

# Our Promise Keeping King – 2 Samuel

2 Samuel 19:1-43

“A Kingdom on Edge” – March 31, 2019



## Introduction

Sin promises life, but never delivers; it always leads to death ([James 1:14-15](#)). David's sin, Absalom's sin, and the nation's sin were decisions to do things *their way* instead of God's, leaving the nation in shambles. The nation was estranged from God's chosen king, the nation was bickering with each other, and there was no clear path forward. Absalom had died in battle so the civil war was over, but as David makes his way back west to Jerusalem, will he be able to unite a nation and reconcile them to himself?

## 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: Grief and responsibility (19:1-8a)
- II. Scene 2: The king initiates (19:8b-15)
- III. Scene 3: The king's kindness (19:16-40)  
Seen in: Mercy (Shimei); Restoration (Mephibosheth); Reward (Barzillai)
- IV. Scene 4: Waiting (19:41-43)

## Read & Discuss

1. Read [2 Samuel 19:1-8a](#)

David is overcome with sorrow over the death of his son and the role that his sin played in the national disaster. Though he grieves as a father, he still has the responsibilities of a king. As he navigates the path of grief and responsibility, Joab's words help him to move past his grief to thank the troops who had risked their lives on his behalf. He will be forever changed – there's nothing he can do to bring his son back or undo his sin – but with a sovereign God at the helm, even the darkest sorrows are not without hope. A beautiful picture of this is in Isaiah 51:3 “For the Lord comforts Zion; he comforts all her waste places and makes her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song.” Does your life feel like a wilderness because of sorrow? Can you trust God to bring new life and opportunities through it?

Additional Reading: Psalm 84 (If you'd like to read more about Joni Eareckson Tada's story you can read about it in her biography, [Joni: An Unforgettable Story](#).)

## 2. Read [2 Samuel 19:8b-15](#)

While the nation flees in fear and argues about how or if there is a way forward now that the king they'd supported is dead and the king they'd rejected is back in power, David steps in to turn the tide. He takes the initiative to show them he's not going to hold their sin against them. He wants to reunite the nation and reconcile them to himself. David's initiative points us to God's gracious initiative with sinners like us. While we were yet dead in our sins, God came to us and made us alive together with Christ! Knowing God takes the initiative, what effects should that have in our lives? (To help you reflect on this take some time to read the texts in the 'Additional Reading' below)

Additional Reading: John 15:16, Revelation 3:20, Ephesians 2:1-5, Romans 5:8, 1 John 4:19

## 3. Read [2 Samuel 19:16-43](#)

As David comes home, he meets three people that give us an opportunity to see his kindness expressed in his mercy, restoration and reward. The mercy he extends to Shimei points us to the mercy God has shown treasonous sinners like us. Abishai is quick to try and shut it down though. Marked by anger and a proclivity to fight and quarrel, Proverbs warns about rubbing shoulders with such people: "Make no friendship with a man given to anger, nor go with a wrathful man, lest you learn his ways and entangle yourself in a snare" (Proverbs 22:24-25). Having received the mercy of the king, Mephibosheth models the right response: *he loves the king more than the gifts the king gives*. Does your heart respond to God the same way Mephibosheth? Are you more thankful for the gifts or the Giver of those gifts?

At the end of the day, David made progress in bringing a nation together, but the unity they knew was a fragile one. The people of God would need to wait for a better king, a king who could change our hearts to bring *true* and lasting peace; true and lasting unity. Knowing what God has done for us in Christ in our salvation *and* to make us a new creation, what should striving for unity with others look like in our lives *today* (see [Ephesians 4:25-32](#))?

Additional Reading: Philippians 2:1-11

### **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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