Our Promise Keeping King – *2 Samuel*

2 Samuel 14:1-33
"Leadership: Character or Charisma" – February 10, 2019

Introduction

Sin comes to us with disastrous results – but what if the sin is our own? Having blown it can leave us feeling like damaged goods, with the hope of God using us being thrown into the garbage. If that's the case, it may seem like we're on our own, left to fix our sin and its problems in our own strength and wisdom. After David fell into sin in 2 Samuel 11, we begin to see the consequences of sin God warned about in 2 Samuel 12:10-12. As concerned leaders look at the situation, they take various attempts in their wisdom and strength to fix what's been broken. But will it work?

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

I. Attempt #1: Manipulation (14:1-20)
II. Attempt #2: Avoidance (14:21-24)
III. Attempt #3: Force (14:25-33)

Read & Discuss

1. Read 2 Samuel 14:1-20

Joab's concern seems to be that leaving David estranged from Absalom (who's next in line to take the throne) are combustive ingredients – he assumes reconciling the two is the right path. Through an elaborate, made up story, Joab (through the woman) stirs up David's compassion but overlooks the demands of justice that are unique to Absalom's premeditated murder. Joab's able to manipulate the situation and lead people where he wants, but he's headed in the wrong direction. The woman reminds David that God has devised the means to restore those who have been banished. That's true! But not at the cost of justice. Because God is good, He won't sweep sin under the carpet. Through Jesus' death and resurrection, God is able to be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Christ (Rom. 3:23-26). Manipulation is a quick fix, a temporary solution that leaves a bigger mess. What can we learn from this for our own sphere of influence and leadership? How difference does the nature of sin have on how where and how we look for solutions?

Additional Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:17, Mark 7:21; James 3:13-18

2. Read 2 Samuel 14:21-24

David grants Joab's request and brings Absalom back, but not completely. He brings him closer to Jerusalem but refuses to see him. David's past sin seems to reach into the present day and hinder his ability to lead. When we're tempted to passivity due to the danger of being seen as a hypocrite, how can we find a way forward? Why is avoiding the issue only a mirage of safety?

Additional Reading: Matthew 7:1-5,

3. Read 2 Samuel 14:25-33

Absalom is a good-looking guy and garnering the praise of the nation. So, after waiting for two years in Jerusalem but in obscurity, he decides he's waited long enough and will *force* his way in. When Joab ignores his calls, he burns his barley fields to make him pay attention – he gets it, gains an audience with the king and is brought back in. Like the other two attempts, it *seems* like he's successful, but our goal is not to be noticed or productive – it is to be faithful and trust God with the results. That's what Jesus did…and God used Him to change the world. What makes it difficult for you to trust God in this way? How does fixing our eyes on Christ help us turn that corner?

Additional Reading: Philippians 2:1-11, Romans 6:1-4

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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