

Benjamin Franklin once stated there are 2 certain things in life

Death and taxes

He missed one

Sin

Original sin affects all of us

And actual sin is a result

Our desire to seek our own self-defeating and self-destructive end

The problem is

When we are committing it

We think it is good for us

King David is a prime example

Here he is

All safe and sound

He has sent his men off to battle

Putting their lives at risk

While he remained at home

And while his men are off at war

He sees the wife of one of his commanders

And he decides that since he is king

He can do as he pleases

So he sends for her and commits adultery

He thinks he will never be caught

Until he tells him she is with child

So he sends for Uriah

But Uriah does the honorable thing

He is faithful to the men in his command who are risking their lives

So David adds murder to adultery

Again, thinking his sin will never be discovered

But he is

God sends Nathan to David

In Nathan's words, we see it is not just a sin of murder and adultery

God Himself is sorrowful

The wonderful relationship between them has been damaged

David had been chosen by God

He had been lavished with blessings

Yet David spurned the Lord

But then he confesses

I have sinned against the LORD

And although there would have to be punishment

This humble confession of his sin brings forgiveness

He would experience the mercy of God

The mercy we experience in Jesus Christ

St. Paul tells us that the law is confining

The law condemns

No one could ever perfectly keep the law

We need a savior

And Jesus loves each of us so much

He desired to become that savior

By offering his own life in ransom for our lives

This doesn't mean we will not keep the law

In fact, when we live in the love of Christ

We keep it even more perfectly

Our Gospel shows us both the law and mercy

The Pharisee was an expert at keeping the law

And by law, the woman should have been stoned

But the woman had come to know Christ

And she risked public humiliation to express her love for him

Simon was using Christ

Inviting him to his house

Wanting to be seen with him

Thinking it would increase his status in the community

But he didn't welcome him

He didn't offer the customary washing of his feet

He did not offer a kiss of peace, a customary greeting

He did not anoint him

A recognition of his authority

Simon had no warmth or friendship for Christ

But the woman did

Simon thought the law would justify him

While the woman knew there was only one thing for her

To seek forgiveness

She never says a word

But she hears what her heart desired

Your sins are forgiven

When others objected

Who is this who even forgives sins?

Jesus replies: *Your faith has saved you; Go in peace*

Every society in the world has something like the Golden Rule

Do unto others what you would have them do unto you

And 'do good and avoid evil'

We don't need laws to tell us these things

King David didn't need the Mosaic Law to tell him what he did was

wrong

If their roles were reversed

He would not have wanted Uriah to do these things to him

But David also didn't rely on the law to justify his actions

The Pharisees tried to keep themselves from sinners

They built up white washed exteriors

And forgot the heart

Jesus calls us to a change of heart

The *mentanoia* I have often spoken of

David had this conversion

And he was forgiven

In fact, Jesus was born of David's hereditary line

The woman experienced this *mentanoia*

And she was forgiven

St Paul experienced it

And he went from being one of the fiercest persecutors of the way

To being one of its strongest defenders

Even when it cost him his freedom

And eventually his life

These three did what all of us need to do

We need humility to name our sin

We need to admit we are not like the Pharisee

One who thought he did not need a savior

Then we admit the greatness of God's goodness in forgiving us

The naming of our sin and admitting our guilt

Opens the floodgates of God's mercy

This allows us to acknowledge the source of the grace of salvation

We see that we do not earn our salvation

We are not justified through our works

Our salvation is a gif of God

It is granted to us through our faith in Jesus Christ

We are not forgiven because we love

We are forgiven because we are loved

Then we are led into service of others

To do good works not to earn salvation

But in response to the love we have received

In response to the forgiveness we have received

In response to the mercy we have received

Benjamin Franklin was half right

There are certain things in this life

Christ's death has destroyed death

Governments come and go

Along with the taxes they collect

But Faith, Hope and Love last forever

And the greatest of these is love