

Our Promise Keeping King – 2 Samuel

2 Samuel 23:1-39

“Authority that gives life” – May 19, 2019



Introduction

An insurance company considers a car to be *totaled* when the cost to fix the car exceeds the value of the car. At that point, the car is usually abandoned, taken to the dump or sold for parts. The destructive effects of sin can leave us feeling that way about our own life, like the cost of fixing our sin-broke life, exceeds the value of our life. But when we start believing that, hope starts to vanish and we live for *lesser* things in life: distractions that give temporary escape and short-lived pleasure...but do not satisfy. Where then do we regain a vision of hope when life has been affected by the sin we've done or that's been done to us?

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

Christian hope rests in God's promise and God's power to use imperfect people.

Read & Discuss

1. Read [2 Samuel 23:1-7](#)

Righteous or just authority is done 'in the fear of God' and brings life and flourishing to those who live under it. A godly leader seeks to do what God command in His word and is willing to disadvantage themselves for the advantage of others. The *premier* example of this is Jesus who came not to be served but to serve and give His life as a ransom for many ([Mark 10:45](#)). David is able to say that his 'house' stands so with God ([v5](#)) because of the promise or covenant God had made with him in [2 Samuel 7:12-16](#). This helps to show that our hope as followers of Christ is not rooted in our achievements, but God's promises. Knowing this is the case, how can we practically guard and grow in hope? What does it look like for you to wield the 'sword of the Spirit' ([Ephesians 6:17](#)) in the fight against sin, temptation, doubt and discouragement?

Additional Reading: Romans 15:13, 10:17

2. Read [2 Samuel 23:8-39](#)

David's mighty men illustrate how God uses broken people to accomplish His good purposes. They were indeed brave and courageous, but their courage was fueled by the fact that victory belongs to God (see [v10](#) and [v12](#)). When you read of their courage and then look in the mirror, you may be discouraged – *these guys are in a league all their own!* And yet, their devotion to God's king and zeal for his cause is an example we are to imitate

in our devotion to God's King and effort to live for His purposes. Take a peek at [Ephesians 1:5-6](#) and [1 Timothy 1:15-16](#). What is the effect of God's grace in our life according to these texts? How does embracing God's purpose for us set us free from the tyranny of trying to find our value in our worldly achievements?

Who are some members of our church who have, by God's grace, given time, energy and finances to lift up God's name, God's gospel, and the well-being of His people at FBCUM? Over the next few weeks, reach out to one or two of these saints, have them over for a meal, take them out for coffee and ask them to share stories of God's grace in how He's worked in their life and our church over the years. Thank God for them – it's appropriate for us to honor such men and women ([1 Thessalonians 5:12-13](#)) – weak and imperfect people who are willing to trust a strong and perfect God to do *mighty* things!

Additional Reading: Ephesians 2:1-5

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 finish up 2 Samuel with **2 Samuel 24; "Wrath and Mercy."** Read ahead and prayerfully consider what God is teaching us about Himself as we get ready, Lord willing, to gather together next Sunday.