



David Reunites the Kingdom

Kicking It Off:

Can you share an experience where you felt truly cared for or served by a leader in your life (a boss, a pastor, a parent, a coach)? What made their leadership stand out to you?

Read:

2 Samuel 5:1-5

Summary

In this sermon, the central theme is the nature of godly leadership as exemplified in the life of David and ultimately in Jesus Christ. True leadership is not about outward appearances, skills, or accomplishments, but about the heart. God looks at the heart, and He chooses and equips leaders according to His purposes.

God's definition of leadership is described as the "shepherd leader" - a leader who serves, protects, and cares for their people, just as a literal shepherd does for their sheep. This model of leadership is countercultural, focusing not on personal gain or power, but on the well-being and unity of those being led. The ultimate example of this is Jesus, the Good Shepherd, who laid down His life for His sheep.

While God is the ultimate Shepherd, He calls human leaders to follow this shepherding model in leading His people. This requires humility, sacrifice, and obedience to God's leading. At the same time, there is the difficulty of submitting to human leadership due to our sinful, independent nature. The role of the Holy Spirit is crucial in helping us discern godly leadership and the importance of the congregation's responsibility to test their leaders' teachings against the truth of God's word.

At the end of the day, God wants us to submit under leaders because there is prosperity and blessings that come from submitting unto the leaders He places in our lives. This prosperity is not necessarily material, but rather the deep, abiding blessings of living in alignment with God's

purposes. We are called to depend on God, submit to the leadership He has placed in our life, and ultimately follow Jesus, our true leader and shepherd.

The sermon grounds these concepts in Scripture, drawing from the life of David, the teachings of Jesus, and the instructions to the early church. The overarching message is a call to embrace the countercultural model of shepherd leadership, both as leaders and as followers, and to find our ultimate hope and guidance in Christ.

Discussion Questions

1. The sermon focuses on the concept of the "shepherd leader" - a leader who serves, protects, and cares for their people. **How does this model of leadership differ from what we often see in the world? Can you think of examples of shepherd leaders in your own life?**
2. The ultimate example of a shepherd leader is Jesus, the Good Shepherd, who laid down His life for His sheep. **How does Jesus' example challenge or inspire you in your own leadership roles (at work, in your family, in the church, etc.)?**
3. The sermon acknowledges that God is the ultimate Shepherd but calls human leaders to follow this shepherding model. **What do you think it looks like practically for a human leader to lead in this way? What challenges might they face?**
4. Submitting to human leadership can be difficult due to our sinful, independent nature. **How have you experienced this struggle in your own life? How does the Holy Spirit help us in this area?**
5. The sermon emphasizes the congregation's responsibility to test their leaders' teachings against the truth of God's word. **Why do you think this is important? How can we do this in a way that is respectful and constructive?**
6. The sermon concludes by highlighting the prosperity and blessings that come from following God and the godly leaders He places in our lives. **How have you experienced this in your own life? What do you think it means to find "true prosperity"?**
7. The overarching message is a call to embrace the countercultural model of shepherd leadership, both as leaders and as followers, and to find our ultimate hope and guidance in Christ. **What is one practical way you feel challenged to respond to this message in your own life this week?**

Bible Passage

2 Samuel 5:1-5

Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, "Behold, we are your bone and flesh. ²In times past, when Saul was king over us, it was you who led out and brought in Israel. And the LORD said to you, 'You shall be shepherd of my people Israel, and you shall be prince over Israel.'" ³So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and King David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the LORD, and they anointed David king over Israel. ⁴David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years. ⁵At Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and at Jerusalem he reigned over all Israel and Judah thirty-three years.

Outline

1. Introduction
 - a. Continuing the series on the life of David, "The Heart of a King"
 - b. God looks at the heart, not outward appearances or actions
 - c. David is reuniting a divided kingdom (Israel and Judah)
2. The Recognition of David's Leadership
 - a. The elders of Israel approach David, acknowledging him as the one sent by God to lead
 - b. David's role is not just to be king, but to be a shepherd and prince over Israel
 - c. A leader's job is to unite people, even when there is division
3. The Shepherd Prince
 - a. The role of a shepherd is to unite, gather, protect, and provide for the sheep
 - b. God is the ultimate Shepherd (Ezekiel 34:11-16)
 - c. Jesus is the Good Shepherd who lays down His life for the sheep (John 10:11-18)
 - d. Leaders are meant to be shepherds, not seeking personal gain but serving the people
 - e. The paradoxical idea of leadership in the kingdom of God: laying down one's life for others
4. Trusting in Leadership
 - a. Submission to leadership is a struggle due to our sinful nature
 - b. The Holy Spirit enables us to follow God's leadership
 - c. Discerning true and false shepherds (Matthew 7:15-20)
 - d. The importance of unity under godly leadership (2 Samuel 5:4-5)
 - e. Obeying and submitting to church leaders (Hebrews 13:17, 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13)
 - f. The role of the congregation in testing leaders' teachings (Acts 17:11)
5. Conclusion
 - a. The prosperity that comes from following God and godly leaders
 - b. The call to depend on God and submit to the leadership He has placed in our lives
 - c. Our submission is ultimately to our true leader and shepherd, Jesus Christ

Notes

When I think about leadership, I believe that true leaders are chosen and equipped by God. It's not about outward appearances, skills, or accomplishments, but about the heart. A leader's primary role is to unite people, even in the face of division. In the story of David, we see this exemplified. David was anointed by God to lead Israel, not because of his stature or background, but because of his heart. When the kingdom was divided, the elders of Israel recognized that David was the one sent by God to bring unity and healing.

But David's role was not just to be a king in the traditional sense. He was called to be a shepherd and a prince. In other words, his leadership was meant to nurture, guide, and serve the people, not to lord over them. He was a representative of God's leadership, not a replacement for it. I believe this is a powerful model for leadership in any context. True leadership is not about gaining power or status for oneself, but about serving and uniting others under the guidance and authority of God. It requires humility, wisdom, and a deep reliance on God's leading. When we recognize and follow this kind of leadership, we can experience the blessings of unity and alignment with God's purposes.

As I reflect on the concept of the shepherd leader, I'm struck by how countercultural it is. In our world, leadership is often associated with power, prestige, and personal gain. But the biblical model is radically different. A true shepherd leader is one who serves, protects, and cares for their people, just as a literal shepherd does for their sheep. They are willing to lay down their own life for the sake of those they lead. This is the ultimate example set by Jesus, the Good Shepherd, who gave His life for us. While God is the ultimate Shepherd, He calls human leaders to follow this shepherding model in leading His people. This means focusing not on our own ambitions and agendas, but on the well-being and unity of those we serve. It's a posture of humility, sacrifice, and obedience to God's leading. Trusting and submitting to human leadership is difficult because of our sinful, independent nature. But with the help of the Holy Spirit, we can discern godly leadership and embrace the value of unity under that leadership. This doesn't mean blind obedience, but rather a wholehearted commitment to the health and mission of the community, while also taking responsibility to test what our leaders teach against the truth of God's word. As challenging as it may be, I believe this shepherd leadership model is essential for the thriving of God's people. When we as leaders embrace our role as shepherds, and when we as congregations unite under godly shepherding, we experience the blessing and power of living in alignment with

God's design. It's not about any one personality or human authority, but about pointing one another to Jesus, the Chief Shepherd, and serving Him together.

As I consider all these thoughts on leadership, I come back to this central idea: following God and the godly leaders He places in our lives leads to true prosperity. Not necessarily prosperity in the superficial sense of wealth or comfort, but the deep, abiding blessings of living in alignment with God's purposes. This kind of prosperity flows from a posture of dependency on God. It means submitting to the leadership and authority structures He establishes, not as ends in themselves, but as a means of submitting to Him. When I trust the leaders God has placed over me, I'm ultimately trusting God Himself. At the same time, I recognize that human leaders, even godly ones, are never the ultimate authority. My primary allegiance is always to Jesus, the perfect embodiment of the shepherd leader. He is the one who laid down His life for me, and He is the one I'm called to follow above all else. As I navigate the complexities of leadership and submission in my own life, I'm learning to hold these truths in tension. I want to honor and obey the leaders God has given me, but always with a view to honoring and obeying Christ. I want to pursue the prosperity that comes from walking in God's ways, even when it looks different from the world's definition of success.

Ultimately, this is the heart of what it means to follow the Good Shepherd. It's a daily choice to trust His leadership, to depend on His guidance, and to find my joy in serving Him and His people. As I do this in community with others, I believe we will experience a taste of the true prosperity God intends for us - not just in this life, but for all eternity.

BLOG - THE FAITHFUL SHEPHERD KING

I am always amazed by the faithfulness of God in my life. His Word is filled with promises that offer hope, comfort, and direction in the midst of life's challenges. As I reflect on the story of David, I am reminded of how God fulfills His promises and raises up leaders to shepherd His people.

David's life is a powerful testament to God's faithfulness. From his humble beginnings as a shepherd boy to his anointing as the future king of Israel, David's story is one of God's providential hand at work. When the prophet Samuel anointed David, it marked his setting apart for God's service and his empowerment by the Holy Spirit. This moment set David on a trajectory towards fulfilling God's purposes for his life and for the nation of Israel. But God's promises to David didn't stop with kingship. In 2 Samuel 7:12-16, God made a remarkable covenant with David, promising that his throne would be established forever. This promise pointed beyond David's immediate descendants to its ultimate fulfillment in Jesus Christ, the Son of David and the eternal King (Matthew 1:1; Luke 1:32-33).

As I think about the fulfillment of God's promises to David, I am filled with a deep sense of awe and gratitude. The unwavering faithfulness of God is a source of great comfort and security in my life. I am reminded that God does not lie or change His mind; what He says, He will do (Numbers 23:19). I can trust in His character, knowing that He is always true to His word (2 Timothy 2:13). In times of uncertainty and difficulty, I cling to the promises of God as an anchor for my soul (Hebrews 6:19). I find peace in the assurance that my faithful God is in control and is working all things together for my good and His glory (Romans 8:28). This peace flows not from my circumstances but from the confidence that all of God's promises find their "Yes" in Christ (2 Corinthians 1:20).

Just as God was faithful to fulfill His promises to David, I am learning to trust that He will be faithful to fulfill His promises in my own life. Whatever challenges I may be facing, whatever dreams I may be holding in my heart, I choose to believe that God is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that I could ask or think (Ephesians 3:20). As I fix my eyes on Jesus, the ultimate fulfillment of all God's promises, I find my security, my peace, and my hope in Him. Like David, I want to be a person after God's own heart, seeking to fulfill His purposes in my generation and trusting in His faithfulness every step of the way.

My prayer is that you (whoever you may be reading this blog post) would take hold of the promises of God in your own life. May you find comfort in His unchanging character, peace in His sovereign control, and hope in the assurance of His faithfulness. Let us together trust in the God who always keeps His promises, for He is worthy of our unwavering faith and devotion.

- In what ways have you personally experienced God's faithfulness in your life? How have you seen Him fulfill His promises, even in the midst of difficult circumstances?
- David was described as a man after God's own heart, who sought to fulfill God's will in his generation. What do you think it means to be a person after God's own heart in our current context? What steps can we take to cultivate a heart that is fully devoted to God and His purposes?