

Morrison Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

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December 11, 2005
3rd Sunday in Advent
2 Samuel 7:8-11,16
Pastor Ron Gorske

First Lesson: Isaiah 61:1-3,10,11
Psalm of the Day: Psalm 71
Second Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
Gospel: John 1:6-8,19-28

Just Another Small Part of a Bigger Plan!

I don't remember which movie or which TV program it was anymore, I think it was probably Mission Impossible, where the leader of that group would often say when things had all been arranged, "I just love it when a plan comes together". That statement is certainly true in a lot of different ways, isn't it? If you have ever had the privilege of building a house, a new home for you and your family, and you get all the plans and then the plans are given to the contractor and finally the house is all filled and you get into that new home and say, "Boy, isn't this great"—you would probably be thinking, "I love it when a plan comes together".

Or if you are a gardener like me, you probably have looked at the outside of your home and said, "I would like to do this landscape or I would like to do that or I would like to plant this in the garden. This is the flower garden. I would like to put a pond here or a pond there." So you make your plan and you get it all together and you plant your plants. Then the next year, everything comes up, nothing has frozen out like it does sometimes. You would probably think, "I love it when a plan comes together".

Or perhaps you can think back ten years when the Packers were still good or getting good. If you think back to the early 90s when Ron Wolf came and he had a plan. He wanted to get a good coach, so he went out and got one. He knew that we needed a good quarterback, and he went out and got one. He knew that we needed a good defensive lineman, so Reggie White came to town. Every year it seemed like another piece of the puzzle was being put in. We needed some receivers, so Don Beebe came to town. We needed a punt returner, so Desmond Howard was here. It all came together. That was ten years ago already. I love it when a plan comes together, don't you?

During the Advent and Christmas season, you and I as God's people get to look in on the greatest plan of all. A plan not put together by some homeowner or some gardener or some general manager of football, but a plan put together by God himself. As we go through the Advent season, we are reminded time and again through our readings, through our sermons, through our Advent services, how God put all the pieces together. Before us this morning, we have one of those small pieces of the big puzzle. I think it is important for us to take a closer look at it. We should talk about what God is reminding us of through this part of the puzzle. And also be reminded of our part in the big plan, the big puzzle for all the world and God has put it together.

King David—most of us I am sure know at least some of the facts about him. We remember how he was taken, as our text says, away from the sheep, away from the flocks and out of Nazareth and chosen to be the second King of God's people Israel. We remember how he slew the giant Goliath. We remember that God spoke of him as a man after his own heart. A man who fought and planned and lived the way God would want us to. But we also remember that David was a sinful human being. We remember the adulteries, the Bathsheba, the murder of Uriah, the constant family problems that he had to deal with as the consequence of some of his sins.

But here in this text, David has looked back over the course of his life and he has seen how God has blessed him time and time again even though he did not deserve it. He looks around himself in his beautiful palace and he has all the comforts of home. Then he looks at God's house. Still the people were worshipping in this tabernacle that no doubt has seen better days. David thinks to himself, "this is just not right, this is just not fair, this is just not the way it should be. I get to live in luxury and the Lord's house is this?" He wants to build the Lord a temple.

What does God say? No. No thanks. Not now. Not you. David was born a sinner and his hands were stained with an awful lot of impurities and blood. He was a man of war. So God said, "No David. You are not going to be the one who builds my temple. Your son is."

So in and through our text our God reminds David once again of all the things that he has done for him. But it's like God is telling David, "David, you just can't out-give me. I am the chief of givers. You can try to out-give me, but you are not going to be able to do it. I have given you victories over your enemies. I have brought you and this nation now to a point in time where you have relative peace and you can work and you can worship. I am going to give you something that the world has never seen before and will never see again. I am going to give you a kingdom that lasts forever."

I am sure that King David knew his history. I'm sure that over the course of time he heard how the great kingdom like Egypt rose and fell and Persia rose and fell. Eventually other nations would rise and fall. The Greeks would rise and fall. The Romans would rise and fall. That is the way it is with kingdoms in this world. They rise and fall. Not God's kingdom.

In making Jesus one of King David's descendents, David became the forefather of the eternal kingdom because Jesus established a kingdom that will last forever. This kingdom is certainly present already here in all believers, but we know that the kingdom of believers is going to last forever. David was just one of the small parts of God's big plan for his church and for his people.

You remember how in the Old Testament God had made promise after promise after promise. For example, in the Garden of Eden, he made the promise about the Savior that would come and he would crush Satan's head and destroy Satan's power forever over mankind. But in the process his heel would be bitten. He would die in order to win for us forgiveness and eternal life. You remember, don't you, how eventually in the course of time God took Abraham into the land of Canaan and said, "I am going to give

you and your descendants this land, and oh yes, by the way, Abraham, from your seed, all the nations of the earth will be born.” You remember, don’t you, how that same promise of the Savior was given to Isaac and Jacob. Remember at the end of Genesis Jacob is blessing his son? Judah is there. Jacob says to Judah that a scepter would not depart nor a lawgiver will be at his feet until Shiloh comes. Shiloh means the Prince of Peace.

Do you remember how God, in and through people like Isaiah, foretold that the Savior was going to be born of a virgin. You remember how Micah said that he was going to be born in Bethlehem. All parts of the plan. The Savior of the world and his kingdom will last forever.

Our God has made promises over all time, century after century, all the way back to the beginning of time. He keeps every one of those promises in Christ. Will we keep the promises that we make? Remember what Jesus said, “Whoever believes in me has eternal life”. What a wonderful thing it is that our God keeps his promises. What an even more wonderful thing it is that he keeps every promise he makes. Remember that when we come to the cradle this Christmas.

Just like David was a small part of the big plan, never forget that you too are a part of his plan for our world. Each one of us is uniquely gifted with faith, uniquely gifted with various talents, gifts and abilities. Each one of us is a part of his marvelous plan to get his good news out to the people of our world.

(This taped sermon was very difficult to hear because of microphone problems, so many portions have not been included. I believe I was able to capture the main parts.)