

w/b 14th January 2018

PRIDE COMES BEFORE A FALL / LOSING THE PRESENCE OF GOD

&

INDUCING OR PRACTISING THE PRESENCE OF GOD

PASSAGES: 2 Chronicles 26 & Isaiah 6 verses 1-8

INTRODUCTION: This study follows Desmond's preach on Sunday where he both looked at the downfall of king Uzziah from which numerous lessons can be learnt as well as the commissioning of the prophet Isaiah after Uzziah's death. The first is a sobering cautionary tale. The second is a wonderful picture of God as he sends out his servant

READ 2 CHRONICLES 26 - LOSS

- When was the last time you lost something really valuable? How did it make you feel and was there any guilt attached to the loss?
- Uzziah became king at an early age. What were the advantages of this?
- As we grow older a key question is: are we still humble and are we still learning? What key Christian principle have you learnt recently?
- Uzziah also benefitted from a wonderful mentor in Zechariah. Who is mentoring you right now and keeping you humble and dependent on God?
- 'As long as he sought the Lord, God gave him success'.
It's a really powerful & sobering verse. What sort of things prevent you from seeking God at critical times?
- Pray now for anything that is worrying any member of the group
- Uzziah came unstuck because he fancied he could perform the function of the priests in sacrifice which was strictly forbidden. In what areas of our lives can pride become a problem especially in our latter years?

READ ISAIAH 6 verses 1-8 - GAIN

- What does Isaiah's vision teach us about God?
- An encounter with the holiness of God reveals our own lack of holiness. Unclean influences lead to unclean thoughts and unclean lips
- What unclean influences do we need to be careful about?
- Thinking about TV and film for a minute, what sort of things do you need to be careful about watching and why?
- As you read these two passages what particular point do you take away (for example I was particularly challenged by the danger of self reliance in middle age) Spend time praying through some of these challenges as a group.