Our Promise Keeping King – *2 Samuel*

2 Samuel 15:1-37
"Leadership: Faith or Politic" – February 24, 2019

Introduction

In 2 Samuel 14, if we've sinned, can we fix what sin has ruined in our *own* wisdom and strength. The answer? A resounding, NO! But if *we* cannot fix things, what hope do we have that God, who *can* help us, *will* help us – knowing our sin is rebellion against Him? That's the question facing David in 2 Samuel 15 – and it's here we find gospel hope…when all hope seems lost.

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. Don't envy the arrogant (15:1-12)

II. Trust the God who is in control (15:13-37)

Read & Discuss

1. Read 2 Samuel 15:1-12

Absalom is a man in search of a bigger stage and sets his plans for a coup in motion. Sowing seeds of discontentment and making big promises to the people of God looking for justice, Absalom takes four years to win the hearts of a nation and incite a rebellion. In the end, Absalom is quite successful, and Israelite after Israelite gives their allegiance to him. On the surface, Absalom looks like the he's winning the day, and David is the loser. But sometimes there is more than meets the eye; sometimes it takes more than a look at the surface of things to see what's really going on. Yes, rebellion *is* rising up from within David's house, but according to 2 Samuel 12:10-11, God is sovereign even over this – David's trial is a tool God will use to discipline David and bring about good in His life and that of the nation. If we are to love God and neighbor, one of the ways we do so is by loving Him with our minds (Mk. 12:30). In a fast paced, instant update newscasting, how can we slow down and think carefully, deeply, and biblically? Are you ever tempted to envy the wicked who seems to prosper even though they whatever their heart desires (Ps. 73:2-3)? Why is a biblical perspective, one we gain 'in the sanctuary' (Ps. 73:17) important?

Additional Reading: Proverbs 18:17, 2 Timothy 2:7

2. Read 2 Samuel 15:13-37

As David faces the painful trial of a son and counselor betraying him and turning a nation against him, God will begin to use it to nudge him out of his passive slumber and get him to trust and rely on God once again. Along the way, God sends the encouragements of Ittai, Zadok, Abiathar and Hushai. By the time we get to vv25-26, David is trusting God again – not trying to barter a deal, but submitting to God no matter what He says is right and good.

One of the Psalms David wrote from the context of his trial was Psalm 3. Surrounded by enemies and facing the pain of betrayal, *he's* the one we expect to be losing sleep, but instead, he says, "I lay down and slept; I woke again, for the Lord sustained me. I will not be afraid of many thousands of people who have set themselves against me all around." How? By knowing God as his shield, his glory, and the lifter of his head (Psalm 3:3).

When facing the uncertainty of tomorrow or the threat of our enemies (the world, the flesh and the devil), what confidence can the Christian have that God is *for* them? As we see with David, it's not in our performance (David had failed) but God's grace – God's faithfulness to keep his promises. A thousand years after David, God kept His promise to send a Savior, a son of David who *would* not fail but live without sin and rescue us from our sin. How does the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus give us confidence about the way God sees those who trust in Him?

Additional Reading: 1 Peter 2:19-25

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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