

June 12, 2016  
2 Samuel 11:25-12:15

Proper 6c  
A Steamy/Teary Confession

*Grace, mercy, and peace be yours from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.*

Most Americans I would say love a good steamy Romantic Thriller. You see them on TV – especially in the Day Time Soap Operas. You see them in book stores – 50 Shades of Grey. You see movies made out of such books.

Many people know the story of King David and Bathsheba, even those that aren't followers of the Bible. They knew this story because there are some thrills and chills. It could really be written into a romantic suspense novel or person even into a TV miniseries or even a steamy Rated R movie. After all there are some hot and steamy moments in the story.

Think about it this. You have a king. You have a beautiful woman who is married to one of the king's best military men. There's an illicit affair. There's an attempt at a cover-up. There's the plotting, the abuse of power, treachery, murder. A sly wedding. The scandal! Many steamy moments. Just think what Hollywood would do with this. Really, the world, which includes you and see this story of David and Bathsheba as a story that gets our hearts racing and excitement up. Isn't this why the world was so enthralled with 50 Shades of Grey when that came out? Even some of you fell prey to written pornography. One would think that's what this story is about. Yet the Bible impresses on us the Dark Side of David and Bathsheba.

This isn't a steamy love story that came from a secret illicit affair which is filled with murder. Really this story is about the ugly effects of sin spinning out of control.

It happened innocently enough. David probably didn't intend to commit a grievous sin that evening. But let his wandering eye stop at a sight he had no business looking at...the wife of one of his neighbor's bathing. And that one little sin of steamy lust, set into motion a series of sins and events, that would eventually leave two people dead, and a royal family forever stained with strife. What happened to David is what happens to often when people tell a lie? Lies have a snowball effect, don't they? You only tell one lie...but then you need to tell another to cover up the previous, and then lies start getting defensive. I'm sure you can think of lies you have told that happened like this.

In David's case, one steamy sin led to another. After the steamy affair, news came out that Bathsheba was pregnant. David had to move quickly to cover this up. He tried to get Uriah, the husband to come home, so everyone would assume this was a normal pregnancy. Uriah wouldn't go home. David adds on to this steamy love story by getting Uriah drunk, figuring when he was feeling good he'd go home to his wife. NOPE, not a chance. So David is now getting desperate. He writes a letter to the commanding officer, effectively giving Uriah his death sentence. To add to this steamy story, David has Uriah deliver the letter himself. After Uriah is killed David marries the widow to comfort her in her loss.

What went wrong? What went wrong was steamy sin after steam sin. A failure to check sin in at the door while it was still small. A failure to confess. And a denial of sin after it had gotten seemingly and steamingly out of control. And before we send King David to the wolves, look at your life and ask if you ever feel like David in regards to your own sin. Have you ever found yourself saying something to the effect of, "I don't think it's very Christian that so-and-so is doing such things?" You don't feel bad about your own sins, when you can find someone doing worse things than you. If you can find someone living in open steamy sin, the steamy secret sins in your heart don't look nearly as bad. Looking at steamy pictures on the internet or watching steamy movies isn't as bad as those people having sex outside of marriage or even those supporting the GLBT agenda. Yet society is saying those things are okay. Are you? What is marriage? Who should be in the girls' or boys' bathrooms and locker-rooms? Is cohabitating okay? What about divorce? Aren't these all based on sexual sins that the Lord forbids? They are breaking the sixth commandment, fourth commandment, and so many more!

Perhaps you might say, "Isn't it terrible that in the name of religion, a hate-filled terrorist beheads innocent people," as you think that the hateful grudge you carry around is okay for you to as a Christian. It's easy for you and I to reason that a harmless little feeling or a steamy picture or two isn't as bad as violence or the actual act of adultery.

When you and I find ourselves in denial of the seriousness of our sins, no matter how big or small they are, we are forgetting the story of King David. You see this whole episode began with one little steamy sin. One harmless and yet so steamy lustful thought where David thought!! "WOW. LOOK AT HER! ISN'T SHE HOTTT!!" And are your sins any less dangerous!?!

Fortunately for you, for us, the Lord has a way of knocking us upside the head when we start to take our sins lightly. He did that for David by sending Him, Nathan.

In our text from 2 Samuel, Nathan used a clever tactic to get David to understand the significance and seriousness of his steamy sins. Nathan could have bluntly said, "King David, I know what you did, and it was wrong." That would have been easy for David to continue in his lying and his denials of the steamy sins...that are oh so public. It would have been easy for David to say, "Get your facts straight, that isn't really how things went." Rather, Nathan comes at David in a different direction...he tells David a story, the story of the rich man and beggar. He wants David to feel in his heart the injustice that this beggar got at the hand of the rich man. David is drawn into the story and seethes in anger and blows up at him, saying, "This man deserves to die." Then the suspense builds and Nathan tells David... "YOU ARE THE MAN!" David feels the steaming anger God has at him for the sins. You see God is angry with sin, and he's angry with your sin.

All of a sudden, climactically David is confronted with the weight of those sins that he was trying so hard to hide...trying so hard to keep secret, that came out to light. He collapsed under the pressure of the law. We can almost hear his sobbing and wailing and see his tears fall to the earth as he confesses before his shepherd, "I HAVE SINNED AGAINST THE LORD!"

Back when I was in 5<sup>th</sup> grade a neighbor of mine was trapped in a hole as he was trying to dig a well. In a sense he was being buried alive as the sand and soil was collapsing around him. He could breathe, but couldn't move. During his ordeal he was feeling the crushing weight of the sand and soil around his body. He couldn't escape on his own, actually the more he tried, the more stuck he became. That's how King David felt when he came face-to-face with the severity of his sins. He after all was becoming more stuck each time he tried to get out his sin on his own.

I hope you have felt like this before. This is a good feeling...it's not a pleasant or enjoyable one. For coming face-to-face with sin is not easy, but it's good and necessary. For you cannot go through life just saying, "I'm a believer! I go to church sometimes, I give my tithe, so that makes me okay with the Lord. I've done my part." David had become complacent and apathetic that he nearly lost his faith. Some argue that he did lose his faith. If he would have died in that state, we would have to lump him in with a guy like Judas Iscariot, who himself committed a heinous sin and then committed suicide and are told that it would be better off for him if he had never been born. You see this somber reality and it should shock us back to reality when we find ourselves playing with a sin and thinking we are indispensable. Much healthier though is feeling the weight of those sins and knowing there is nothing that you can do to escape the rubble of steamy sin that is collapsing around you.

Because when there is no escape based upon what you and I do, the Lord miraculously provides a way out.

Back in the day, sins of adultery were punishable by death. Even in some countries they still are. Murder in some states is still punishable by death. In the case of Israel, adultery was a death sentence...so that put David in a tight spot. Even as king, he deserved to die for his steamy sins, both legally and eternally.

Yet remember what David confessed to Nathan, "I Have sinned against the Lord." I am even guessing he named his sins of adultery, deceit, murder, lying, and so many more. Yet Nathan says to David, "The Lord has taken away your sin. You are not going to die." Through the prophet Nathan, the gracious Lord gave David a way out. David wasn't going to die by the law. The grace extended even more, you see David deserved hell for the adultery of Bathsheba and the murder of Uriah and the countless other sins he committed. The Lord was even going to spare David from that. You see, one of David's descendants would be born about a 1000 years later. This descendant would also be a king, but unlike King David, this king would be punished for sins, not for the sins he committed, for he committed no sin, he would be punished for the sins of the people. It was going to be through this unfair execution of the cross that King David would be declared forgiven and free.

It's not just David that is told "You are the Man!" You also deserve death and hell for your sins, not matter how "serious" they are in the eyes of man. For each sin is serious in the eyes of God. Each sin needs repentance. Each sin needs forgiveness. For it's not just David that is declared forgiven and free at the cross, it's you as well.

Perhaps when you came to church this morning, you were taking your sins lightly, but I hope and pray that you see that your sins are serious...no matter how steamy they look on earth. I pray that you see that your sins reserve a steamy spot in hell for you. I pray that as you see the seriousness of your sin and hear those words, "YOU ARE THE MAN," that you too weep and wail may confess your steamy sin, and at the cross of Jesus you see your forgiveness. At the cross of Jesus, you receive your forgiveness. Jesus Christ died so that you can hear these words, "I by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of Christ, forgive your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Amen.

Through Christ, you will not receive death or even take up your place in hell, for he did that for you, rather you have a spot reserved in heaven.

Hollywood could offer us a steamy rated R movie based on David and Bathsheba. Perhaps they could also snoop around in your life and find some steamy sins to put on public array and celebrate, but yet that isn't what this story, this text is all about. It's all about the seriousness of sin and also about the abundant grace of God, who loves even the worst of sinners. As we see David being forgiven, know that you too are forgiven for your steamy sins of adultery, murder, gossip, greed, and so many more. You are Christ's precious and redeemed children!

In Jesus Name. Amen.

*Now may the peace of God which passes all human understanding, guard your hearts and your minds and keep them focused in Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior. Amen.*