

b14Pentecost 10 ~ August 9, 2009 ~ A homily
preached by The Rev'd Erl G. Purnell at *Old St.
Andrew's Church*, Bloomfield, CT

2 Samuel 18.5-9, 15, 31-33; Psalm 130;
Ephesians 4.25-5.2; John 6.35, 41-45

Story of David

- inspiring
 - shepherd boy, Goliath
 - great poet & king
- sad
 - affair w/ Bathsheba; death of Uriah
 - death of favorite son, Absalom
- David is flawed (maybe we all are)

Story of Laura Ling & Euna Lee

- heart wrenching story
- best possible ending
- how will young women deal w/ experience?

Countless stories ...

Human critters => complex feelings, thoughts

- for as bright as we are, we can also be boneheads
- as exhibitors of extraordinary compassion, we're capable of heinous cruelty

So, what about forgiveness?

Paul, not always my favorite

- got it about forgiveness
- *“do not let the sun go down on your anger, do not make room for the devil”*
- *“let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up”*
- put away => *bitterness, wrath, anger, wrangling, slander, malice*
- put on => *kindness, being tender hearted, forgiveness*
- not to say letting go of anger & hurt is easy ... it's not
- sure enough though ... it's toxic & will make you sick

At core => Christianity focus on forgiveness

- 1st – forgive *SELF*
- 2nd – forgive another
- 3rd – accept forgiveness from another
- *forgive as God forgives*

“walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself for us an offering and sacrifice to God”

Familiar? Offertory sentence. Think about it.

Amen.

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