

Our Promise Keeping King – 2 Samuel

2 Samuel 10:1-19

“Fear rejecting kindness, for control” – December 2, 2018



Introduction

Because we are limited in our knowledge, there is risk in the Christian life. Putting ourselves out there to love others, sharing the gospel with those who don't yet know Jesus, and situating our lives to reach as many people with the gospel as possible both local and abroad involves risk. For those who intend to *follow* Jesus, how are we to respond to the risks? In 2 Samuel 10, we see two different responses to risk; responses we can learn from.

Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:33-40](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

Sermon Outline

How do you respond to the risk of following Jesus?

- I. You can fight the God you don't trust (10:1-8)
- II. You can trust the God you know to be good (10:9-19)

Read & Discuss

1. Read [2 Samuel 10:1-8](#)

King David's intentions are to show his neighbor, Hanun, kindness – to do him good. Problem is, Hanun assumes the worst about his intentions and finds it impossible to trust him. David turns into a risk, a *threat* to the things he values most. For that reason, Hanun fights against the one who is there to do him good. As David points us to King Jesus, Hanun reflects us in our challenge to trust God and assume the best in Him. Can you think of times when it is difficult to trust God, when you find you're assuming the worst in Him?

Given our desire to be in control, it is easy to listen to what our emotions or circumstances say about God *rather* than what God has revealed of Himself in Scripture. Passages such as Jesus' parable of the prodigal son (see [Luke 15:11-24](#)) remind us of God's goodness and desire to do us good. Where do you go to know the truth about God? Who's counsel are you listening to?

Additional reading: Romans 2:4-5, Psalm 2

2. Read [2 Samuel 10:9-19](#)

Joab, the commander of David's army, leads the troops against a formidable enemy: thousands of troops from Syria and Ammon come pressing in on them and have them trapped. Joab forms a plan, but has no guarantees how the battle will turn out. His desire is for the good of others ("be courageous for our people") and the glory of God ("for the cities of our God"). Facing the risk of the unknown, Joab sets out for the good of others and the glory of God and finds courage and refuge by trusting in God ("may the Lord do what seems good to him.") Why is it that God takes no risk (see [Isaiah 42:8-9](#))? How does knowing the character of God help us navigate the unknowns involved in risk?

Additional reading: James 4:13-15

Prayer of Response

- 1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?
- 2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand, believe, desire, or do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

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