

Rev. Danny Mackey
Lenten Midweek 4
March 7, 2018
2 Samuel 11:1-5
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in Muncie, Ind.

[Adapted from Rev. Brent Kuhlman's sermon series in *Concordia Pulpit Resources*, Vol. 27, Part 2 (Concordia: St. Louis), 58-59.]

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Through the Sixth Commandment, the Lord categorically and explicitly declares: "You shall not commit adultery." Did you hear that? God's not talking to the pews, the carpet, or the walls. He's talking to *you*! "You shall not commit adultery." That means that you should fear and love God (fear and love takes you back to the First Commandment)—fear and love God so that you lead a sexually pure and decent life in what you say and do.

Let's recite the Sixth Commandment together from our insert:

The Sixth Commandment

You shall not commit adultery.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other.

Anything that adulterates marriage God forbids. Everything that enhances faithfulness and love between a husband and a wife in holy marriage is what God wants practiced. That's for you and your neighbor's good. Really.

Here's another news flash, everyone. Hang on tight. I know it's going to blow your mind and rock your world. Here it is: *Sex is not for single people*—even if they're in the city...or as it's depicted in any number of other popular TV shows. Instead, sex is a profoundly delightful gift from God for a man and a woman to use properly in the estate of holy marriage. Let me say it this way: Sex is for a married couple—a man and a woman. A one-flesh union! As Scripture teaches based upon God's "very good"-from-the-beginning and before-the-fall-into-sin institution of holy marriage in Genesis with Adam and Eve: "Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh" (Gn 2:24).

And what does King David, of all people, do? The man after God's own heart (1Sm 13:14)? He sins! Royally. Blatantly. Unrepentantly. He flat out adulterates marriage. Sixth

Commandment? He's going to blow that off. Why? Well, he spies Bathsheba bathing. She's very beautiful. Stunning. Quite the hottie! *Sports Illustrated* swimsuit-issue model or Margot Robbie or Kate Upton lovely. And King David wants her, gots to have her, lusts for her.

Bathsheba is married to Uriah, one of David's closest warriors and friends—one of David's elite 30 soldiers. Uriah was a Hittite but converted to worship the true God because of David. They were so close that Uriah got a house next to David's palace. But David doesn't care. The Tenth Commandment? David couldn't care less. Bathsheba is the daughter of Eliam, another of David's elite 30, and she's also the granddaughter of Ahitophel, David's counselor. Still, David doesn't care. He will have her. She's all he can think about. Can't get her out of his head. He's the king—and it's good to be the king. Kings get what they want! No matter whom he hurts. No matter whom he sins against. He has an itch, and it will be scratched. He has a desire, and his desire will be fulfilled.

So David sends his royal messengers to get her. "Sneak her in the back door of the mansion, boys. Bring her right to my royal bedchamber. Light the candles. Turn on the easy-listening music. A little aromatherapy. How about champagne and some chocolate covered strawberries? Pull down the sheets. Tell her to put on something comfortable, if you know what I mean! Put the Do Not Disturb sign on the doorknob when you leave." And then, matter-of-factly and as soon as you can say "Boo," she "came to him, and he lay with her" (v4).

There's no spinning this. No excusing the adultery by saying that David and Bathsheba "love" each other. There's no justifying the adultery by saying that what people do in the privacy of their own bedroom is nobody's business. The one-night stand that David and Bathsheba have *is adultery*. It is not God-pleasing! The genealogy in Matthew 1 proves God's displeasure. David is mentioned because he has to be. And five women are mentioned in it. Four of them are named: Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, and Mary. Bathsheba's also in the genealogy, but the Holy Spirit refers to her only as "the wife of Uriah" because of this adultery.

Adultery is a sin against God and against your own body. Adultery adulterates holy marriage. It corrupts it, wrecks lives, destroys families, and ruins reputations. Solomon, would know. He saw what it did to his parents. Years later he wisely warns with a proverb:

“He who commits adultery lacks sense; he who does it destroys himself” (Pr 6:32), that is to say, “destroys his own soul.”

And yet David does it! He lacks sense. He goes to destroy himself because of his desire, that is, David puts his life before God in serious spiritual jeopardy. He lives only for himself. He exists by his own words: “I want her! Go get her and bring her to me!” As if his words are better than the words of the Lord: “You shall not commit adultery.”

How about you? Have you pulled a King David? Adulterated your marriage? Abused the gift of sex outside of holy marriage? Have you put your words above the Lord’s? Broken the Sixth Commandment and therefore the First?

Before you answer those questions, you’d better hear the Lord’s words from Matthew 5. Jesus categorically and explicitly declares: “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart” (vv27-28).

So, you have pulled a King David! No one is excluded. All have broken the Sixth Commandment. You break it not only with your deeds, but also with the thoughts of your mind, the lust of your eyes, and the desires of your heart.

And for such Sixth Commandment sinners, Jesus comes and lords His forgiveness over you. His divine forgiveness that comes from His Good Friday suffering and dying. Suffering and dying with all the sin of every sinner in His body as it hangs on the tree. Numbered with the transgressors He is! Truly. Totally. So that “for our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin” (2Co 5:21). He bears every unfaithfulness and all adulteries: David’s, yours, the worlds—even the adulteries and all the unfaithfulness that was committed against you! Jesus became the maximum sinner, the biggest adulterer. All sin is His on the cross...to answer for...to atone for.

So I’m here to tell you tonight what God’s will is for you. It’s this: He wills your forgiveness in Christ—your sin, all sin, especially Sixth Commandment sin, doesn’t belong to you anymore. Why? Because Jesus took it. He was cursed and damned with it when darkness came over all the land, and He cried out from the cross, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” (Mt 27:46). Listen! The Lord has taken away all your sin. He doesn’t count it against you at all. You are forgiven.

And

WITH JESUS' GOOD FRIDAY FORGIVENESS, YOU ARE CONTENT TO ENJOY THE GIFT OF A SEXUAL RELATIONSHIP ONLY IN HOLY MARRIAGE, NOT ADULTERATING IT.

You are forgiven to be a true human being who is content to live as a creature in the estate of holy marriage the way God created it. In other words, the Creator, who died on the cross for you, has good use for you, His redeemed. You are given to fear and love God so that you lead a sexually pure and decent life in what you say and do. And husband and wife, love and honor each other in the estate of holy marriage as you live by faith in Jesus and fervent love toward one another. That's precisely what you want to do, right? Of course it is.

In the name of Jesus.

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in + Christ Jesus.