

**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**