



Immanuel
St Andrew Church

10th Sunday of Trinity

**Lord of heaven and earth,
as Jesus taught his disciples to be
persistent in prayer,
give us patience and courage
never to lose hope,
but always to bring our prayers be-
fore you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

2 Samuel 11:26—12:13a OT page 294
Ephesians 4:1—16 NT page 191
John 6:24-35 NT page 94

(NIV used in sermon preparation).

Be sure that if we displease God He will let us know! God loves us and does not want to see us hurt. What a task God sets Himself when He has given us freewill and we misuse that freedom! In a world where our circumstances and situations often pre-occupy us and we live the expectations of others around us!

Sometimes we realise that God is displeased with us through the words and actions of people he places on our journey and who talk to us of things unrelated to our situation! This happened to David. God sent Nathan to talk with him ~ in fact to rebuke him ~ and Nathan tells a story ~ a parable about a rich man's behaviour towards a poor man in the same town.

We are told that David burned with anger as he heard the story and declared that the rich man should die ~ pay for his actions four times over because he had no pity! He voices what he sees as justice! Nathan then reveals that the rich man is David and the poor man Uriah ~ the ewe is his new wife Bathsheba! Nathan reminds David of all that God has done for Him and entrusted to him and yet David has still chosen to do what is evil in the Lord's eyes. David is told he will know calamity ~ he will be openly disgraced BUT as he recognises that he has sinned against the Lord ~ he is forgiven and will not die! God forgives each of us in the

same way ~ our transgressions may not be adultery or murder, they can be the way we think and the way we treat others ~ even our inability to forgive or simply our ignoring or going against God's Word for us ~ but God loves and forgives ~ that is a Constant.

We discover just how much God loves us as we journey through life in faith. Because we have a faith we can see, through prayer and God's Word when we stray from that faith. We know in our hearts when our attitudes and actions are not those that please God and the longer we journey in faith the more we realise how difficult it can be but also, as we mature, that walking in faith brings peace. It is no surprise then that Paul writes

"Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. "

Ephesians 4:3

How do we begin? John tells us the words of Jesus

"The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent." John 6:29

We don't earn our faith we receive it by believing in Jesus and our belief leads us to live as He knows is best for us ~ or at least we begin to try to live that way. We often stumble around and get it wrong but the Lord knows that will happen! Living God's way is often counter-intuitive to the way of the world but we are given all that we need to try, to practice and to mature! We have Jesus!

So lets spend some time encouraging each other ~ think about the recent past and how God has journeyed with you. When you have gone your own way and what made you recognise that you were ignoring God's way.

Use the prayer hand to help guide your prayers during the week. The one on the back page is good for colouring in too!

The goal of all discipleship: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength' Deuteronomy 6:5.

