

Our Promise Keeping King – 2 Samuel

2 Samuel 16:1-23

“Bless those who curse you” – March 10, 2019



Introduction

After David sinned in 2 Samuel 11, having an affair with Bathsheba and killing her husband Uriah, he came to know God's gracious forgiveness in chapter 12. Nonetheless, the guilt and shame of his actions seemed to paralyze him for the next 11 years...leaving him a passive king and opening the door for bad leaders to fill that vacuum. Absalom, his son, was one of those bad leaders. He formed a coup, rallied the nation against David and forced him out of Jerusalem. What a heartbreaking trial! And yet, this trial was the context God used to wake him up and help him trust in God and lead like a king should. In 2 Samuel 15, God used good *friends* to be an encouragement to him. In 2 Samuel 16, we see how God helps David even in the midst of *enemies*.

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. Because God sees, we can rest (16:1-4)
- II. Because God loves, we can submit (16:5-14)
- III. Because God reigns, we can hope (16:15-23)

Read & Discuss

1. Read [2 Samuel 16:1-4](#)

Leaving the summit of the Mount of Olives, David and company bump into Ziba. He was the servant of Mephibosheth David had hired back in [2 Samuel 9](#). Ziba has provisions (that likely came from *Mephibosheth's land*) for David but his boss is nowhere to be found. Suspicious, David asks, and Ziba convinces David that he's betrayed the king and looking to take the throne for himself! It's an unlikely story, but with lots of decisions to make, no time to back-check the story, and a series of betrayals, David takes Ziba at his word and gives him his land. We know as the reader he's lying (see [2 Samuel 19:27](#)) but if we limit ourselves to David's perspective in chapter 16 we don't know if he's a friend or foe. David makes the best decision he can with the information that's available to him. How is he able to navigate this road without falling into the ditch of cynicism on one hand or foolish naivety on the other hand? When you look at your own life, and the possibility of being betrayed by Ziba's (people who claim to be friends but are only using you...) can you see ways you've become cynical as a self-defense mechanism? Or are you acting *like* Ziba, trying to straddle the fence – not really going all in with God or with the world but hedging your bets to protect yourself against what you can't see or know? Take some time to check out [Psalm 139:1-16](#). What do you see is true about God that helps us to rest in Him? Can you today?

Additional Reading: Psalm 3, Proverbs 3:5-6, Matthew 6:24

2. Read [2 Samuel 16:5-14](#)

The next enemy David meets is Shimei. He thinks he knows why David is suffering and throws curses and rocks at him. Shimei doesn't have all the facts, misunderstands David, and falsely accuses him of killing Saul and his family. But while he's wrong about who...David knows he's right about the blood on his hands – the blood of Uriah, Bathsheba's husband. In light of 2 Samuel 12:10-12, David discerns that the cursing of Shimei is part of God's discipline, part of the consequences for his sin. So, instead of responding like Abishai suggests (v9), David submits to God. It's important to note that David's confidence that God will do what is good (v12) is not based on *his* being good, but God's grace and love! Though he's unsure of when or what God will do, he is able to trust and submit to the God who loves him. Are you facing hardship, the discipline of God in your life? If so, you may be tempted to think the pain is a sign that God hates you...but that isn't true! How does knowing what God has done for us in Christ assure us of God's love and embolden us to submit to our loving Father?

Additional Reading: Hebrews 12:5-11, Galatians 3:10-13

3. Read [2 Samuel 16:15-23](#)

Reading chapter 16 can leave us asking, who is in charge here? David's on the run, Absalom's claimed the throne, Ahithophel offers advice that's seen as trustworthy, and things don't look like they're getting better any time soon. When Absalom takes the advice of Ahithophel and sleeps with David's concubines in public, he burns the bridge of any hope of reconciliation with his dad. But while we are right to be shocked and see his actions on the roof as outrageous, even his attempts to ruin David are under the hand of a sovereign God. In the darkness of 2 Samuel 13-20, the reminder that God is in charge is seen over and over in [2 Samuel 12:10-12](#). Because He's in control, God is able to take what man meant for evil and use it for good. Does life seem out of control for you? How does remembering God's sovereignty help you to have hope, even in the mess and chaos?

Additional Reading: Genesis 50:20, Romans 8:28

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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