

Man's Adultery and God's Faithfulness

II Samuel 12:1-10, Trinity Sunday XIII

September 6, 2009

Beloved of the Lord.....Sooner or later in life, every one of us is betrayed by a loved one. It doesn't have to be adultery, it can be unfaithfulness in a variety of ways. But in whatever way we are betrayed, we all know what it means to be hurt by the sins of others. God too knows this feeling of betrayal. He created Adam and Eve with perfection, gave them paradise to live in, and then they betrayed and rebelled against Him by their sin. They spiritually died that very moment yet God in mercy came to them and sought them out. He made a solemn promise, a sacred covenant with Adam and Eve and all mankind: God would send and give His only-begotten Son, that Lamb of God, for the sins of this world. "Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he *is* God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations." Deut. 7:9

I. David's adultery. We are all quite familiar with the account of David's adultery. Though David had several wives of his own, one evening he looked upon and lusted after Bathsheba and led her into sin. In Nathan's parable we see that Uriah, the husband of Bathsheba, was a faithful and good husband to his wife. This poor man loved his ewe lamb. "It grew up together with him, and with his children; it did eat of his own meat, and drank of his own cup, and lay in his bosom." Not only was Bathsheba precious to Uriah, not only did he love his wife deeply and cherish her daily in his heart, but Bathsheba was all this poor man had. Yet one evening, when Uriah was away fighting a war for his king, his own king slew by temptation that one and only lamb which Uriah cherished. David later murdered Uriah to cover Bathsheba's pregnancy.

Woe to that man who looks upon his neighbor's wife with lust. It matters not if she is scantily clad on a magazine, internet, or billboard, she is somebody's beloved daughter or wife - and one sin always leads to another. David's lust led to the deed which led to murder. Jesus said, "whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart." Would you dear husband want another man to lust in his filthy heart after your wife with his eyes? Is it then a small sin for you to covet the wife of another? Now ponder in your heart how great the fire of God's anger against you every time you lust after one who has vowed themselves to another? Adultery is the breaking of the marriage vow either by thought, word, or deed. Jesus likewise said, "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."

II. The cost of adultery. There is a great cost to this sin of adultery. Not only is the trust and confidence of a spouse destroyed, but children also are deeply wounded. Is it fair, is it right for children to grow up in a broken home where father and mother lives miles apart because one or both could not control their own flesh? Those who commit adultery sin against their own soul and the souls of everyone around them. While the Lord always protects the innocent spouse and such is free to remarry in good conscience, God forbids the guilty adulterer from marrying again. Some second marriages today are not valid in God's sight for they are nothing more than a continuation of adultery. There are however some second marriages which are valid, in that both the husband and wife were faithful and innocent in their first marriage. God does allow the innocent to divorce and remarry, "but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge."

What was the cost of David's adultery? **FIRST** David fell from grace, fell from the true faith. Proverbs 6:32 says, "whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he *that* doeth it destroyeth his own soul." **SECOND**, there was the cost of Bathsheba's soul. As the rich man slew the eye lamb, so king David murdered the soul of Bathsheba by way of temptation. Bathsheba should've run away from David when she realized what he wanted. Instead she gave in to her flesh. **THIRD**, Bathsheba had to live the rest of her life with the painful memory that she had been an unfaithful wife to her faithful husband. He died in battle, murdered by her own lover. Did she know? Did David ever tell her? If he told her, she would have to struggle with the thought that had she been faithful her husband would still be alive. The **FOURTH** cost to their sin, their illegitimate offspring would die seven days after birth. **FIFTH**, God would permit a neighbor to force and commit adultery with all of David's wives, "before all Israel, in the sight of this sun." **SIXTH**, because David murdered Uriah with the sword, the sword would never depart from David's house.

Dear children of Adam and Eve, there is a consequence to adultery. Adam and Eve were the first adulterers who lusted after what God had forbidden. To this day we suffer from the sins of our first adulterous parents, and we are born in the sins of our own adulterous parents. Moreover every time we sin we continue the same cycle of adultery by thought, word, and deed. Spiritually speaking, all men and women are adulterers at heart in the sight of God. James writes "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God." Who is that

stranger we lust after? Is she not the world? Don't we sleep with this world when we covet and love her in our heart when we ought to fear, love, and trust in God above all things? Only those who repent of their adultery and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ shall be saved.

Perhaps the final cost of adultery is an evil conscience. While the pleasures of the flesh last but a moment, a bad conscience lasts a lifetime. Every adulterer knows the day will come when God will judge them for this sin. The Bible says "Whoremongers and adulterers God will judge." Those with a guilty conscience are much like Cain after he murdered Abel. A guilty conscience never gives peace no matter where one might roam. Nor can man purge his conscience of this sin.

III. The Lamb that was slain. There is only one remedy for the guilty conscience is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. In Nathan's parable there was talk of a lamb and remember before David was king, David was a shepherd boy who loved and protected his sheep. It is quite possible long ago David had a special lamb which he cherished as a pet. In any case as a king after hearing Nathan's parable, David knew well that justice demanded punishment and payment for sin. "As the Lord liveth, the man that hath done this thing shall surely die!" But the walls of David's proud kingdom came crashing down when God through Nathan declared, "Thou art the man" David! YOU ARE THE ONE DAVID, THAT SLEW THAT LAMB WHICH BELONGED TO ANOTHER! Am I not your King David? Am I not your Lord? Haven't I richly and abundantly given you every good thing you have David? Yet you took and slew a lamb which was not yours David. What then should I do to you David? for your sins David? Didn't you say David *that man* ought to die!"

These words strike us like a spear through the heart. When God condemns us for our sin, we stop making excuses for our sin and inwardly we die. We too with David say, "I have sinned against the Lord." But as our faithful God long ago came to Adam and Eve in the garden with a promise, so our faithful God comes to unfaithful sinners with the promise of the Gospel of the Lamb. In Nathan's parable David slew the lamb. In the New Testament, sinners also slew the Lamb. But in the Gospel promise we see at the same time, the Lamb came to be slain, "to give His life a ransom for many!" Unlike us, Jesus was faithful in all points to God. He kept all God's commandments, was faithful in thought, word, and deed. This Lamb of God then willingly laid down His life for the sins of all men. He paid the true cost of our sin so that we would never die but only live. Upon the cross extended, this King, our Lord, this Messiah whom David was restored to, opened wide His arms yielding

Himself into death, and in this way He gives all sinners life everlasting! Who is your Savior dear Christian, if not the Lord? Isn't this Lamb worthy of all your love? Isn't this the Lamb you should love and cherish and hold dear in our heart, never letting go?

In Christ Jesus our Lord we find perfect healing for the wounds of our adulterous sins. This Lamb of God made our sins His own that we might be called the sons of God. He who is faithful, by our sins was made unfaithful in the sight of our Faithful God - that we the unfaithful might be counted as faithful through His blood. We come to Jesus in rags, but He clothes us with a white wedding dress. We come to Him in the blackness and filth of our sin, but He washes us clean and makes us whole. We come to Him as an engaged woman who has played the harlot before her wedding day, yet He as the Bridegroom looks upon us with mercy. We come to Him like David saying with grief in our heart "I have sinned against the Lord", yet the Lord looks upon us and says "But I have forgiven." The guilty conscience finds perfect peace in the arms of the Bridegroom.

IV. Since God has been faithful to us, let us likewise be faithful to Him. Since God has been faithful to us, let us likewise be faithful to Him. With the gates of paradise open before us, what else can we do on earth but sing His praises? Let us especially rejoice that God will help us to be faithful. Dear Christian, the strength you need to be faithful to your faithful Spouse, is to be found in His faithfulness to you. Drink the cup of forgiveness the Bridegroom gives you and rejoice. Keep His commandments with all your heart be faithful to Him who loved you first. If you are single, keep your body pure and resist temptation, for Christ kept Himself pure for you. If you are married and have taken that vow, be faithful to your spouse and do not defraud one another. Your body belongs to your spouse and their body belongs to you. Be faithful to the wife of your youth. Lead a chaste and decent life in thoughts, desires, words, and deeds. Finally let us rejoice that the day will come when this old man within will forever die, and Christ will take our soul to heaven. For "God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him." Amen.

Tobin Pederson, 7685 Maple Hill Rd. Corcoran, MN,
55340, 763-494-5164, srmn0771
solideogloria96@comcast.net , orthodoxlutheran.org