

## July 5-10

Treasuring God's Word – includes material from sermon, "The Joy of Getting Caught"

**Monday, July 5, 2010 Read 2 Samuel 11:26-12:10, 13-15** Our text...introduces us to a man who actually found relief and joy in being caught in a sin. "Royal David"...royally sinned. Have you ever noticed that trouble often comes our way when we aren't where we're supposed to be? Pray: Protect me this day, O Lord, from the temptations and schemes of the evil one. Amen.

**Tuesday, July 6, 2010 Read: James 1:13-18** Remember, this all began with David remaining in the safety of his palace while his men were at war. But without realizing it, David had put himself in harm's way...He had put his soul at risk. Pray: Lord, help me stand firm when my spiritual enemies try to lure me away from You. Amen.

**Wednesday, July 7, 2010 Read: Psalm 32:1-5** David might have thought he'd outsmarted everyone over the Bathsheba incident. But he wasn't happy...on the inside he was miserable, guilt-ridden and terrified. Pray: Thank You, gracious God, for Your forgiveness, the perfect antidote to my guilt conscience. Through Christ my Lord. Amen.

**Thursday, July 8, 2010 Read: Psalm 32:6-11** The King gave a model confession: I have sinned against the Lord. No excuses, no denials, no blame-shifting. Simple acknowledgment and sorrow for what he had done...David, the prodigal, had "come home" and finally knew once again the peace of his Father's presence and mercy. Pray: Dear Father, thank You for hearing and answering my prayers for forgiveness and faith. In Jesus' name. Amen.

**Friday, July 9, 2010 Read: Psalm 51:7-12** After confrontation and confession and absolution, there's celebration! That's the joy of getting caught! Pray: O Lord, there is nothing I can hide from You. Hear me as I confess my sins and shortcomings to You.... Now read again Psalm 51:9 & 17.

**Saturday, July 10, 2010 Read: Psalm 119:105-112** It is very important to keep ourselves in the "places" where we can "get caught." Keep yourself in the Word of God...keep yourself in fellowship with other believers...keep yourself in worship each Sunday. Pray: With the psalmist I pray, Lord Jesus: "I was glad when they said, 'Let us go into the house of the Lord.'" Amen.

## July 12-17

Treasuring God's Word – including material from the sermon, "Lydia, A Great Example"

**Monday, July 12, 2010 Read: Acts 16:15** One night the apostle Paul had a vision. A man was imploring him to come to the country of Macedonia...Paul learns that the people there needed help. The Gospel of Jesus Christ had not yet reached that part of the world. Pray: Lord Jesus, bless and help missionaries who serve both near and far that Your Word of forgiveness and new life might bless others. Amen.

**Tuesday, July 13, 2010 Read: 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17** When Paul proclaimed the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus, the Holy Spirit opened Lydia's heart. This good news moved her to embrace Jesus as her Lord and Savior. Pray: Thank You, Spirit of God, for making me a child of God through my baptism. Through Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Wednesday, July 14, 2010 Read: John 20:24-31** The lesson is this: it doesn't matter whether you meet at a river or in a house or a church – what matters is that the Word of God is preached and taught in its truth and purity. That's what Lydia valued. She sets a good example for us. Pray: Lord God, thank You for Your Holy Word which reveals all Your good promises to those who walk in faith with You. Amen.

**Thursday, July 15, 2010 Read: Ephesians 1:3-10** (The Gospel) gave Lydia great joy and it does the same for us. The Lord has opened our hearts to see and believe that through Jesus we have the forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life...eternal life is God's gracious gift to all who believe. Pray: Lord Jesus, my Savior, Your love to me is so great. Receive my praise for Your precious gift of salvation. Amen.

**Friday, July 16, 2010 Read: Matthew 28:16-20** One way of reaching our community and world is to start with those closest to us. Lydia began with her household. We can start with our circle of friends. Pray: Give me boldness, O Lord, to pray for and then to invite a friend or loved one to church with me. Amen.

**Saturday, July 17, 2010 Read: Psalm 116:8-14** Now, there's one more way that Lydia sets a good example for us. She obviously had been greatly blessed by God. She had some resources. She wanted to help Paul in His ministry while in Philippi. Pray: Give me a generous heart, Lord Jesus, so that You always receive my best. Amen.

## July 19-24

**Monday, July 19, 2010 Read: Acts 6:1-7** With the growth we have experienced at Life in Christ, we all should pay attention to this section. A growing church chooses Spirit-filled men to lead the work of the church. Pray: Thank You, dear Father, for the men and women who serve so capably at Life in Christ. Amen.

**Tuesday, July 20, 2010 Read: Acts 6:8-15** Jesus, at the right hand of the Father, transfigured the face of His courageous witness, giving it a heavenly brightness, which plainly told the members of the Council that this man was not a blasphemer, but His faithful messenger. (from Bible History References) Pray: O Lord, help us when we are persecuted because of our faith in You. Amen.

**Wednesday, July 21, 2010 Read: Acts 7:1-22** Stephen answers the charges against him in a most interesting way – he recounts the history of Israel, beginning with the story of Abraham. Father God, grant me the same kind of trusting faith as your servant, Abraham. Through Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Thursday, July 22, 2010 Read: Acts 7:23-43** Stephen concluded his defense with an important point – with the resurrection of Jesus, all creation is the temple that God Himself has made. Pray: Thank You, Lord Jesus, my great High Priest, who always pleads for me. Amen.

**Friday, July 23, 2010 Read: Acts 7:44-53** A stiff neck was a symbol of an unbending self-will. For an example, see Matthew 23:37. Pray: Savior God, forgive me for those times when I refuse to yield to the truth of Your Word. Help me to walk with you. Amen.

**Saturday, July 24, 2010 Read: Acts 7:54-8:1** Note that Stephen uses almost the same words of Jesus at the moment of His death. Stephen trusted in the One whom he confessed as the Savior of the world. Pray: In all my days, O Lord, help me to confess no one but You as True God and the only way to heaven. Amen.

## July 26-31

**Monday, July 26, 2010 Read: Luke 24:13-27** What a walk it must have been! Jesus reveals to these two followers of His that He – His life, death and resurrection – are the heart and center of Scripture. Pray: Strengthen my faith, O Lord, that I might receive Your forgiveness and salvation. Amen.

**Tuesday, July 27, 2010 Read: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25** Worldly wisdom and intelligence is not the means of knowing Jesus. Instead, we know and believe that Jesus is Lord and Savior by faith – a gift of God. Pray: Thank You, Spirit of God, for enabling me to embrace Jesus as my personal Lord and Savior. Amen.

**Wednesday, July 28, 2010 Read: John 3:16-21** Gospel means “good news.” It tells of our salvation through faith in Jesus. In the Gospel our Lord gives forgiveness, faith, new life and the power to please Him with good works. Pray: Lord Jesus, Your love motivates me to love You and my neighbor. Help me grow in Your love. Amen.

**Thursday, July 29, 2010 Read: Hebrews 10:5-10** We don’t know who wrote this letter. We do know the writer is a true theologian – he makes clear that Jesus has offered a once and for all time sacrifice for our sins. Through this sacrifice, we have been made holy before God the Father. Pray: I praise You, O Lord, for making me righteous before my Father God. Amen.

**Friday, July 30, 2010 Read: James 2:14-18** The brother of the Lord teaches an important truth – we are declared “not guilty” of sin through faith in Jesus alone. But genuine faith is never alone – it produces good works which glorify God and bless our neighbor. Pray: Use me, Lord Jesus, to touch other lives with Your love and compassion. Amen.

**Saturday, July 31, 2010 Read: 1 Peter 2:4-10** What great assurance for every believer in verse four – the world may reject us but we are precious to God. Pray: Dear Jesus, continue to do Your mighty work of building us into the people of God. Amen.