

Peter Mayen Homily on Sunday the 5th of August 2018.

Readings: 2 Samuel 11: 26-12:13a; PS 51:1-12; Ephesians 4:1-16; John 6:24-35

Let us pray:

God of infinite love and mercy give us courage to discern your will, wisdom to trust in your divine love and confidence to believe in your written words in Jesus Christ name. Amen.

Theme: Jesus is the real joy for our salvation and true compassionate friend:

Our human existence here on earth is intertwined with purposeful choices. Whatever decisions we make, have a real consequences. Some are rewarding and others regrettable. **That is fact of life.**

However, our life and the choices we make are like a kaleidoscope of experiences which differ from person to person. For me, when I came to Australia in 2004, I neither had a driver's license nor the knowledge to drive a car. Life for me was tough and challenging. Therefore, I had to make a tough choice on how I could go to work without a car and a license in winter. This was my personal decision. Firstly, I chose to use public transport, which was often time consuming and challenging when there was road construction and other traffic conditions.

My first choice was not encouraging. I had difficulties getting to work on time and returning home on time. I made my second choice which was even harder. The hard one was learning to drive, taking driving lessons and being on the road with other road users. This was very scary at first but was the right choice after I got confident behind the wheel. This choice was rewarding for me. I managed my time well.

But then part of the third learning experience was how to observe and adhere to the Road rules and traffic regulations. I made mistakes and completely lost my learners license. I was on a good behavior restriction for six months before sitting for my driver's license test. I sat and passed the test and obtained a P license in 2006. My purpose in life changed after I got back on the road with my official license, confident behind the wheel. There was transformation and restoration in my life because I had learnt how to make better choices. I also had to learn that there is a line in the sand when I drove on the road that I should not cross. You may not have lost your license but I expect most of us have gone through similar eye-opening experiences in one way or another. The choices we make determine how we cope in life.

In 2 Samuel chapter 11: 26-12:13a, we have just heard being read this morning, David was the King of Israel. He was chosen and enthroned as King over the tribes of the Israelites by God. He was a man after God's own heart. David was the second King of Israel after King Saul. Saul was disowned by God because of failing to honor Him in his life as the King of the Israelites. King David was a fearless warrior, righteous before God whose obligations were to defend, protect and defeat Israelites opponents. God asked Prophet Samuel to anoint and enthroned David to care for the people of God and be a person of good character.

But David was human. He fell below God's expectation and allegiance. He was broken by his decision and made poor choices. He concealed his failures before God and intentionally went against God's will. But God demonstrated His steadfast love and mercy toward King David and forgave his brokenness and lack of pious judgment to act justly toward Uriah's family. David failed to live to God standards and tragically fell below God commands. He became accustomed to sin and was led by bad choices.

Following his own desires. He committed adultery with Uriah's wife, Bathsheba. In the process of hiding his personal guilt he murdered Uriah the Hittite and obtained his wife all without due process and respect. **What a mess!** King David stuffed up. He miserably failed God and the nation of Israel. Nothing changes under the Sun. Even in our lives today there are examples and challenges in our families and around the world. We may think in our mind how mistaken David's life was and the way he faced these challenges. We may even want to malign

and criticize his poor choices. But there are similar examples equal or even much worse than David experienced that happen in our world, things we might even not want others to know about.

Many families are shattered by inconceivable infidelity in marriages and mistrust. Shambolic killing to cover up and escape to hide from own shame might not be something in our world today. In David's situation there was punitive and restorative justice after God discerned David's shocking action and provoked him to an act of repentance and confession. God's intervention came through Prophet Nathan. A hypothetical a court case was presented to King David to enact justice. King David condemned his own action naively, however, when revealed he repented and asked God to forgive him in his brokenness, **"I have sinned against the LORD. Nathan said to David, now the LORD has put away your sin; you shall not die"**. King David's contrite humility before God set him free and he was not judged because God is compassionate and gracious. God's abundance in forgiveness overcame and dissolved human brokenness.

It is a challenge no one can comprehend completely. How can we really know God's divine wisdom until that extreme day when one can understand completely the heart of God. Richard Hooker in his sermon in 1586 suggested that we grow in holiness and slowly progress in mature holiness depending on God's acts of righteousness. Therefore, we cannot by any human standard achieved long last purity and perfection by works or doings alone without God's divine knowledge and love. Richard Hooker wrote, ***"Our righteousness is always flawed, one way or another: while the perfect, active righteousness of God works on us by accepting us freely in Jesus Christ and guaranteeing the possibility of full forgiveness, that inherent righteousness which concretely makes us holy here and now, our own appropriation of what God has decisively done, is precarious and unfinished. The best things we do have somewhat in them to be pardoned... we acknowledge a dutiful necessity of doing well, but the meritorious dignity of well doing we utterly renounce"*** (Hooker's Sermon on justification 1586). We in this place with well-informed moral understanding, might question How King David could be forgiven with this huge destruction and foolishness against an innocent person. OR we might consider to praise God for granting and acquitting a human being who failed to act in accordance to God's commands.

In Psalm 51 verse 1-12: King David's brokenness is fully revealed as he embarked to confessing his foolish action and sought forgiveness from God. He reminds us to turn to God when we fail terribly to live according to our own intelligible moral codes. Because in God there is **a reservoir of unmerited grace** that is constantly bestowed and replenishing us, purifying us from the defects of inaction and non-adherence to living according to God standards and norms.

King David was acquitted from his intentional and conscious failures. God's also is waiting for us to come to him and we can be forgiven. God's knows we are broken and need compassion and mercy from Him. King David, in his supplication and confession to God, completely knew that Yahweh, God of Israel, was full of transformation. David's petition to God as "steadfast in love, and full of mercy", and that his iniquities and transgressions could not prevail against God's infinite love and compassion toward his brokenness as a human being. David assures us that we can have a better chance before God and in his mercy being forgiven and renewed. The beginning of new dawn in our life is received as a gift of God's generous grace. Let us place all our choices before God, knowing that He is willing to receive and forgive us from our choices, both challenging and rewarding us. Jesus gave up his life for us so that we have our being and fullness of life in His salvation. Jesus said this word's before his death on the Cross. "It is finished. Father forgive them for they do not know what they are doing."

God is in our midst, let us go out to serve, love, and share and relate well, respecting and living with each other without judging, as God's forgiven peoples.

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