

“I Have Sinned Against the Lord”

II Samuel 12:1-14,

Sexagesima Sunday February 8, 2015

Beloved of the Lord.....When God in His mercy allows or grants us the blessing of marriage, so that we find that special someone that we want to spend the rest of our life with, we make a promise whereby we are bound for life. This is our marriage vow. By the words of our mouth we make a public promise before God and man which cannot be broken. Our vows then are sacred and holy, and if we break them we call down God's wrath upon our soul. Numbers 30:2 says, “If a man vow a vow unto the LORD, or swear an oath to bind his soul with a bond; he shall not break his word, he shall do according to all that proceedeth out of his mouth.” This is true of our confirmation vow, our marriage vow, and any other vows we take of our own free will which are not contrary to God's Word. Don't make a vow or promise then to God which you don't intend to keep AND FEAR GOD if you are tempted to break any vow! Marriage is for life in God's sight and if you are faithful God will bless you through Christ, but God's curse is upon all adulterers and adulteresses who are unfaithful.

Of course marriage is not easy, and most marriages are rather hard or difficult because of our sinful nature. After a time those stronger passions die down, and each spouse gets rather tired of the faults of the other. Sometimes there is also coldness within due to the stubborn and self-righteous heart of our own flesh. We are all very proud people by nature, and heart-felt repentance is not as common within us as we like to think. But it is just at this point when marriage is difficult we need to remember our promise to God and one another. Our thoughts need to meditate upon Christ, our first love. Jesus did the unthinkable when He became incarnate, namely a true Man of flesh and blood. At that time and through the cross you could say God married Himself to all mankind, and bound Himself to us by a sacred promise: Thy sins be forgiven thee, therefore I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. That is a promise from the Bridegroom to the Church, His Bride. In the Gospel message of Jesus Christ, though we have committed adultery, God is promising Himself to us by forgiving our sins. His righteousness covers the nakedness of our adultery, placing upon us His robe of righteousness. By faith we believe and know this to be true, but here in this world when we lust after what God has forbidden, we defile ourselves again. When we are proud and stubborn, not confessing our sins in our own marriage, we are bowing down to self, I, that “me” ego. When we strive senselessly with our spouse (trying to cover or justify our sinful behavior), usually the problem is our own pride, for we know very little about being humble. When our heart is cold towards our spouse for whom Christ died, we are forgetting the great love of Jesus for our spouse. Jesus has forgiven them, shouldn't we? And if we love them as Jesus does, won't they love us in return all the more? If then we are to focus on fault and sin in marriage, focus on your own faults and sins, and learn better to say with David “I have sinned against the Lord.” The strength of a good Christian marriage is never strength of self, but it is strength and love from Jesus above. So the Bible says, “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the

word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.”

Because David had fallen from grace by way of the adultery and had not repented, God sent the prophet Nathan to admonish David, lest David be damned. In Hebrews 10:38 the Lord says, “Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.” When David committed adultery with Bathsheba, and murdered Uriah, David fell from grace and became an impenitent unbeliever for quite a few months. Because God has no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but He desires the wicked turn from his evil way and live, God sent the prophet Nathan to work confession of sin and repentance in David’s heart.

Having wisdom of God, Nathan told a clever parable to help David see his sin. The rich man had exceeding many flocks, but the poor man had only “one little ewe lamb”, namely a small female lamb which was like a daughter to him. “It did eat of his own meat, and drank of his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was unto him as a daughter.” This is how precious Bathsheba was to dear Uriah. She was everything to him, a wonderful wife which he held dear to his heart. This is how every husband should love and treasure his wife. His love should be so strong, sacrificial and selfless, the wife should always feel secure in his love, never to stray. How terrible then David’s sin, for God’s love for David was perfect, holy, and sacrificial, yet David turned away and lusted after the forbidden. So Proverbs 27:20 says, “Hell and destruction are never full; so the eyes of man are never satisfied.” David sent for Bathsheba and lay with her. The Bible doesn’t say that it was rape, or forced, but since David was a king with power, it may have been statutory rape. Since the Bible remains silent on the matter, we must also, but David certainly bears the greater blame. Even worse, when David learned Bathsheba was pregnant, David tried to hide his sin. When that didn’t work David murdered Uriah by means of war.

When we hear of David’s sins however, let’s not be high minded. As Nathan said to David “Thou art the man” so we should see our sins in this same parable. Even if you have not lusted after your neighbor’s wife, you are still guilty of sinful lust. To covet or lust after anything your neighbor possesses, is to despise all God has given you, though He has made you kings and queens in His sight. Still you want more! When you do what you want to do rather than what God commands, you are coveting what God has forbidden. When you skip church needlessly because you have something else you want to do more, or you go to church regularly but your mind wanders endlessly, your mind and flesh are coveting other things that you treasure more than Jesus and His Word. Likewise when you do something evil and then you try to cover or hide the sin so no one knows, you are David who doesn’t want his reputation to suffer. David covets honor though by his sins he deserves dishonor. Don’t you covet honor among men also? And though I assume you have never have murdered anyone by means of war as David did, when you hate your neighbor with your heart, you murder your neighbor with your heart.

First John 2:11 says, “He that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.”

Of course the obvious sin in this lesson is sexual lust, yet Jesus said, “Whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart. And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.” David fell from grace because he yielded to sin without repentance and he allowed his sins to continue without repentance. He stopped loving God and treasuring the forgiveness of Jesus, and he wanted the sin more than forgiveness of sin. He gave himself over to Satan by way of lust, just as some men give themselves over to the darkness of pornography. Yet the eyes which God has given you, should be used to God’s glory, but when you allow your eye to lust after what God has forbidden you, you sin against your own soul. If Jesus had done such a wicked thing, there would be no forgiveness for your lust. But so your whole body would not be cast into hell, Jesus on the cross experienced hell. Bearing our lust, our adultery, our carnal appetites, God turned His back upon Jesus so that Jesus dearly suffered for David’s fleshly lusts. So the Bible says and you must remember “you are bought with a price!” It is therefore ONLY BY THAT PRICE God can now say to all sinners of the world, “The Lord hath put away thy sin, thou shalt not die”! This means David....you won’t be damned, because God has passed over your sin, forgiven it. This then is how Christ “loved the Church and gave Himself for it, that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word.” Confess your lust, confess your sin, and remember your Baptism whereby Jesus washed you clean. God’s forgiveness through Christ is free, but the only way to receive it is to believe it. So Jesus said, “Whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.” If only you believe in Him your Savior, you will never be damned, but rather you will inherit life everlasting.”

Jesus then is the only cure or remedy for our sinful lust, and His forgiveness alone can help us not to lust and resist temptation. One of the most important lessons than today, is that we should always be satisfied with the riches of His forgiveness and not lust for anything more, which is surely less! Don’t throw away your salvation for a few moments of sinful pleasure. If you are unmarried pray and wait for God to provide you a spouse, and also believe and trust, and if you are married quench the fire with the spouse God has given you and be content. Remember also God does not allow either husband or wife to defraud the other. The body of the wife belongs to the husband, and visa versa. Holy love is sacrificial. Likewise we need to recognize that though through Jesus there is surely forgiveness for all our sins, but in this world there are also consequences to our sins. For his own spiritual good, God allowed David to suffer on earth somewhat for his sins. Since David had used the sword to murder Uriah, the sword would now not depart from David’s house. This consequence would help David not to abuse his power as king again. Also there would be war and bloodshed in David’s own family. Likewise since David had defiled his neighbor’s wife by adultery, God would allow David’s wives or concubines to be defiled, by way of Absalom. And finally, so the people of Israel and

Judah would know God hates adulterers and adultery, the child which was the fruit of adultery would not be allowed to live. By this all the people would know David's sin did not escape God's all-seeing eye.

God still works the same way today even in the lives of His dear children, the Christians. He allows us to suffer at times for our own sins. Surely since we deserve everlasting hell for our sins, we dare not resent God when He chastens us at times to keep us on the straight and narrow path to heaven. If we keep His commandments believing only in Christ for our salvation, we will be blessed. But if we break His commandments, in His goodness He may allow us to suffer the consequences. If we skip church because we have "better things" to do, our lust after "better things" God cannot bless. Likewise when we go to church but think ourselves better than those who don't, "pride goeth before destruction". Similarly strife in a household or strife in marriage is the fruit of our own sin, for our greatest love is love of self and not love of another. Yet through all this we must hold up high and higher, our truest love above all others, our Lord Jesus Christ. His love alone sustains us when we fall short of God's glory. His love alone picks us up from the dust of the ground after our adultery, so that He says, "The Lord hath put away thy sins" and "Neither do I condemn thee, go and sin no more." And even when we suffer and life at times becomes unbearably hard, or in the end we lose our precious spouse and suddenly we find ourselves alone, this is when the greatest love of our life shines the brightest, for He is our Bridegroom, the Lord Jesus Christ – and His promise is still faithful and true.....I will never leave thee nor forsake thee. When you hear that promise what happens to you, now that you are sorry for your sins? Suddenly we become that little ewe lamb in the parable, and it is none other than Christ who holds us close to His bosom treasuring us with all His heart. Though we have sinned and committed adultery, Jesus sinners doth receive. He gives us to drink of His own cup in Holy Communion. He feeds us holy Bread from His holy table, the Body of Christ, the Bread of Life. To hear His Gospel, to hear of His grace and love and forgiveness toward such unworthy sinners, that is feast upon which we live and are truly satisfied. Therefore to God alone be glory. Amen.

Pastor Tobin Pederson, 7685 Maple Hill Rd. Corcoran, MN 55340, 763-494-5164, solideogloria96@comcast.net
srmn1095