

# Our Promise Keeping King – 2 Samuel

2 Samuel 18:1-33

“Guilt, Grief, and Salvation” – March 31, 2019



## Introduction

The decisions we make as leaders affects not just the leader, but those who follow. For that reason, failed leadership can be painful. As we turn to 2 Samuel 18, we remember David had sinned in chapter 11, known God's forgiven, but also seen the painful consequences of sinful choices. As we watch David (and those living under his rule) navigate a difficult path, we learn how to find hope and confidence in a world with imperfect leaders.

## 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

*We can find hope and confidence in a world with imperfect authority by looking and pointing others to Jesus, our perfect King.*

- I. Scene 1: Humility (18:1-18)
- II. Scene 2: Grief (18:19-33)

## Read & Discuss

1. Read [2 Samuel 18:1-18](#)

The civil war has begun. Absalom's determined to take David down and put himself on the throne. But even as the battle begins, David holds out hope for his son (however foolish that might be) and tells his men to be gentle with him. Though David was *far* from perfect, he was still God's chosen king. What's more, God had promised him a kingdom that lasts ([7:16](#)) and forgiven his sin ([12:13](#)). Surely, Absalom would have known this, but why doesn't he *hear* it or see it and turn away? Because of pride. Absalom was determined to be king, to be respected, to be loved and well thought of. He sought to find his value not in the love of God, but the love and praise of man. As a result, he couldn't imagine the thought of humbling himself and recognizing the man God put on the throne. As a result, he couldn't imagine recognizing God's rule in his life.

Absalom's pride is pictured in monument building – an obsession with being remembered and well thought of. We don't have to build *literal* statues to be guilty of Absalom's sin. What are the ways you build monuments for *your* name, so people take notice of you, think well of you, and will remember you? What can we learn from the pile of rocks Absalom was buried under in the midst of his pursuit to make a name for himself instead of God?

Additional Reading: Proverbs 16:18, Matthew 23:12

## 2. Read [2 Samuel 18:19-33](#)

We know Absalom has died, but David anxiously waits for the news until it finally reaches him in v33. David's grief is heart-wrenching to see and hear. Not only did he lose his son whom he loved, David also feels the sting of regret knowing these are the consequences of sin ([2 Samuel 12:10](#)). The theologian John Owen once said, "Be killing sin, or sin will be killing you." David's grief is a loving warning to turn from sin now and not believe the lie that sin is harmless. At the same time, David's grief (like our own grief can do) points us to a *better* king, *King Jesus*. What David longed to do (die instead of his son), he could not because he had his own sin on his record. But Jesus did just that – on the cross, Jesus died on the cross to bear the penalty for our sin.

Paul says in Romans 5:8 that God *demonstrates* His love for us in this: while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. The call to humility and the ability to have hope in the darkest of sorrows calls for us to look to God who has a love that goes even deeper. Where our sin abounds, God's grace goes deeper, God's mercy is more ([Romans 5:20](#)). This past Sunday, we sang, "His Mercy is More" as a church family. Take some time to reflect on those lyrics again, to look to Christ in His love and His mercy. Come to Him with your burdens, your weariness and find rest ([Matthew 11:28-30](#)). What's holding you back?

*What love could remember, no wrongs we have done | Omniscient, all-knowing, He counts not their sum | Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore | Our sins they are many, His mercy is more*

*What patience would wait as we constantly roam | What Father so tender is calling us home He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor | Our sins they are many, His mercy is more*

*What riches of kindness He lavished on us | His blood was the payment His life was the cost We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford | Our sins they are many, His mercy is more*

*Praise the Lord | His mercy is more | Stronger than darkness | New every morn'  
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more*

-("His Mercy is More" by Matt Papa)

Additional Reading: Galatians 6:7-8

### **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.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <https://fbcum.org/sermons-new/>