

St. Paul's Dorking Small Groups. March 9th 2008

Called – Called On, David

2 Samuel 7:1-17

Word:Key points from Sunday's sermon



More is written about the life of David (1000 BC) than is written about any other Old testament Figures. He was called personally by God, taken from the pastures verse 8 to be ruler. This was God's call, not a position or career stage earned on merit. David's was the lowest of low employees and least qualified in his large family of brothers for the task of King. David knew God's call out from the ways of the world and to be out right with God after he committed adultery with Bathsheba and murdered her husband Uriah. He was transparent in his repentance before the people. He was a mighty warrior and military leader, a good statesman able to unite the two kingdoms of Judah and Israel giving them Jerusalem as their shared capital, and extend the borders of this united Kingdom from the Nile to the Euphrates to fulfil the promise given by God to Abraham in Genesis 15. He organised the Governance of the Kingdom well. David had a heart that was after Gods heart and was devoted to worship and music He wrote many of the psalms. It was David who introduced worship and music to the Israelites. He knew that through worship he encountered and met with God. Eventually after the two Kingdoms united Ark of the Lord was brought to Jerusalem to rest near David's Palace. He instructed the choirs of the Levites (priests) to sing morning and evening at the Tent of the Lord: the Tabernacle which sheltered the Ark of the Lord, the Lord's very Presence.

His call then as King, Prophet and Priest was to make God known to the nations.

His dream and hearts desire is seen in Psalm 27:4 . 2 Sam 7 :3 **:to build a house for the Lord.** How can king live in a house of cedar and God only in a nomads tent the lowest of ll forms of habitation (note Jesus born in a stable) . It is laudable and makes sense.

God says ' you are not throne'

Gods also speaks of houses and place then to Nathan. God's does not need some one to build a house for Him (in fact NO cedar was use din th temple that Solomon built). HE is wanting to build a house himself , a house that is David's dynasty , that will see the birth of the Messiah, a house that is the People of God.(verse 10,11,16). David has a clear Call from God, but here he has made himself into the manager of that calling. He has become the builder of the dream. He has got into the driving seat. God 's call is not dependant on our strategies and cultures. He will do what He purposes and says he will. It is for us to discover what his way is for us, not to plan his way for us.

We easily lose sight of that in our enthusiasm and in following God's call. **We don't follow, we produce plans.**

God affirms his promises to David and to Israel that echo his promise to Abraham and Moses He will be their God and they will be his people. He makes promises that will be fulfilled in David's life time and those which will be fulfilled after David's death. A temple will be built by Solomon David's son. So God is not repudiating the desire for temple, he is showing David what is on David's heart and what is on Gods heart. Not a building programme for houses bit one of people. **David needs to trust these promises, and to continue on in his calling as his sheep once followed him their shepherd, so he is to follow God his good shepherd.**



Witness:Questions to discuss

1. Read psalms 27 and 84..either in parts or one person read each psalm.As the psalms are read Listen to David's heart.. After some quiet speak out the words, lines, verses that resonate with you that reveal to you a heart that is after Gods heart, a heart that has truly encountered God.

Give space between each line verse you each contribute so the rest of the group can digest and reflect on it.

Draw this time into prayer of thanksgiving.

2. Explain to one another what you 'saw' / understood afresh of the heart that God desires us to have ?
3. Using the book run through the 5 elements to calling we have recovered in the last 5 weeks, Which aspect of Calling do you find yourself most familiar with? Where are you stuck ?
4. Who is in the driver's seat, who is the Builder in and of your life? How do you distinguish between making plans that are Gods plans and making those which are your *own* outworking your call ?
5. What was Nathans' role in David's life ? How can you help one another discern Gods word to you ?
6. In pairs pray for one another where ever you are stuck, and ask God to empower you with His Holy Spirit to fulfil the calling he has given you .

7. **To think and pray about this week :** i)An example of calling to the whole church family : There are many aspects to God's call to St Pauls as a Church family. One of the more recent aspects has been a call to send team on mission to Kisumu in Kenya this summer. The events in Kenya have not only affected the team but the whole church family. And we were all called to prayer and to give. What you think you part in this call has been ? What is it now ?

ii) The call to the Whole Church Family to be the Family of God, the People of God means there are many individual calls working together. What is your part in Gods call to St Pauls in terms of prayer and in terms of giving.