

A Good Confession

2 Samuel 12:1-7, 13-15

Cast off all sluggishness today to follow the Lord's royal way.

How is the Lord calling you to enter into spiritual battle right now?

You are in the royal palace in Jerusalem. David succumbs to temptation when he allows his desires to take him away from his present responsibilities. He has taken for granted what he has and lost sight of the glory of God.

Pray that the Lord draws you out of sloth to embrace the kingly mission he has given you. Pray for the grace of freedom and humility for all Exodus Men, just as they are praying for you.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Lord and Master of my life, spare me from the spirit of indifference, despair, lust for power, and idle chatter. Instead, bestow on me, your servant, the spirit of integrity, humility, patience, and love. Yes, O Lord and King, let me see my own sins and not judge my brothers and sisters; for you are blessed forever and ever. Amen.

A Reading from the Second Book of Samuel

And the Lord sent Nathan to David. He came to him, and said to him, "There were two men in a certain city, the one rich and the other poor. The rich man had very many flocks and herds; but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. And he brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children; it used to eat of his morsel, and drink from his cup, and lie in his bosom, and it was like a daughter to him. Now there came a traveler to the rich man, and he was unwilling to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the wayfarer who had come to him, but he took the poor man's lamb, and prepared it for the man who had come to him." Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man; and he said to Nathan, "As the Lord lives, the man who has done this deserves to die; and he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity." Nathan said to David, "You are the man!" David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord." And Nathan said to David, "The Lord also has put away your sin; you shall not die. Nevertheless, because by this deed you have utterly scorned the Lord, the child that is born to you shall die." Then Nathan went to his house.

Reflection

The prophet Nathan has the uncomfortable task of confronting David. He shrewdly tells the king a story about a great injustice. It arouses David's dormant moral sense that we saw earlier. He is outraged and wants to know who this criminal is so he can bring him to justice. To David's credit, when Nathan reveals that the story is about him, he immediately confesses. As repulsive as David's previous actions were, his confession is beautiful. It is unflinching and unqualified. In this, David is a great model to us of how to make a proper confession.

The surest way out of the pit of sloth is repentance. Sloth is a lack of concern, a spiritual numbness. If sloth dulls one's conscience, confession sharpens it. As we

noted on Day 18, Evagrius recommended seeking "holy tears" to fight sloth. Evagrius said that holy tears erode our hardheartedness. The problem with sloth is that we have grown indifferent and are prone to "savagery," according to Evagrius. We look at our sins and their impact on others but feel nothing. Tears, however, humanize us; they make us feel again for others and for God. David fought his sloth with tears, as Psalm 51 shows us, which is the Psalm he wrote in response to the episode we have read:

**"Have mercy on me, O God, according to thy steadfast love;
according to thy abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin!"
For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
Against thee, thee only, have I sinned,
and done that which is evil in thy sight,
so that thou art justified in thy sentence
and blameless in thy judgment...
Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.
Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
Fill me with joy and gladness;
let the bones which thou hast broken rejoice.
Hide thy face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.
Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from thy presence,
and take not thy holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of thy salvation,
and uphold me with a willing spirit...
The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise." (Psalm 51:1-17)**

In your prayer time, recite and reflect upon this great penitential Psalm.

Now place yourself before God, and converse with him.

Week 6 Action Items

1. Pray for your fraternity.
2. Keep up regular exercise.
3. Reflect on your vacation plan.
4. [Invite men to join](#) your fraternity for Kings of Summer, Part 2 beginning this Sunday.