

Day 41 – Mar. 27

Today, we begin to see the moral decline of the House of David. As we mentioned last time, David's failure with Uriah - for that is how the bible see is as opposed to our perspective that his failure was with Bathsheba (and the reality is that his moral failure is with both) – has the consequence of a complete loss of moral authority within his own family. And now we see the result which sadly reflects David's own failure step for step – first a rape and then a murder.

But we also see the natural humanity of King David, until now almost a mythic figure. David begs for forgiveness from God, even writes an entire Psalm about it, and received God's grace. Yet when the same befalls his own son, he is unwilling to forgive until confronted. And the confrontation by this wise woman from Tekoa rings familiar to those reading the whole book together. It is strikingly similar to the way Nathan approached David about Uriah's murder. And so, chastened by this woman sent by Joab, David relents and allows Absalom to return, though not to his presence, a far less complete forgiveness than God's.

But the most striking part of today's reading is not the rape, nor the murder, nor the Nathan-ing of David again, but rather the Gospel. In one of the most direct presentations of the gospel message in the Old Testament, this unnamed woman from Tekoa states, "But God does not just sweep life away; instead, He devises ways to bring us back when we have been separated from Him." WOW! The Good News of Jesus Christ spoken 1000 years before Christ's birth through an unnamed woman to a King who should know it better than most.

The Gospel most often comes from those of us who will not be remembered in history, by those considered "less" in this world's power structures, and is an act of speaking truth to Power. Who among us would speak to the President in such baldly Gospel terms? Hopefully every one of us who might get the chance.