

June 12, 2016

11th Sunday in Ordinary time.

2Sam 12:7-10,13

Psalm 32:1-2,5,7,11

Gal 2:16,19-21

Luke 7:36-8:3

The prophet Nathan confronts David who has let his great power bring him to sin. David was always the Lord's favorite but now acted more like a spoiled son. He took Bathsheba as his own and arranged for her husband Uriah to be killed in battle. While Nathan brought the whole issue before David as if another had done such a deed, David indicated that such a perpetrator should repay fourfold and this foreshadows the death of David's four sons. David's actions were done secretly but his punishment will be made public and the son Bathsheba brings to life through David will die, while David's life is spared.

The psalmist acknowledges his sins and the Lord has given forgiveness. Distress is replaced by joy in knowing the Lord is a saving God. The wicked who will not confess their wrongdoing are an unhappy lot but the upright who repent can rejoice.

Paul explains that we are put in right relation with God by faith in Jesus and not the legal observances described in the Torah, the first five books of the Old Testament that expound the "law." Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy contain God's guidance to the Israelites so that they can achieve a peaceful state while Jesus' teachings will bring them to a greater fulfillment.

Jesus was invited to the house of Simon the Pharisee where a woman of ill repute anoints the feet of Jesus. To Simon this sinful woman should not be allowed to touch another and most likely finds it embarrassing and thinks Jesus cannot be a prophet or else he would not allow this kind of behavior. Jesus tells a parable of two people, both forgiven their debts with one of the debts much greater than the other. Even Simon must admit that the one forgiven the greater debt is more appreciative than the other. Jesus indicates that the woman's many sins are forgiven and hence she has shown a great love but Simon most likely is the one who has been forgiven the lesser amount and is less able to show the appropriate depth of love and gratitude.



The Father relinquishes our sins to the Son who forgives them,
while the Holy Spirit guides us to repentance.

The readings emphasize the need for forgiveness of sins some as great as the killing David arranged, while others in the category of the gospel's sinful woman. The psalmist makes a point clearly: forgiveness from God comes through acknowledgement of wrongdoing. The Israelites had the "law" to guide them, a kind of traffic light that told them when to be cautious, or stop, or go ahead. But that signal never gave them the power to stop or go and it is Jesus who brings love and spiritual guidance over and above the law.

My friends don't be so curious about everything and don't pursue worthless cares. What is this happening or that happening to you? Follow Jesus' Way!

What does it matter whether some persons speak this or that or what they do? You are not responsible for others and do not have to answer for them; it is for your own actions that you will have to give an account. So why even bother to gossip about the trivialities of others? Most worldly things only bring distractions and cloud your thinking. Be careful in thought, watchful in prayer, and live in humility. (Adapted from Imitations, Book III, Chapt 24)