

Sermon

“Our Need: Living as Sinner-Saints” (2nd Samuel 12 – Nathan Goes to David)

Rev. Dr. Alfonso O. Espinosa

Introduction: We Should Be Appalled and We Should Be Appalled...

- A. It’s tempting to treat 2nd Samuel 12 as one of those nostalgic “Bible Stories”...but we can’t take it for granted.**
- B. It is the climax of an incredible turn of events in the life of King David.**
- C. We are being trained as to the severity of sin.**
 - 1. Not for us to point the finger at someone else.**
 - 2. But to realize that if this could happen to David – of all people – then what of ourselves?!**
- D. Remember that David was and is a great saint.**
 - 1. God chose David (Psalm 78:70).**
 - 2. He was a man after God’s own heart (1st Sam 13:14).**
 - 3. He danced before the Lord with all his might (2nd Sam 6:14). This is an example of David’s great devotion to the Lord.**
 - 4. God said that David walked in His ways, keeping His statutes and His commandments (1 Kings 3:14).**
- E. Soak these descriptors in. Surely if there was ever a man of God who would might claim to be better, then it was David! But this is not the case and we are humbled to get the rest of the story.**
- F. David sinned against the Lord:**
 - 1. His sin has been called “insatiable covetousness” (Keil and Delitzsch, 389). A good description...it is never having enough. It is hard to imagine would more King David could have been given, and yet it wasn’t enough. This was how deep his sin was.**
 - 2. It came to a head through his lust for Bathsheba (2nd Sam 11):**
 - a. He watched her and lusted.**
 - b. He sent for her after verifying she was married.**
 - c. He committed adultery.**
 - d. When she conceived, he planned deceit against her husband Uriah.**
 - e. He tried a second time with greater deceit and made Uriah drunk, but it still did not work. Ironically, Uriah had more honor while being drunk than David did while being sober!**
 - f. Finally, David made arrangements for Uriah’s murder.**
- G. The two lists above could not be more disparate. They are like two, different people. Such a reality of night and day, Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, such utter contradiction...it is easy for us to say out loud, but we do not want to admit that this is exactly who we are**

as those who are truly by God's grace, children of God, and truly according to our own flesh, despicable sinners.

H. How can these two sides co-exist? And yet they do!

Part I: In David's Life, What Did God Do About It?

- A. First of all, David's response to his terrible chain-reaction of sin was to hide it.
- B. It is easy to get the impression transitioning from 2 Samuel 11 to 2 Samuel 12 that these events happened in rapid succession. Not so, almost a year goes by between David's sin and Nathan's confrontation!
- C. What was David doing in the meantime? He was hiding!
- D. This is the sinner's way of coping with their sin: it is hiding it, covering it, ignoring it, repressing it. Not just the refusal to confess it, but the utter inability to do so. So again, hide, hide, hide, that's what sinners do.
- E. But what did God do? Answer: Psalm 32: David thought he was hiding, but God was working on his heart in a very specific way:

Psalm 32:3-4: "For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer."

- F. If sin is not confessed, if it is retained in the heart, it will destroy us from the inside out. It will eat away at our soul...so David says, "my bones wasted away...my strength was dried up...".
- G. God permitted this, because He was preparing for David's heart to be pierced.
- H. This is what the Lord does for us: we are called to stop hiding and to confess!

Part 2: The Ministry of the Word for David's Salvation and Ours:

- A. At the right time God sent Nathan the prophet.
- B. Nathan tells a story: two men, one rich, the other poor; the rich man had lots of sheep and oxen, but he steals the one pet-sheep of the poor man. It was an household pet that was like a little child to the poor man. This is how cruel and insatiably covetous this rich man was.
- C. When David heard the story, he was outraged and declared that this man must die and pay fourfold for what he took!
- D. Nathan comes back with words that cut David down: "You are the man!"
- E. God was merciful to David because He gave David His Word to convict in order to bring out the sin that was eating his soul.
- F. Then David knew what to do: by the power of the Holy Spirit he confessed, he let it out: "I have sinned against the Lord (verse 13)." No excuses, no qualifications, no pleads for ignorance, no blame on anyone else...just straight forward...it's all on me.

Conclusion: The Lord's Response:

- A. Nathan declared, "The Lord also has put away your sin."
- B. This is the Lord's response to us as well. Our sin has been put away.
- C. When we see our two natures, the utter contraction between them, we despair of ourselves...how can this be? How can I live this way?
- D. God comes and deals with that despicable part of us, by putting it away. Covering it with the blood of His Son, Jesus Christ. It is now in the eyes of God, gone. That part of us that is the monster God does not hold against us, because His Son took that part and nailed it to the cross. That part was the part in our holy baptism that was buried with Jesus Christ. God says, "that part is dead and gone...I see it no more, it is truly – dear child – gone. Don't look at yourself for verification, look to my Word, my promise, my Gospel, my declaration...look at my mind, my Word, my attitude: I refuse to hold it against you, my Son has taken it away."
- E. But someone will remind us, "but there are still consequences..." true, but even these consequences the Lord will mold for our good. David had consequences, but do you recall that description of David in 1st Kings 3:14 (Introduction "D4")?
- F. God declares to Solomon that his father David walked in His ways and kept all of His commandments...dear Christians, this was not said BEFORE David's great fall, but AFTER...in fact, David had already *died*!
- G. And yet this was how God chose to remember David, not according to the sinner David, but according to the saint David. And this is how the Lord chooses to see you; this is how the Lord chooses to remember you...for you too are covered by the blood of Christ; you too have had all of your sins washed away!