“David’s Shame”

2 Samuel 12:1-9, Psalm 51:1-9

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October 19, 2014

Remember last week when we read about God’s people reaching the Promised Land and everything was good?

Roughly 200 years later, we find David’s story.

For the people of Israel, David was expected to be their savior. The hero for their nation. The one who would bring peace and restoration to the people of God.

Back story on his life…

Defeated Goliath

David the shepherd boy becomes king

They are at war currently

Hanging out on the roof and spies Bathsheba in the bath – already has 7 wives

Lusts, pursues her. Impregnates her.

Uh-oh – now evidence of affair.

Has Uriah killed.

That should tidy everything up, David can move on. Right?

Along comes Nathan, the prophet.

David has met him before – he delivered an oracle about God’s promise for David.

Nathan tells this parable about two men and their sheep…

A story told in simple terms and the listener is supposed to conclude that the rich man was wrong!

David reaches that conclusion, but fails to the see the mirror that Nathan has placed in front of him.

Nathan reveals the connection – David is the rich man in the story

He has stolen from a poorer man, a man with no power and authority

He has taken a Bathsheba as his own.

\*She’s often portrayed as the seductress who “asked for it.” But because David was in a position of power – it was not consensual.

Same goes for POTUS having affair with intern.

Startling portion of the story is that David doesn’t recognize himself as the rich man who stole and slaughtered the sheep.

He has what is called “invisible privilege” because of his position of authority.

He doesn’t even realize how much power he possesses.

He’s able to just write off his sinful actions as a “benefit of his job”

But Nathan won’t let him get away with it so easily.

He points out David’s sin and lets him know that God has seen it.

Nathan delivers the bad news that David’s house and lineage will be cursed as a result of his sin.

Those good times in the Promised Land were over, thanks to David’s sinful ways.

Recently we’ve seen a lot of sex scandals related to politicians.

The citizens become outraged because a politicians private life cannot be parsed out from their public life.

To live with integrity at home with family is a good indicator of how they serve in office

More often than not, we see the politician deny the allegations.

They refuse to admit their guilt.

Which usually leads to a bigger mess.

We might expect this same reaction from David when Nathan calls him out for his sin.

He’s a powerful man who has taken great strides to cover up his actions.

And yet, he immediately confesses his sin. He admits it to Nathan right away.

This is the key to the story.

It’s why he is still considered a person of integrity, in spite of his sins.

Later he would further articulate his confession when he puts his words to poetry in Psalm 51.

This extension of his confession reveals just how guilty he feels…

Have mercy, O God, he begs

Wash me clean, he implores

Create in me a clean heart, he pleads

The words of this Psalm are saturated with David’s agony over what he has done.

Anyone reading it can hear David’s sorrow and desire to be forgiven.

Relief for David did not come during his lifetime.

God followed through with that commitment to curse David’s house.

His daughter Tamar was assaulted by her half-brother, one of David’s sons.

Their other brother would take revenge and kill the offending brother.

On a national level, civil war would tear the kingdom apart.

You could say this was a harsh punishment for David’s sin.

Relief did not arrive during David’s lifetime.

It wouldn’t be until many generations later, a child would be born in Bethlehem, the same hometown as David.

This child was from that cursed line of David, but this child would bring grace and love into the world, unlike anything seen before.

Jesus Christ is the answer to that cursed families woes.

The only one who could bring relief and forgiveness for years of sin.

Finally a savior who is without fault. Without sin.

The apostle Paul reminds us that “all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God,” every human in counted in that.

But because of God’s gift in Jesus Christ, grace is made available freely.

As we ponder the story of David – a beloved ruler of Israel,

As we hear the shameful portion of his narrative, we’re reminded of just how much the world is in need of the grace that Jesus Christ offers.

David, a man after God’s own heart, fell into sin and didn’t even realize how wrong his actions were.

But as we see later in the story, Jesus’ grace is more than enough to cover that sin and wash it clean.

His life and ministry, death and resurrection take care of that curse placed upon David’s family tree.

Washing it away as though it never happen.

That same grace washes over each of us, because Christ made it available for each and every one of us.

Thank God we are a forgiven people. A people loved by our creator. Covered in Grace.

Let us pray…