

Our Promise Keeping King – 2 Samuel

2 Samuel 21:1-22

“Taking God’s Name in Vain” – April 28, 2019



Introduction

Ecclesiastes 3:1 tells us “There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven”; including, “a time to mourn, and a time to dance.” Busy lives and a desire to be comfortable can make it difficult to do, but it’s helpful for us to recognize the season God has us in and respond appropriately lest we miss what God is doing *today* due to an imbalanced desire for what’s new *tomorrow*. As we bring 1 & 2 Samuel to a close over the next several weeks, our narrator looks back in 2 Samuel 21-24 to highlight a number of scenes from David’s life to wrap things up. Today we see there’s a time to mourn and a time to rejoice.

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. A time to mourn (21:1-14)
- II. A time to rejoice (21:15-22)

Read & Discuss

1. Read [2 Samuel 21:1-14](#)

When the nation faces a severe famine for 3 years straight, David seeks the face of God to figure out what’s going on and what he should do as Israel’s king. Come to find out, the previous king, Saul, had violated a covenant the nation had made to protect the neighboring Gibeonites (see [Joshua 9](#)). The violation of a covenant made in God’s name not only brought bloodguilt on Saul and his house, it made a mockery of God’s name. Zealous to honor God’s name, David seeks to make things right with the Gibeonites. Though a difficult text to read with the heart-wrenching scene of a mother grieving the death of two of her sons, this sadness seems to be intentional. We as the reader are invited into this time to mourn to consider the cost of *our* atonement and how that should lead us to act for the glory of God and good of others around us. Are there times you find it easy to grow accustomed to the idea of Jesus’ death *for* you that we lose sight of the pain it brought God the Father or what our salvation cost Him? How should God’s mercy and love displayed in the gospel compel us to love Him more and care for the needs of those around us?

Additional Reading: 1 Peter 1:18-19, Titus 2:11-12

2. Read [2 Samuel 21:15-22](#)

Four enemies, four heroes, and a weak king. Why does the author include this record of battles? As David grows old and weak, it looks like his life, his leadership (note the lamp of Israel in v17), and the promises God made to Him for the well-being of His people (see [2 Samuel 7:16](#)) were all at risk. One thing we learn from this section though is that David's strength and success has never been something that's come from *himself* (*his* strength, wisdom, or being a saint). It was because of God's grace and David's trust in the God who is infinitely strong, wise, and good. Even when David is weak, God is faithful to His promises and the faithfulness of God – the fact that God keeps *all* of His promises is the basis of our salvation. How is the salvation of Mephibosheth in v7 a picture of this relationship between the promise-keeping of the king and our salvation? How can our weakness serve as a platform for God's strength? What are the ways you feel weak or tired today? What would it look like for you to come to God in prayer for what you need, to trust Him to display God's power?

Additional Reading: 2 Corinthians 12:9-10, Romans 5:1-5

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/>

***Next week's sermon text:** we'll pause our study of *2 Samuel* to look at **Matthew 10:16-39**, **"The Fallacy of Inclusion"**