

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 5, 2018



THE LESSON

2 Samuel 11:26–12:13a

²⁶When Uriah's wife heard that her husband Uriah was dead, she mourned for her husband. ²⁷After the time of mourning was over, David sent for her and brought her back to his house. She became his wife and bore him a son.

But what David had done was evil in the LORD's eyes.

¹²So the LORD sent Nathan to David. When Nathan arrived he said, "There were two men in the same city, one rich, one poor. ²The rich man had a lot of sheep and cattle, ³but the poor man had nothing—just one small ewe lamb that he had bought. He raised that lamb, and it grew up with him and his children. It would eat from his food and drink from his cup—even sleep in his arms! It was like a daughter to him.

⁴Now a traveler came to visit the rich man, but he wasn't willing to take anything from his own flock or herd to prepare for the guest who had arrived. Instead, he took the poor man's ewe lamb and prepared it for the visitor."

⁵David got very angry at the man, and he said to Nathan, "As surely as the LORD lives, the one who did this is demonic! ⁶He must restore the

ewe lamb seven times over because he did this and because he had no compassion."

⁷"You are that man!" Nathan told David. "This is what the LORD God of Israel says: I anointed you king over Israel and delivered you from Saul's power. ⁸I gave your master's house to you, and gave his wives into your embrace. I gave you the house of Israel and Judah. If that was too little, I would have given even more. ⁹Why have you despised the LORD's word by doing what is evil in his eyes? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and taken his wife as your own. You used the Ammonites to kill him. ¹⁰Because of that, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite as your own, the sword will never leave your own house.

¹¹"This is what the LORD says: I am making trouble come against you from inside your own family. Before your very eyes I will take your wives away and give them to your friend, and he will have sex with your wives in broad daylight. ¹²You did what you did secretly, but I will do what I am doing before all Israel in the light of day."

¹³"I've sinned against the LORD!" David said to Nathan.

THE RESPONSE Psalm 51:1-12

Have mercy on me, God, according to your faithful love! Wipe away my wrongdoings according to your great compassion!

⁴Wash me completely clean of my guilt; purify me from my sin!

⁵Because I know my wrongdoings, my sin is always right in front of me.

I've sinned against you—you alone. I've committed evil in your sight. That's why you are justified when you render your verdict, completely correct when you issue your judgment.

⁶Yes, I was born in guilt, in sin, from the moment my mother conceived me.

And yes, you want truth in the most hidden places; you teach me wisdom in the most secret space.

⁷Purify me with hyssop and I will be clean; wash me and I will be whiter than snow.

Let me hear joy and celebration again; let the bones you crushed rejoice once more.

⁸Hide your face from my sins; wipe away all my guilty deeds!

⁹Create a clean heart for me, God; put a new, faithful spirit deep inside me!

¹⁰Please don't throw me out of your presence; please don't take your holy spirit away from me.

¹¹Return the joy of your salvation to me and sustain me with a willing spirit.

THE EPISTLE Ephesians 4:1-16

Therefore, as a prisoner for the Lord, I encourage you to live as people worthy of the call you received from God. ²Conduct yourselves with all humility, gentleness, and patience. Accept each other with love, ³and make an effort to preserve the unity of the Spirit with the peace that ties you together. ⁴You are one body and one spirit just as God also called you in one hope. ⁵There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶and one God and Father of all who is over all, through all, and in all.

⁷God has given his grace to each one of us measured out by the gift

that is given by Christ. ⁸That's why scripture says, *When he climbed up to the heights, he captured prisoners, and he gave gifts to people.*

⁹What does the phrase "he climbed up" mean if it doesn't mean that he had first gone down into the lower regions, the earth? ¹⁰The one who went down is the same one who climbed up above all the heavens so that he might fill everything.

¹¹He gave some apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers. ¹²His purpose was to equip God's people for the work of serving and building up the body of Christ ¹³until we all

reach the unity of faith and knowledge of God's Son. God's goal is for us to become mature adults—to be fully grown, measured by the standard of the fullness of Christ. ¹⁴As a result, we aren't supposed to be infants any longer who can be tossed and blown around by every wind that comes from teaching with deceitful scheming and the tricks

people play to deliberately mislead others. ¹⁵Instead, by speaking the truth with love, let's grow in every way into Christ, ¹⁶who is the head. The whole body grows from him, as it is joined and held together by all the supporting ligaments. The body makes itself grow in that it builds itself up with love as each one does its part.

THE GOSPEL John 6:24-35

²⁴When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and came to Capernaum looking for Jesus. ²⁵When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, "Rabbi, when did you get here?"

²⁶Jesus replied, "I assure you that you are looking for me not because you saw miraculous signs but because you ate all the food you wanted. ²⁷Don't work for the food that doesn't last but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Human One will give you. God the Father has confirmed him as his agent to give life."

²⁸They asked, "What must we do in order to accomplish what God requires?"

²⁹Jesus replied, "This is what God

requires, that you believe in him whom God sent."

³⁰They asked, "What miraculous sign will you do, that we can see and believe you? What will you do? ³¹Our ancestors ate manna in the wilderness, just as it is written, *He gave them bread from heaven to eat.*"

³²Jesus told them, "I assure you, it wasn't Moses who gave the bread from heaven to you, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³The bread of God is the one who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

³⁴They said, "Sir, give us this bread all the time!"

³⁵Jesus replied, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."