

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 22-23, 2011

The Story of Nathan and David

Intro: Story- told by Steve Launer (Elder)

“Whoever conceals his Sin will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.” Proverbs 28:13

So what sins are you concealing? What thoughts have you thought? What actions have you committed that quite frankly you hope no one else finds out about? What sin, what mistake are you hiding in the dark?

David tried to hide his sin? It began with a look and a thought. That’s how sin always is, that is how mistakes are made, sin always begins with a look and a thought.

I was driving to the airport in Orlando this past Monday from Palm Beach Gardens. On the Florida turnpike I saw a big sign.....Adult Superstore, Next Exit. I would be lying if I didn’t tell you that when I saw that thoughts came to mind. ‘My flight doesn’t leave for a while, I have the time’. That was my ‘fleeting’ thought. I chose not to act on those thoughts because I know the consequences! I had just heard the stories from Gods Word..... Instead I turned my focus away from self and to God and to the cross and to Gods Spirit where my strength resides. There is no way I can handle my sinful flesh on my own!

The moment that Adam and Eve fell into sin they knew something was different, they knew they were naked. They heard the sound of God walking in the garden and they hid from God.....as if that will work. That’s what people do when they sin, they hid. They keep it a secret or they simply run away and avoid such questions altogether further separating themselves from God.

David was a Godly man, a man after God's own heart. He had experienced the blessings of God in battle, he was a powerful God-fearing King, and God would have given him so much more, so many more blessings if he had not acted upon his looking and thinking which led to his sinning. But with just one look and with just one thought everything changed. But not only did his life change because of his sin, the lives of others were devastated and affected too. A great and powerful general was murdered along with several other men whose families I am sure suffered because of David's sin. And though God forgave this horrible sin of David, still there were consequences as the son of David and Bathsheba died, despite the fasting, despite his prayers of desperation! Because of David's sin the sword of bloodshed and divisiveness never left his house down through the generations as God allowed evil to come and continue to come upon the house of David. And God's punishment unlike the sin of David was done very openly and publicly.

David thought he could hide his sin, David thought he could live with his sin that no one would ever know.....but God knew. We may be able to hide our sin from those closest to us, at least for a while.....but not from God. The story of David and Bathsheba tells us, that there are consequences to sin both in our relationship to God and in relationships with one another. I have seen whole families devastated because of the sin of just one member of the family.

But God is so compassionate and merciful; he forgave the sin of David. After the death of their firstborn David and Bathsheba have another child, a son they called Solomon but God gives him another name, Jedidiah, which in Hebrew means 'Beloved by God.' And then despite God's sword of bloodshed upon the house of David that lasted for generations, it was from this same household that the promised Savior would come into the world not to condemn sinners but to save sinners! He who knew no sin became sin. Jesus received the sword of God, and it was a sword of bloodshed, it was the sword suffering! It was a sword of pain and death that we deserved that we should have received. Jesus willingly received on our behalf..... Knowing this, how can we continue to Sin? How could I allow myself to get off on that exit and sin against my wife and my children and against God, those that I love most in this world? "For I have been

crucified with Christ and it is not me who lives but it is Christ who lives in me! And the Life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave his life for me." Paul says, *'If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is! For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ, in God!'* Alleluia!

To the Colossians and to us Paul says, "Put on then, as Gods chosen ones, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another....forgiving each other....just as the Lord has forgiven you.....and above all this put on love!"

The proverb I began with encourages us to not hide our sin, instead, we are to confess our sins to God and to one another and *forsake them*.....in other words repent! Some are sorry for sin but refuse to forsake them. I love the picture that Samuel paints for us as David repents and cries out to God, "I have sinned against the Lord!" David repented of his blaspheming the Lord and then fasting and prayed.

And with a heart made clean by God's grace and mercy David exclaims, "Cast your burden on the Lord! And he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved." (Psalm 55: 22) That is Gods promise to you today! And God is always faithful to his promises!