

and mercy. Thank God we have the gift of confession and absolution, so we don't have to kill each other, but repent and be restored. As we sacrifice ourselves and our desires we live the love God has for us.

Let us pray. Jesus, thanks for the gift of our sexuality. Thanks that you have made us male and female. Thanks for the gift of marriage. Open up our hearts and minds that we seek to love each other as we are loved by you. Help to

create an atmosphere that is conducive to being open and honest, so that we do confess and receive forgiveness readily. Jesus help us to learn from David and not turn our back on your good gifts but use them according to your will because we know we can trust you with our lives, and that includes our sex lives. Amen.

Christ Church Lutheran

Worship Times - 9.00am & 10.45am
Pastor: Tim 0427326553



Reaching Out with the Love of Jesus that All my Know, Worship & Grow in Christ

29 August 2010

DAVID & BATHSHEBA

2 Samuel 11



Today we're looking at the story of David and Bathsheba, which raises the hot issue of sex. Is sex good? Yes. Can it be misused? Certainly.

(David's Temptation)

The story begins with David feeling secure and successful. Is this the first chink in his armour which makes David open to temptation? David has had to depend on God, listening to his lead, trusting his word to get to where he is today. Now feeling secure and successful, does David trust in himself?

When I'm feeling secure in myself, trusting my own strength and feeling comfortable, am I more open to temptation?

David is surveying his Kingdom, and then he

sees Bathsheba, what could he have done? Life is full of points of decision which can strengthen us or lead us up the garden path.

This reminds me that the old saying; 'You can look but don't touch' is a load of rubbish. Anyone who says pornography doesn't do any harm is just kidding themselves. Jesus obviously thinks so: "But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman (or man) lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart." (Matt. 5:28)

David had the choice to look or turn away. He chose to look and was drawn in deeper. If he had chosen to turn away, and go to one of his wives, the story

would have certainly been different.

Looking at people lustfully doesn't produce the healthy loving relationship Jesus desires us to enjoy. We start to see the other person as a commodity we have to have. David knew nothing about Bathsheba, except here was a commodity he wanted and as king he took it. But it didn't bring about the happiness he had first hoped for.

God's desire is that, "a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh." (Genesis 2:24)

Notice this is not a secret, but open to all. Adam wanted everyone to celebrate his love for

Eve. He wanted to share this joy. David's affair with Bathsheba was clandestine. Pornography is often in secret, hidden, and always artificial and exploitive. Not Jesus' formula for a healthy, loving relationship.

The whole nation isn't celebrating with their King at his new found love.

Marriage is a time for the community, and especially family to gather and celebrate the joy of a special relationship, giving their blessing and promising their support. David and Bathsheba certainly had none of this.

What happened next? Things went from bad to worse.

(David tries to solve things without the LORD)

Bathsheba is pregnant, and David moves from being unfaithful, to being a deceiving

manipulator and ultimately a murderer. He had to keep his secret. He was now feeling locked in, and figures he'll manipulate his way out of an unpleasant situation.

I wonder how this was making Bathsheba feel? Wanted, appreciated, valued, or hidden,

David seeks life by scheming death!

ashamed, used, what a mess. No day in the sun with the nation cheering and David declaring his love for her publically. Instead Bathsheba is hiding, no doubt afraid, what will happen to her. If David can dispose of her husband, could he also dispose of her.

David's integrity is in tatters at this point. I'm sure David would have also been a mess of emotions, fears and regrets. If only I hadn't

laid eyes on her. If only I hadn't had sex with her. If only she'd go away, there'd be no problem. I wonder what thoughts tore through David's mind?

Instead of using his power and possession to help those in need, he destroys one who is putting his life on the line for David.

What a twisted mess, and the more David twists and turns the deeper he digs his own grave. David has gone

from the highs of sex to the depths of murder. Things certainly haven't worked out for the best. David has reached crossroads and instead of choosing to come clean he has chosen to keep hiding.

Isn't it interesting how we kill things hoping for life? David kills Uriah hoping to have life with Bathsheba. Where in have you ever been tempted by the belief that if you kill something you'll set

yourself free. Kill a relationship to avoid the embarrassment of confessing. Kill our emotions rather than acknowledge guilt. Kill Jesus clear words rather than miss-out. Where are we tempted to believe death is the way to life?

Jesus is crucified because people believed that was the way to save their temple and their nation. Jesus doesn't kill anyone, but sacrifices himself, for the murderers. This reminds me that Jesus believes sacrifice, self-sacrifice is the true mark of love.

What happens next?

(The LORD doesn't give up)

God sends the prophet Nathan, and get's David to accuse himself. Isn't it great to see that God doesn't give up on David and wash his hands of him.

David must have been breaking God's heart. God and David had been through so much together, through thick and thin. And now David was playing games, hiding from God, hiding from himself, destroying himself.

When Nathan

David only hides from himself.

encounters David again he is faced with a choice. This time he comes clean and repents. This time David is broken and has nowhere else to turn except God's mercy. God has stepped in a broken this horrid downward cycle that David was powerless to break free of.

Nathan's words remind David that he hasn't hidden anything from God. All David had achieved was to despise

God's love for him. This was all in full view of God. The only person being fooled was David. David ended up hiding from himself, ended up losing himself, and greatly damaging his relationship with Bathsheba.

Thank God David repented. Thank God, God didn't give up, but pursued the one he loves, just as in Jesus God has pursued us.

What have you learned from this story of David and Bathsheba?

I'm reminded that being a sexual human being is a good gift from God, but when I use it according to my desires I have the capacity to really mess up my life and those I sought to love.

I'm reminded that hiding isn't the way out of a mess, but being open and honest, trusting God's grace