

Text: 2 Samuel 11:1-15 (John 6:1-21)  
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Location: Zion Lutheran Church- North Battleford, SK.  
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Grace and Peace be unto you from our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!

I imagine that most people here have heard of Henry Ford. For those of us who have never heard of him, he is the originator of the famous Model T car and subsequent industrial revolution. All of those cars you see on the road adorned with a shiny blue oval on their hood are products of the company he started.

What most people don't know, is besides being an accomplished business man, Henry Ford was also a deeply committed family man. He supported his church, he supported his community, and he supported improved working standards and quality of life for his employees and their families.

Henry Ford also deeply valued his wife and his children (remember the Edsel?). When Henry Ford and his wife of 50 years celebrated their "golden" wedding anniversary, a reporter asked him, "To what do you attribute your 50 years of successful life?"

"The formula", Ford responded, "Is the same formula I have always used in making cars- just stick to one model."

Today as we heard read aloud to us the reading from the Old Testament about King David, Bathsheba, and Uriah we were probably wondering why David couldn't just stick to his "one model" (truth be told, David had a plethora of wives- a harem so to speak).

It appears that David lapsed into the seemingly age-old sin of discontentment. By any standards, King David had it all. He was a mighty king. He controlled much land. He enjoyed the favor of God. But as we heard today, that wasn't enough- King David wanted more.

Interestingly, we seem to be told in this lesson (2 Samuel 11) that David might have been getting a little lazy. While his troops and officers are out fighting vicious battles (on his behalf), we find King David at home in his golden palace sleeping off a hang-over and waking up late in the afternoon. (2 Sam. 11:2)

After David stretches a bit, he journeys up to his roof for a stroll. And then from his high perch he sees a woman bathing- and we are told that she was "beautiful". David taken by her beauty, decides he needs her for himself (hey, if a king has an itch, he gets to scratch it)- so David sends a servant to find out who this stunningly beautiful woman was.

It is reported back to David that the woman whom has caught his attention is named Bathsheba- and furthermore she is married to Uriah who is a prominent soldier in David's army!

Unfortunately, David is not moved by this information, and sends his servants to "get her" (when the king calls, you come). Now, to make a graphic story short, David has sex with her and she finds herself pregnant.

Now, a few Sunday's ago, for children's time a brought a bag of Lay's potato chips with me. And I made a play on the ad that says, "I bet you can't stop at one!" the children and I talked, and we discussed how sin was like this. That more often than not, one sin leads to another and another.

What happens next in David's story is a classic case of this hypothesis coming true.

Now, that David has committed adultery and impregnated the wife of one of his leading soldiers, he feels that he must do something. Unfortunately, rather than confessing his sins and seeking forgiveness from Bathsheba and her husband Uriah- David decides to try and cover up his past sinful acts with other sinful acts. I imagine that we have all probably been guilty of this from time to time (hopefully to a lesser extent!) For instance, maybe we have told a lie and then had to cover it up with another lie.

There is a real contrast between this story of King David and Bathsheba and our gospel lesson (John 6: 1-21). In the account of the "feeding of five thousand", we witness how God works to bless and multiply the good. Here in this miraculous story, we witness how a young child offers all of his food to Christ- some bread and fish. Christ takes this

generous offering- blesses it- multiplies it- and feeds over the over 5000 people who have come to hear him preach and teach.

As we see in the account of David and Bathsheba, us humans are good at multiplying too! Unfortunately, unlike God, we are good at multiplying sin and evil. Just consider how David tries to cover up his sin with Bathsheba by mistreating and eventually killing Uriah.

There is no doubt about it, David found himself in a tough position (one he caused mind you), he had fornicated with Bathsheba while she was bound in marriage to one of his faithful soldiers and now to make matters worse, she was pregnant. Since Bathsheba's husband Uriah was off in a distant land, their sin would be obvious to all. There was simply no way to hide their indiscretion.

So David hatched a truly evil plan. He called Uriah home from the front lines in the hopes that Uriah would see his lovely wife and "lie with her". The point of this plan was to make Uriah assume that the baby to be born was his.

Unfortunately, for David, Uriah was an honourable and noble soldier. When David asked Uriah why he did not go down to his house to be with his wife, Uriah replied that he choose to stay with the servants because as long as his men were at battle and Israel was threatened, he would not enjoy any luxuries. Uriah wanted to be in solidarity with the men he served with. Obviously, this is in stark contrast to David whom surrounded himself with every luxury known and even went as far as to sleep with the wives of his officers.

Because Uriah would not give into his King's plan, David had to come up with another solution. This time (in an attempt to cover up his sin with Bathsheba) he decided to have Uriah killed.

David sent Uriah back to the front lines with a note that told Joab, the commander (2 Sam. 11:15), to put Uriah on the front lines where the fighting is heaviest and then pull back from him so that he might be left alone and then killed.

This is what happened, and though Uriah was killed by the sword of the enemy, ultimately it was King David whom was responsible for his death.

While this might be an extreme case, hopefully we can see from parallels in our own lives. I can imagine that we have all experienced a time when one sin lead to another, or even when one small lie necessitated an even bigger one.

King David sinned. And while that might have been the start of his downfall, it was his response to his sin that ultimately lead to violence, destruction and death.

There is a lesson for each of us here in this story. Yes, we are in bondage to sin. There will be times in each of our lives (maybe even daily) that we will fail to live up to the glory that God has intended for us- but what we should never forget is that we serve a gracious and loving God, a God that desires to hear our sins, our fears, and our repentance.

Through the life, ministry, love, death, and resurrection of Christ, God has promised that he will forgive us, strengthen us, lead us, and bless us.

If King David had just taken a minute and gotten on his knees and made a sincere confession, I imagine that things would have turned out differently. But rather David tried to be his God solving his own problems single handedly through deceit and deception.

Just like that young child who offered Christ all he had on the shore of Bethsaida, we are called to offer all of ourselves to God. "Here you go God, do what you can to me," we say as we offer ourselves.

David's problem was that he looked at the world and said, "What can you do for me?" This is in contrast to God who calls us to ask out to our neighbour, "What can I do for you?"

Amen