

Advent 2017

King David

THE PAINFUL TRUTH OF
DAVID'S LATER YEARS



Advent Prayer

Word of God: Psalm 51:3-8, 12-14

Father of mercy, like the prodigal son I return to you and say: “I have sinned against you and am no longer worthy to be called your son.”

Christ Jesus, Savior of the world, I pray with the repentant thief to whom you promised paradise: “Lord remember me in your kingdom”

Holy Spirit, fountain of love, I call on you with trust: “Purify my heart and help me to walk as a child of the light”



David's Sin 2 Samuel 11:1-27

David remained in Jerusalem while army risks lives in battle

Sees Bathsheba, “wife of Uriah” + “had relations with her”

Bathsheba: “I am with child”

David vs. Uriah

D to U: “Go to your house and bathe your feet”

U – “The ark and Israel are lodged in tents... I will do no such thing...”

U made to carry his own death warrant to Joab

D to Joab: “Do not be troubled by this...” 12:25

U = greater concern for God’s covenant than D as king

“The Lord was displeased with what D had done” 11:27

Nathan's Parable

Nathan sent by God to speak truth to power

How?

N's parable: poor man's ewe lamb was "like a daughter to him" 12:3

David – "The man who has done this merits death!"

Nathan – ***"You are the man"***

"Why have you spurned the Lord and done evil in his sight?"

Consequences of David's Sin

“Now, therefore, ***the sword shall never depart from your house,*** because you have despised me and have taken the wife of Uriah to be your wife. Thus says the Lord: ‘***I will bring evil upon you out of your own house...***’” 12:10-11

David's repentance – “I have sinned against the Lord”

Nathan – “The Lord has forgiven you, you shall not die”



David's Family Problems

Amnon = D's oldest son, heir to throne

Tamar = Amnon's half-sister, **Absalom** is her brother

Amnon is sick with lust for **Tamar**, schemes to accost her succeeds, shames her, rejects her

David hears about it, does nothing, because he favors **Amnon** –
13:21

Absalom's Revenge

Absalom eventually kills **Amnon**, flees into exile

D invites **Absalom** to return, pardons him

Absalom's rugged beauty – 14:25-26

Absalom leads a rebellion against D, D flees into exile w/ great anguish and sadness – 15:16

D watches his world fall apart, family is consumed with anger, revenge, murder, rebellion

David and Absalom

Absalom → cold, calculating, unscrupulous, ruthless, utterly amoral

D to Joab before battle: “Be gentle with young **Absalom** for my sake”
18:5

“**Absalom** hangs between heaven and earth” 18:9

“D weeps: “My son, **Absalom**! My son, my son **Absalom**! If only I had died instead of you, **Absalom**, my son, my son!” 19:1

David's Census

2 Samuel 24

David to Joab: "Take a census"

"Afterwards D regretted having numbered the people... ***"I have sinned grievously in what I have done... I have been very foolish"*** – 2 Sam 24:10

Prophet Gad: 3 harsh choices – a) 3 years of famine, b) 3 months of war, or c) 3 days of plague

D's choice: "c" = reflects his trust and knowledge of God – placing the nation in the mercy of God for 3 days rather than humans oppressors

D confesses to God: Lord, don't punish the people for my sins... punish me!

70,000 die, but Jerusalem is spared by God – D was right to trust God's mercy



Advent Reflection

The season of Advent invites us to welcome the coming of Christ in the spirit of authentic repentance.

St. John Paul II wrote: ***“It is one’s whole existence that becomes penitential, that is to say, directed towards a continuous striving for what is better. But doing penance is something authentic and effective only if it is translated into deeds and acts of penance.”***

How can I embrace a deeper sense of true repentance and sincere conversion to Christ this week?

