

“SINS COMMITTED”

Pastor Mike Corwin

TEXT: 2 SAMUEL 11:1-15

GOD’S WORD: JOHN 8:1-9

I – TEMPTATION:

We were having a discussion last Sunday in our Sunday school class around the question “Did God Create Evil.” One of the opinions offered was that God didn’t create evil but he did create temptation. Of course I had to offer my witty reply that yes indeed he did when he made a woman to lure the man and get him in trouble with forbidden fruit. I’m talking about the apple but you can apply other things to it as well.

I don’t think I’m that far off base though. As I look at the statistics for unwed mothers and divorce I know that this temptation is alive and well. We’ve even made reality TV shows out of it like TEENAGE MOTHER, LOVE ISLAND, THE BACHELOR AND BACHELORETTE, and let’s not forget LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT. If you’ve ever glanced at one of these shows you will note that there are no people like me on them. No old, ugly, overweight men or women to vie for getting chosen. These shows are not based on love or compatibility...they are based on LUST!

And please take note that this is not a one sided temptation. Men are not the only ones tempted, women are as well. There have been just as many marriages dissolved because the woman stepped out on her partner. This temptation affects both sexes. I’ve often been confused and angered over the story from the Gospel of John you heard read this morning. Verse 3 told us that:

³As he was speaking, the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in the act of adultery.

According to this verse she was “caught in the act.” That tells me she and the man were actively engaged. They had to take the time for her to put on a robe or throw a blanket around her before they drug her out into the street. My question has always been...”WHERE’S THE MAN?” He was in violation of the Jewish law as well but they only drug her in front of Jesus.

II – ALL SIN:

Maybe, or can I even say hopefully, this is not your particular sin, but I have to point out that all of you have sinned against God at one time or another. No matter who you are...no matter how good you think you are...no matter how big a legend you are in your own mind, you have sinned. The Apostle Paul pointed this out in his letter to the Christians in Rome when he said:

²³ For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. (Romans 3:23)

No one ever born, except Jesus Christ, has been sinless.

If you've even just looked at another man or woman you weren't married to and thought "O yeah...I'd like to know them in an intimate way" then you have sinned. Jesus said:

²⁸ But I say, anyone who even looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. (Matthew 5:28)

No one, absolutely no one, is above or without sin. Not even the greatest King of Israel...David. The King who stripped down to his underwear to dance before God in worship as we read about a couple weeks ago. A man who the Bible tells us was a man after God's own heart. A man who established the Kingdom of God on earth as he is in the lineage of Jesus the Son of God.

III – TEXT:

And that brings us to this morning's text as we continue to look at the life of David.

2 Samuel 11:1-15 (NLT)

David and Bathsheba

¹ In the spring of the year, when kings normally go out to war, David sent Joab and the Israelite army to fight the Ammonites. They destroyed the Ammonite army and laid siege to the city of Rabbah. However, David stayed behind in Jerusalem.

² Late one afternoon, after his midday rest, David got out of bed and was walking on the roof of the palace. As he looked out over the city, he noticed a woman of unusual beauty taking a bath. ³ He sent someone to find out who she was, and he was told, "She is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite." ⁴ Then David sent messengers to get her; and when she came to the palace, he slept with her. She had just completed the purification rites after having her menstrual period. Then she returned home. ⁵ Later, when Bathsheba discovered that she was pregnant, she sent David a message, saying, "I'm pregnant."

⁶ Then David sent word to Joab: "Send me Uriah the Hittite." So Joab sent him to David. ⁷ When Uriah arrived, David asked him how Joab and the army were getting along and how the war was progressing. ⁸ Then he told Uriah, "Go on home and relax." David even sent a gift to Uriah after he had left the palace. ⁹ But Uriah didn't go home. He slept that night at the palace entrance with the

king's palace guard. ¹⁰ When David heard that Uriah had not gone home, he summoned him and asked, "What's the matter? Why didn't you go home last night after being away for so long?" ¹¹ Uriah replied, "The Ark and the armies of Israel and Judah are living in tents, and Joab and my master's men are camping in the open fields. How could I go home to wine and dine and sleep with my wife? I swear that I would never do such a thing." ¹² "Well, stay here today," David told him, "and tomorrow you may return to the army." So Uriah stayed in Jerusalem that day and the next. ¹³ Then David invited him to dinner and got him drunk. But even then he couldn't get Uriah to go home to his wife. Again he slept at the palace entrance with the king's palace guard.

David Arranges for Uriah's Death

¹⁴ So the next morning David wrote a letter to Joab and gave it to Uriah to deliver. ¹⁵ The letter instructed Joab, "Station Uriah on the front lines where the battle is fiercest. Then pull back so that he will be killed."

Next to the defeat of Goliath with his sling shot and a stone, this is probably the best known story about David. And it's a story of sin. The writer starts out with a dig at David. David was known and celebrated for all of his victories in battle. God was always with him and handed his enemies over to him. Here we see that David is shirking his duties and staying home from the battles he has sent his army to engage in. Perhaps the author is pointing out that if David would have done his duty, none of the following would have even happened...but it did. David's leisure became an occasion for lust.

David has just finished his afternoon nap and went out to walk on the roof of the palace. His palace is on the hill so his roof is higher than that of the people below, the homes built on the side of the hill and lower. As he looks down he sees a woman who the scripture says was of "unusual beauty" and she's taking a bath. Arguments have been made over the years that she was showing things she shouldn't have been showing, that she should not have put herself on display like she did. Instead of being a chauvinistic person like the Jewish men were in that time and even in story from Jesus' time we read earlier, where the man is always right and the woman is always wrong, we need to read the story more closely. If we did we would see it plainly pointed out that she was engaged in a bath set forth by the Jewish law. Instructions given to the people by Moses. She was a Torah observing daughter of Israel.

David was so struck by her beauty that he inquired and found out who she was. Then he had her summoned to the palace where it tells us that he slept with her. It never tells us if she was a willing participant or not but when you are considered to just be a piece of property by the customs of the time and it's the King who's giving the orders then you really don't have a choice in the matter. You just comply.

Then the really bad news..."I'm pregnant." Even the King is not above the law so he sets various things in motion to get her husband back to town and sleep with his wife so everyone will think the

baby is naturally theirs. Especially Uriah, the husband. But it doesn't work, even when he gets Uriah drunk. David slept with his wife illegitimately but Uriah keeps his vows of purity for battle and refused to violate them and defile himself.

So what's a king to do? We can't have this out in the public. The common people can't know. There can be no scandal. So David arranges to have Uriah murdered in battle. Adultery and murder, so much for the man after God's own heart.

IV – JOHN 8:

I want to go back to the Gospel story in John 8 for a moment. The woman has been rudely drug into the middle of a crowd, probably of people who lived in that town and knew the woman. Even worse she was drug into the presence of the new rabbi, the one who has been traveling around preaching and teaching. She now meets Jesus face to face.

The religious folk who drug her there want her to be stoned to death. The law of Moses said that's what's supposed to happen. They are willing to take her life just to prove a point to Jesus, or even better trap him in something he could be stoned for. They already have the stones in their hands waiting to act. Willing to kill her. But then Jesus gives us the answer that gets quoted a lot, even in today's society:

⁷ They kept demanding an answer, so he stood up again and said, "All right, but let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone!" (John 8:7)

And then we read that no one threw even a pebble, because they all knew they were not without sin. We must drop our stones to the ground too because none of us is without sin either.

V – MEETING JESUS:

I'm going to leave you right there today. I'm going to leave you thinking about your own self, about your own sins and save the Good News for next Sunday.

You see we will all, like that woman, get drug before Jesus someday. We too will meet him face to face. We will know that he is fully aware of how we've lived. My question is..."what will you do with that meeting?"

I encourage you to spend this next week in thoughtful prayer. I want you to particularly think about the things you've said, thought, or done that was or is a sin against God. Then next week we'll see how you're face to face with Jesus can turn out OK.

AMEN