

David: After God's Heart

God calls individuals to lead His people, and they should be honored as such.



TRANSFORMATION
for Adult LifeGroups

2 SAMUEL 1:22-27; 2:1-7 – RESPECTED

MAY 30, 2018/JUNE 3, 2018

TODAY'S TEXT

Text: 2 SAMUEL 1:22-27; 2:1-7 (NIV), *"From the blood of the slain, from the flesh of the mighty, the bow of Jonathan did not turn back, the sword of Saul did not return unsatisfied. 23 Saul and Jonathan—in life they were loved and admired, and in death they were not parted. They were swifter than eagles, they were stronger than lions. 24 'Daughters of Israel, weep for Saul, who clothed you in scarlet and finery, who adorned your garments with ornaments of gold. 25 'How the mighty have fallen in battle! Jonathan lies slain on your heights. 26 I grieve for you, Jonathan my brother; you were very dear to me. Your love for me was wonderful, more wonderful than that of women. 27 'How the mighty have fallen! The weapons of war have perished!"*

2 In the course of time, David inquired of the Lord. "Shall I go up to one of the towns of Judah?" he asked. The Lord said, "Go up." David asked, "Where shall I go?" "To Hebron," the Lord answered. 2 So David went up there with his two wives, Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail, the widow of Nabal of Carmel. 3 David also took the men who were with him, each with his family, and they settled in Hebron and its towns. 4 Then the men of Judah came to Hebron, and there they anointed David king over the tribe of Judah. When David was told that it was the men from Jabesh Gilead who had buried Saul, 5 he sent messengers to them to say to them, "The Lord bless you for showing this kindness to Saul your master by burying him. 6 May the Lord now show you kindness and faithfulness, and I too will show you the same favor because you have done this. 7 Now then, be strong and brave, for Saul your master is dead, and the people of Judah have anointed me king over them."

FIRST THOUGHTS

- What makes a leader someone you respect?

UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXT

Second Samuel is a book about kings. While the desire for a king by God's people exposed an improper motive on their part (1 Sam. 8:4-21), the role of king was a part of God's purpose in Israel (Deut. 17:14-20). Although some kings failed miserably in their role, the whole idea of kingship was a part of God's redemptive plan to bring Jesus to earth as the eternal King and Messiah.

Second Samuel begins where 1 Samuel left off—the demise of Israel's first king. It provides additional details about Saul's death. Ironically, it details how an Amalekite killed Saul in his last moments of life after the king attempted to take his own life. Saul's downfall began with his failure to completely annihilate the Amalekites (Deut. 25:17-19, see also 1 Sam. 15:18-19). David, on the other hand, sought to fulfill God's command against Amalek (1 Sam. 30:16-17; 2 Sam. 1:1).

Although Saul was deficient as a leader of the people of Israel, David showed respect for him and his office as the Lord's anointed (2 Sam. 1:14-16). And although the Amalekite messenger from Mount Gilboa paid homage to David (1:2), it was formal and ritualistic, probably designed to ingratiate himself to David. Ultimately, respect for God's leaders is a matter of the heart. After dealing with the treacherous Amalekite and putting him to death for his rejection of and disdain for the Lord's anointed (1:15-16), David and his men began to mourn the deaths of Saul and Jonathan (1:17-27). Those who followed David modeled their behavior after him which was a tribute to David's leadership. The dirge, which he composed in his grief, was poignant and touching. He ordered that it be taught to the people and thus taught them how to honor their leaders. Such an act affirmed the importance of kingship in ancient Israel.

EXPLORE THE TEXT

COMMEMORATION

> Read 2 Samuel 1:22-27

- Find phrases that describe the friendship of David and Jonathan. How have you cultivated one of these qualities in your own friendships? Why do we need friendships in addition to dating or marriage?
- What did David teach us in these verses about knowing how to grieve and what to say when someone dies?
- What's the difference between respect for a human and wrongly revering that human? What's the difference between respect and following without question? What other distinctions help you know how to respect someone in a godly way?
- In what ways can we start following a "personality" and not the "person" of Christ?

CORONATION

> Read 2 Samuel 2:1-4a

- ° What decision did David talk over with God in these verses? Give examples of small and big decisions we discuss with God.
- ° David obeyed God in the move to Hebron, and in the way David accepted kingship. What makes it easy to obey God? When do we resist obeying God? Does this tend to be deliberate or gradual?
- ° How did David show respect for being anointed as king after his friend's father had left the throne vacant?

COMMENDATION

> Read 2 Samuel 2:4b-7

- ° What did David do when he learned that the men of Jabesh-gilead had buried Saul?
- ° How can you tell David was sincere in his commendation as opposed to being politically motivated?

SUMMARIZE AND CHALLENGE

God calls individuals to lead His people, and they should be honored as such.

APPLICATION: What does this mean for my life this week?

We do not follow blindly or without accountability but we are to respect those God has placed in authority. How can you show respect to the leaders God has placed in your life? (think in person, in conversation and online.)

ACTION STEP: Think about leaders from your past and present. Evaluate helpful ways to show our thanks without feeding egos. Remember that leaders' ears are often filled with critiques which can lead to discouragement and doubt. When is the last time you pointed out only the positives to a leader and held your tongue on the few minor issues that could have been improved but are inconsequential?

Remember unexpressed gratitude feels like ingratitude.

Personal Challenge: Tell your leaders or write them a note this week the ways in which you see them leading well. This will both honor and encourage them. Commit to pray for them weekly.

UPCOMING LESSONS

- Read 2 Samuel 3:18-21
- Reflect on a time you have been part of a restructuring or reorganization. How did you handle that change?
- What role does mutual respect and influence play when a big change occurs?

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE

4th - Proverbs 28-29; Psalm 60; Romans 16 | **5th** - Proverbs 30-31; Psalm 33; Ephesians 1 | **6th** - Ecclesiastes 1-3; Psalm 45; Ephesians 2 | **7th** - Ecclesiastes 4-6; Psalm 18; Ephesians 3 | **8th** - Ecclesiastes 7-9; Ephesians 4 | **9th** - Ecclesiastes 10-12; Psalm 94; Ephesians 5 | **10th** - Song 1-4; Ephesians 6