

Sermon 4th Sunday of Advent, Yr. B @ St Johns – 20/12/20
“God’s eternal dynasty and King” (2 Samuel 7:1-16; Luke 1:26-38)
- Pastor André Meyer

Pray: Father, fill us with your Holy Spirit to hear your Word today, in Jesus’ name, Amen.

King David was an amazing man of faith. But life wasn’t all ‘beer and skittles’ for him, for his relationship with his family, or with God. In his rise to kingship and power, from a humble shepherd boy to a general of the king’s army, and then, to king, he faced many troubles. Prior to our text today, David’s struggle to consolidate his power and become king are now over, and yet, other difficulties are only just beginning. His troubles will not be from without, but from within his own ‘house.’ His sin with Bathsheba is on the horizon, the grief and death of their first child, incest and conflict among his children, and a rebellion from his son Absalom causing David to flee for his life. These and other trials were yet to come. In many ways, though he was blessed, David failed at building a ‘house’ that truly honoured God. Within just *two* generations, David’s kingdom would be split by civil war, then, in just a few centuries, David’s monarchy, his ‘house’ and dynasty, would be destroyed. ...So, it’s with some irony that we hear the LORD’s promise to build a ‘house’ for David today.

In 2 Samuel 7, King David has just completed construction of his royal palace made of cedar, in the recently captured and newly named City of David, symbolically establishing his kingship. David then looks out and sees the ark of the LORD, the throne of Yahweh, housed in the tent of the tabernacle, with curtains and draperies of cloth, and wonders... *“It’s not right. How can I live in such a grand palace and God, only in a tent?”* (v.2). A plan forms in his mind. *“Why not build a house also for God, a temple like other nations build to honour their gods?”* So, David calls his friend and confidant Nathan the prophet, and outlines his intentions. Nathan quickly agrees, thinking David’s plans for such a ‘house’ will be pleasing to The LORD. Yet that night, Nathan is corrected by God in a dream, and returns to David the next day with The LORD’s true plans. As God speaks through Nathan, it is as though God were looking down at the blueprints David had thought up for God’s ‘house.’ God corrects David. If he thinks *he* can build a house for The LORD, he is wrong. In a beautiful twist, it is God who instead plans to build a ‘house’ for David. Yet, God alone knows *what kind* of a ‘house’ it will be.

The word ‘house’ here means ‘dynasty’ – a family line. The LORD will build and establish a dynasty for David. It will be God *Himself*, *not* David, who will carry on the kingship and monarchy for His people. Similarly, with us. It is God who builds and establishes us and our families by His grace, and *not* the other way around.

And yet, David thought that *he* could presume to know what was good for the LORD – a house made out of wood, cedar, and stone. But God does not dwell in houses

that we make or decide to build for Him. God moves freely *anywhere* He wishes. What God is saying to David, is that *He has already* been *with him* and his people *wherever* they've gone without needing more than the ark and the tent symbolising His presence with them. Instead of David limiting God into a box, God Himself will establish the sort of 'house' He wants for *His people* to dwell in.

God promises *this dynasty* will endure *forever*. And, that from David's offspring a new kingdom and kingship *would forever* be associated with David's family line. In this way, David's "throne" will be *established forever* (7:16).

In ancient times where Israel was located, over the years there were many ruling houses or dynasty's nearby – in Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, and Persia. Each of them lasted for a time... and then came to an end. Each had its series of kings who led their people powerfully to victory – yet, each was buried in the shifting sands of politics and history. Later on, even the mighty Greeks and Romans fell. Yet, in His promise to David, God strongly emphasises: "*Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me*" (v.16).

God clearly promised that one of David's descendants would be no ordinary ruler. And this understanding grew through the years. One of his sons would *be* the Messiah, the promised Deliverer, the anointed One, and *He* would reign *forever*. *His kingdom* would never end. Not a bad promise to hear! Imagine if that were *you* and God said *your* family line would never end!

And yet, our text misses out 4 important verses of details about this future king: "*The LORD declares ...that the LORD Himself will establish a house for you: When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands. But my love will never be taken away from him... Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.*" (7:11-16). Sound like anyone you know? 😊

Although David's motives are righteous in his desire to build the temple (which his son Solomon did), it is *not David* who will build an eternal house but The LORD; He will do this for David, through a special 'Son' of David, whose father will also be The LORD! Can you see then how the message the angel Gabriel delivered to the virgin teenager Mary was such a shock to her? (Lk. 1:29). Gabriel's message to *her* fulfilled the promise the LORD God made to David many years ago. *This is great news*, and the news we share today as descendants also of David's line by our adoption into God's family through Baptism. And, it is *this prophecy* to David which ties the coming King with being both of human seed and as eternal *Son of God!*

God's angel messenger, Gabriel, said: "*Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favour with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants (Jacob's house) forever; his kingdom will never end*" (Lk. 1:30-33).

It's astounding that God's King, the Messiah, comes to dwell with His people and establish God's house *forever* by being born as *one of us*. And so, Jesus enters our world, through Mary, through the miracle of a virgin's conception by the power of God's Spirit. *This* son of David, truly God's Son, born truly of human flesh came to be our Saviour (Isa. 7:14).

This is the *good* news of comfort and peace God gives to His people through David. Christ, our King, was '*delivered*' to us, *to be 'our deliverer'* from the kingdom of darkness, sin, and death. He entered fully into our world through Mary's womb – into the world we know of pain, joys, noise, heartache, sweat and tears, to experience all we know of our lives, and to personally understand our needs.

He comes to us even though He knows we are weak and burdened by sins and cares. He came through David's sinful line. And yet, the LORD's servant comes to suffer and be rejected as King, to give His life upon a Roman cross for our greatest need – to bare our sin and guilt upon Himself (Isa. 53). Through the work of God's Son, an eternal 'house' has been established for us to dwell in by grace, a family, where our sins have been atoned for by the blood of our King.

Jesus the Christ, reigns as the final ruler of the dynasty and house of David, although His kingdom is far greater than David could have imagined. For Christ's kingdom consists of *all* believers – all who trust *in Him* by faith – *here* on earth, *and* in heaven. His dynasty is *the Church*, the Body of Christ, the 'house' of those who are God's children *through Christ*. Jesus Himself, is the Temple where God's presence in all its fullness and glory dwells. *He* is the One who comes to be with us, so that we will dwell with Him forever. And as temples of our living God, we are filled with God's Spirit, to do the good Christ has called us to do in His name, making His kingdom known by proclaiming the Good News of salvation.

Today, Christ our King comes to us graciously, humbly, and powerfully through His Word, through the Gospel, and, to know He cares for our very deepest needs, He feeds us each intimately with His very own body and blood in bread and wine. He comes to make us more and more God's eternal descendants, to establish His Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

Truly, our King of all Kings cares *for us*, for He knows us through and through – and loves us so dearly! In fact, His love and care for us will *never* end, because, His kingdom and reign over all things will *never* end.

So, this Christmas season, may you celebrate and share the Good News of the eternal kingdom, dynasty and house that God has made for us. May you allow His peace to reign and rule in your hearts, in your families, in your homes and in the life He has given to you. May you let God's grace and love cover your sin and sustain you through your hours of trial. May you let God's generous Spirit flow through you – to poor and rich alike – for all need to know of the King who loves them so.

Though our families are indeed fraught with troubles and sin, know that God's blessing and love is greater. May you share the grace and peace of Christ your King in all you do, so His eternal Kingdom will be found by them as well. Let Christ your King establish the work of your hands as you serve, and as you worship, honour and celebrate the King of all Kings, born in human flesh.

As the greatest of all the kings of Israel, The LORD promised David a lasting dynasty and 'house' far greater than the shepherd-king could ever imagine. And, God did it through the *greatest* Servant and Shepherd-King of all, so *we* too could be included in His eternal family, forever! Thanks be to God! Amen.

Pray: Father, thank you that your Kingdom comes to us through Christ our King. Continue to build your house that will never end through us, your people. In Jesus' name, Amen.