



Sermon Discussion Questions

Sunday, January 29, 2012

Dr. Mike Moses - Huntersville

Series: Hope in a House of Blues

Sermon: Hurt

Note to Group Leaders:

During Hope in a House of Blues, many of the questions and passages should stir places in a person's life that are sometimes really hard to deal with. So, you can expect two responses to many of the questions: 1) Silence-because they may not be ready to share those places; or 2) Deep, painful things to be shared and you not knowing what to do with that.

So, as you ask questions, be patient. Be ok with silence to give people time to think about how to answer. But also, look in our bulletin for the details of the "Forgiveness" Seminar that starts February 13 and encourage people with deep brokenness to consider being a part of that time.

Introduce it:

What are the Blues? Musically, "the blues is a particular type of music, the twelve-bar tune being the most popular, with distinctive flatted third and seventh notes on the major scale, producing the 'blue note,' a term coined by W.C. Handy and known nontechnically as that troubling 'minor-key' sound." (*Getting the Blues* by Nichols)

The song "Dallas Blues" tells us, "The blues ain't nothing but a good man feeling bad". Muddy Waters said the blues has to do with a woman leaving a man, and not under the best of circumstances. But basically, the blues is a feeling, a deep low feeling or sorrow that can come from many different events. Primarily an event that causes deep hurt.

Think about music you listen to. It could be a blues song, an 80's song, a popular song today. Try as a group to name as many songs as you can that have lyrics about being hurt. Keep count and if you want, send me the number of songs you came up with. We can have a little community group competition. I don't have to tell you leaders to not cheat! :)

**Goal of this question is for the group to just start thinking about hurt and having fun figuring out who your music gurus are.*

Revisit it: learn the passage preached on.

This scene happens after David sleeps with another man's wife (Bathsheeba), and then takes steps to have her husband killed because Bathsheeba is now pregnant. Nathan, David's friend, calls out his sin and that is where this story begins.

Read 2nd Samuel 12:13-25

What is David's confession? How does Nathan answer his confession? What does this tell you about the difference in knowing forgiveness and living under consequences?

*Forgiveness means that you and God are right. The relationship is healed. But even though the relationship is healed, God doesn't remove the consequences of our sin. He allows us to take responsibility of it. But these consequences are not his punishment because he has not forgiven you.

How does this image change the way you parent? The way you approach people that have hurt you?

*Leader this is just a question to get us to apply the previous question.

What is David's response to the news of these consequences? This is his blues moment-his blues song.

*He cried out to God and fasted for days pleading that God might take the consequences away.

Why didn't the servants want to tell David that the child had died?

*Because they had seen how hard he took the news before he died they thought it would even get worse after the reality of the child dying.

Why do you think David was able to get up and start eating and moving on after the baby died? (Hint: what did David do regularly before the child died?)

*Because he had been honest, cried out fully, spoke his hurt and his loss before God many days and many times before the child died. He named his loss.

Even before the child died, God told David that the child would die because of his sin. Yet, David pleaded, cried out, and begged God for the child's life. What is your reaction to the fact that God didn't let the child live after all of David's pleading?

*Leader: this is a chance for the group just to be honest.

For those that are parents, are there times that your children beg you not to let them live in the consequence of bad behavior yet you know you have to hold strong for their sake long term? Share about a time this happened and what you wanted your child to know and learn through this.

*Leader: a chance to make this view of God apply to our lives.

Why did David go and worship God right after the child died? What does this tell you about his view of God through this?

*He knew this was not God's fault. He owned this as a consequence of his sin. He didn't blame anyone, not even himself. He accepted it as God's plan for growing him.

David did a few things in this hurt. He named it and he didn't blame other for it. What did he do immediately after worshipping God and answering the question of the servants?

*He went and comforted his wife.

Instead of naming our hurt, not blaming and not withdrawing, what are things we tend to do instead with our hurt?

*we ignore it, we keep it in and never share it, we blame others, we blame God, we don't own it, we withdraw from others, we withdraw from community group.

Use it: don't just learn the passage but use it.

What are hurts in your life that you realize that you have never shared with anyone and have never named for yourself?

*Leader, this is a scary question for people. If they don't answer in the group, have them write it down on a piece of paper just to begin naming it for themselves. Don't make them share it but let them share it if they want.

As a community group, there will be people in this group that will go through very painful and hard places, hurtful places in our lives. How will we as a community group make a commitment to not let one another withdraw from the group? Why do you think this community group is the best place to come when that hurt happens?

*This is a time leader for the group to be proactive about committing to walk into each others lives even before something like this happens.

As a practical application, encourage people to attend the Forgiveness seminar that starts February 13.

Remember it: memorize a verse that helps you to remember and use it.

Memorize 2 Samuel 12:13

"Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord." Nathan replied, "The Lord has taken away your sin. You are not going to die."

Write this on a piece of paper and put it on your mirror and in your car. Share this verse with your children to help them begin thinking about how God forgives! Begin now helping them see the importance of telling other as their part in building God's church.