

## SEEING THROUGH DIFFERENT LENSES

(2 Samuel 11:26-12:10, 13-15)

(Luke 7:36-8:3)

- Intro: I recently got a new pair of glasses.
- I hadn't seen an optometrist since I moved to Tulsa.
    - #It had been 5½ years since my last eye exam.
  - It was time to get my eyes checked.
    - #I'm now seeing the world through different lenses.

Our Scripture lessons for today.

- Invite us to see the world through different lenses.
  - #To look at ourselves.
    - #Through different lenses.
  - #To look at others.
    - #Through different lenses.

### I. Seeing Ourselves Through Different Lenses.

#### A. David Came To See Himself Through Different Lenses.

1. To understand best the confrontation between:
  - a. Nathan the prophet.
  - b. David the king.
    - We need to know the backstory.
      - #2 Samuel 11.
2. The backstory is the story of David and Bathsheba.
  - a. It was the spring of the year.
    - When kings normally go forth to war.
      - #If you have read the history of the American Civil War.
        - \*Not a whole lot happened in the winter time.
          - +Troops went into winter quarters.
            - =Building more permanent dwellings.
              - Log cabins.
            - +Some went home.
              - =To visit family.
                - =They came back in the spring time.
    - David was the consummate warrior.
      - #From the time he slew Goliath.
        - \*With his slingshot.
          - #He was more of a soldier than a shepherd.

- King was the commander-in-chief.
  - #Literally leading his troops into battle.
  - #Subjecting himself to the same battlefield regimen.
    - \*As his troops.
      - + Including sexual abstinence.
    - \*How might war today be different?
      - + If those practices applied to the commander-in-chief.
- b. David didn't go to war that year.
  - Why?
    - #Did he have a headache?
    - #Did he have other pressing business?
    - #Did he have secret, illicit plans?
  - I think it was no accident.
    - #David stayed home.
    - #David had a sexual encounter with Bathsheba.
  - We need to go deeper into the back story.
    - #Reading outside of 2 Samuel 11.
    - #Both Bathsheba's:
      - \*Father.
        - +Eliam.
      - \*Grandfather.
        - +Ahithophel.
          - =Were advisor's to the king.
            - 2 Samuel 15: 12.
            - 23: 34.
    - #David knew her family.
      - \*I think it is quite likely:
        - +David knew Bathsheba.
          - =Knew she was beautiful.
          - =Knew she was married.
            - To Uriah.
              - #Soldier in David's army.
                - \*Who was going off to war.
    - David stayed home.
  - c. One afternoon David was on the roof of his palace.
    - King's palace was taller than any surrounding building.
      - #King had privacy.
      - #King could watch:
        - \*Comings.
        - \*Goings.
          - +Of those around him.
      - King saw Bathsheba.
        - #Bathing.
        - #Sunbathing.

-He sent for her.  
#Was it seduction?  
#Was it rape?  
-He was the king.  
#He had power.  
#He was used to getting what he wanted.  
\*He got Bathsheba.  
\*He got her pregnant.

d. Then what?

-Plan A.

#David ordered Uriah home on leave from the army.  
\*Figuring he would:  
+Come home.  
+Sleep with his wife.  
\*Later when his wife told Uriah she was pregnant.  
+He would figure:  
="Oh, it must have been that time:"  
-"I was home on leave from the army."  
#But Uriah was a better soldier than David.  
\*Soldiers on active duty.  
+Were to be sexually abstinent.  
\*Uriah refused to go home.  
+He said:  
="It's not right:"  
-"That my buddies should be sleeping:"  
#"On the battlefield."  
#"Under the stars."  
-"I should be home?"  
#Enjoy the pleasures of my bed and wife."  
+Uriah refused to go home.  
=He slept in the city gate.

-Plan B.

#David threw a banquet for Uriah.  
\*Gave him lots of wine to drink.  
+Hoping Uriah:  
=Would get drunk.  
=Would go home.  
-Sleep with his wife.  
\*Later when Bathsheba turned up pregnant.  
+He would think:  
="Oh, it must have been that time:"  
-"I was home on leave from the army."  
-"And the king had a banquet for me."  
#Uriah still refused to go home.

-Plan C.

#David sent Uriah back to the army.

\*Along with instructions to his general, Joab.

+Uriah was to be placed in the front lines.

+Army was to attack a fortified city wall.

=Not good battlefield tactics.

+At a given signal.

=Rest of the army was to fall back.

=But Uriah was not to be told.

#Attack was launched.

\*With Uriah in the front lines.

#Signal was given to fall back.

\*Uriah was out there all by himself.

+Sitting duck.

+He was killed.

#David had conspired to commit murder.

\*To cover up his adultery.

#David might have gotten away with murder.

\*Except somebody knew.

+Joab knew.

+God knew.

3. God sent the prophet Nathan to help David see himself through different lenses.

a. This was dangerous business.

-If David could take out Uriah.

-He could take out a wimpy little prophet.

b. But Nathan was clever.

-He didn't confront David directly.

-He told him a parable instead.

#Two neighbors.

\*Rich man.

\*Poor man.

#Rich man.

\*Had many:

+Flocks.

+Herds.

#Poor man.

\*Had one single, solitary lamb.

+More like a family pet.

=That a head of livestock.

#One day the rich man had company.

\*He wanted to be a good host.

+Put on a nice meal for his guest.

- \*But instead of killing:
  - +One of the many sheep.
  - =From his many herds.
- \*He took the one lamb.
  - +That belonged to his neighbor.
- c. When David heard the story.
  - He was outraged.
  - He said:
    - #"That man deserves to die."
  - Nathan had set up David perfectly.
    - #David condemned himself out his own mouth.
- d. But David's life was not required of him.
  - Although it might have been.
    - #Because of:
      - \*Adultery.
      - \*Murder.
    - But there were consequences.
      - #Son he had conceived with Bathsheba.
        - \*In their adulterous relationship.
          - +Died shortly after birth.
      - #As long as David was king.
        - \*There would never be peace.
          - +As a consequence.
            - =David had neither:
              - Time.
              - Money.
            - =To build the Temple.
              - Something he had always wanted to do.
              - Task that would be left for his son.
          - #Solomon.
  - e. David came to see himself through different lenses.
    - He said:
      - #"I have sinned against the Lord."
    - This king.
      - #Who was used to:
        - \*Power.
        - \*Getting what he wanted.
      - #Came to see himself as a sinner.
        - \*In need of something he couldn't provide for himself.
          - +Forgiveness of God.
    - Nathan said to David:
      - #"The Lord has put away your sin."
      - #"You shall not die."

- B. Don't We Need To See Through New Lenses?
1. See ourselves through different lenses.
    - a. Not as kings and queens.
      - Wielding power.
      - Used to getting what we want.
    - b. But as sinners.
      - In need of the forgiveness that comes from Jesus.
      - #Son of David.
        - \*Who comes in the name of the Lord.
        - \*Who takes away the sin of the world.
      - #Commander-in-chief.
        - \*Who didn't stay home.
          - +When it came time to do battle with:
            - =Sin.
            - =Death.
            - =Devil.
        - \*Who went into battle for us.
        - \*Who died on the cross for us.
        - \*Who rose from the grave on the third day.
          - +To see us through different lenses.
          - +To say:
            - =To David.
            - =To you.
            - =To me.
              - "The Lord has put away your sin."
              - "You shall not die."
  2. See our congregation through different lenses.
    - a. We are about to embark on a process of congregational renewal.
      - Seeds for Growth*.
      - First training session for our leadership team.
        - #This coming weekend.
          - \*Friday evening.
          - \*All day Saturday.
        - #We'll be done in time for the picnic.
      - You will be hearing more about this in the weeks to come.
    - b. We have our so-called Dream Team.
      - H.I. Aston, chair.
      - Mary Peterson.
      - Avis Erickson.
      - Myself.

- c. Some of the Dream Team are newer members of Ascension.
  - That's no accident.
  - That's on purpose.
    - #They come with:
      - \*Different eyes.
      - \*Different lenses.
    - #To help us see with:
      - \*Different eyes.
      - \*Different lenses.
- d. God forbid that the rest of us:
  - Sit on the sidelines.
  - Drag our feet.
  - Recite the "Seven Last Words of the Church."
    - #"We never did it that way before."
- e. This is a time for us:
  - To try to see our congregation through different lenses.

## II. Seeing Other People Through Different Lenses.

### A. Gospel Reading (Luke 7:36-8:3).

- 1. Woman who was a sinner.
  - a. More than that we're not told.
  - b. You can use your own imaginations.
    - To decide what that might mean.
  - c. She was a sinner.
- 2. She crashed a dinner party.
  - a. Hosted by Simon.
  - b. Where Jesus was a guest.
    - In Biblical times.
      - #People reclined to eat.
        - \*Perhaps propping their head with their hand.
        - +Near the table.
      - \*Their feet stretched out behind them.
- 3. This sinful woman.
  - a. Stood behind Jesus.
  - b. Washing his feet with:
    - Ointment.
    - Her tears.
  - c. Drying his feet.
    - With her hair.

4. How scandalous!
  - a. Simon thought.
    - But not saying a word.
  - b. He didn't have to say a word.
    - Jesus knew what he was thinking.
5. Jesus told him a parable.
  - a. Two debtors.
    - One who owed 500 denarii.
      - #Couple years' salary.
    - Another who owed 50 denarii.
      - #Couple month's salary.
  - b. Creditor forgave each of them their debts.
6. Jesus asked:
  - a. "Which debtor will love the creditor most?"
  - b. Luke 7:42.
7. Simon answered:
  - a. "One with the greater debt."
  - b. Luke 7:43.
8. Jesus invited Simon to see this woman through different lenses.
  - a. "Do you see this woman?"
    - Luke 7:44.
  - b. "Do you see really see her?"
  - c. "Do you see her as I see her?"
    - You:
      - #Invited me to your house.
      - #But gave me no:
        - \*Water for my feet.
        - \*Perfume for my head.
        - \*Kiss for my cheek.
    - This woman.
      - #May have crashed the party.
      - #But she's been a better hostess than you have.
        - \*She's loved much.
        - \*Because she has been forgiven much.
  - d. Jesus saw her through different lenses.

B. Who Are The People Of Our Day Who Need Us To See Them Through Different Lenses?

1. Who are the "sinners" for us?
  - a. Those in jail or prison.
  - b. Drug dealers.
  - c. Pedophiles.
  - d. Illegal immigrants.
  - e. Those we think are responsible for the mess in the Gulf.

2. Who needs to be forgiven much?
  - a. Pope Benedict was talking recently.
    - About allegations of clergy sex abuse.
    - #In the Roman Catholic Church.
    - He said:
      - #"There can be no forgiveness without justice."
      - \*I hope his words were sincere.
  - b. God's forgiveness is free.
    - But we dare not make it cheap.
    - #By taking it for granted.
    - #By thinking there can be forgiveness without:
      - \*Repentance.
      - \*Change.
  - c. But can see through different lenses?
    - Those we consider to be "greater sinners."
    - Those who have been forgiven much.
      - #To see them through the lens of the cross.
      - #To see them as God sees them.

Concl: When you come to the altar.

-You will receive what:

#Looks.

#Feels.

#Tastes.

\*Like:

+Bread.

+Wine.

But through different lenses.

-You will see.

#Christ's body and blood.

-You will receive:

#Forgiveness of sin.

#Promise of eternal life.

Thank God for new lenses.



