given us grace in that area of life.

But at the same time we may be a disaster when it comes to handling our finances.

We may have constant fear and anxiety over our finances.

And its because we don’t know God, His grace in that area.

David's heart was such that all his ways were familiar to God.

Lets pray...

Psalm 139:14 - *"I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well."*

David knows and is known by God.

As David knows God he comes to know more of who He is.

God knows us better than we know us.

Psalm 139:17 - *"How precious to me are your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them!"*

David valued the thoughts God, what God thinks of Him.

Do we know what God thinks of us?
More than what other people think of us?
More than what social media thinks of us?

In the past, Louise and I have encouraged people to do the garden heart prayer.

It's when we simply ask the Lord to show us how he sees us as a garden.

It's a good exercise to do.

The next time you have some time alone with the Lord, ask him to show you how he sees you as a garden.

And see what comes to mind...

Finally Psalms 139:23-24 - *"Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."*

David was vulnerable before the Lord. In all his experiences, in the good times, in the challenging times.. he opened his heart to God.

Even know my anxious thoughts God...

God values the heart above all else.

It's a person's heart that is important to the Lord.