

JANUARY 29, 2022
Saturday of the 3rd Week in OT
Mark 4: 35-41

“PEACE! BE STILL!”

In our First Reading today, the sin of King David was exposed. The Lord sent Prophet Nathan to David to tell this truth. Nathan started their conversation with a story about a man snatching the only lamb a poor man has. David got angry and devastated but Nathan told him that the man was him – he stole the wife of Uriah.

“Nathan then goes on (not part of our reading) to list some of the things that David had received from the Lord, including the wives and harem (spaces reserved for women in the house) of his predecessor, Saul. ‘I gave you your lord’s house and your lord’s wives for your own.’ In spite of being surrounded by so many women, he goes and steals another man’s wife and then has Uriah killed by the Ammonites, the enemy they were fighting. But it was really David who had killed Uriah; he was no tragic victim of battle. Speaking in God’s name Nathan spells out David’s punishment: violence and death will come to his own family: three of his sons, Amnon, Absalom and Adonijah will all die violent deaths. ‘I will bring evil on you out of your own house. I will take your wives while you live to see it and will give them to your neighbour. He shall lie with your wives in broad daylight.’ All this took place during the rebellion of David’s son Absalom, when David was forced to flee his palace but left behind ten concubines. David’s wives would be taken just as he had taken the wife of Uriah. Finally, what David thought he had done in secret becomes public knowledge.”¹ The consequence of David’s action was the death of the child, the fruit of his adultery – the price of his sin. David asked for the Lord’s forgiveness by fasting, wearing sackcloth, and sleeping on the ground, signs of repentance.

¹ livingspace.sacredspace.ie

My sisters and brothers, in God's eyes we are condemn not because of our sins but our denial to ask forgiveness and change our practices and ways. When we express our true sorrow, our metanoia, the change of heart, God's mercy is with us. God desires to have life and not the death of a sinner as Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."² God's forgiveness brought peace and contentment, anxiety and fear are wipe out. Only in Jesus we can experience serenity and tranquillity. This is what our gospel is telling us, too. When the disciples experienced the storm, afraid and frightened they approached Jesus, and He calmed the sea and the wind, reminded them to have faith and be not afraid. Jesus is telling the disciples I am with you do not fear. Even if we sinned against Him, Jesus is willing to forgive us, we just need to approach Him, have a sincere and deep remorse for our sins.

Let us therefore look at ourselves. When we speak and do bad things to others, do we say sorry and ask for forgiveness? Do I sincerely apologize? How about with our Lord, do we go to confession when we do evil things? Let us ask the Lord in this Eucharist that we may acknowledge our sinful acts and take full responsibility for our action especially those we have hurt and turn to God for healing that we may be made whole persons again. If we approach our Lord with humility and sincerity, the Lord will tell us 'Peace and be still' like what He did in calming the wind and the sea. So, like in our Responsorial Psalm, we pray: 'Create a clean heart in me, O God.'

² John 10:10 Holy Bible NRSVCE Canadian Bible Society