



David Becomes King

Kicking It Off:

Who is someone in your life that you find it challenging to show grace to? (This question can open up a conversation about loving our enemies and seeing people through God's eyes, as David did with Saul.)

Read:

2 Samuel 2:1-7

Summary

In this sermon, we explore the life of David and the lessons we can learn from his response to the death of Saul, his transition to kingship, and how his story foreshadows the grace we have in Christ.

David's reaction to the death of Saul, his enemy and predecessor, reveals a heart of remarkable maturity and alignment with God's perspective. Instead of rejoicing over the demise of his adversary, David mourns, weeps, and honors Saul. This challenges us to love our enemies and see them through God's eyes, even when they have wronged us.

As David becomes king, first over Judah and later over all Israel, we see the importance of waiting on God's timing and following His lead. David consistently seeks the Lord's guidance and refuses to take matters into his own hands, trusting that God will fulfill His promises in due time. This serves as an encouragement for us to submit to God's plan and timeline, even when it differs from our own.

Through David's story, we also catch a glimpse of the profound transition from being under the law to being under grace through Christ. Just as the Israelites had to learn to follow David and

not Saul, we must embrace our new identity in Jesus and live under His leadership. In Christ, we are free from striving to earn our righteousness and can rest in His finished work on the cross.

This victory and freedom we have in Christ transforms the way we view and treat others. We are called to extend unconditional love and grace to all people, embracing the marginalized and "sinners" as Jesus did. Living under grace empowers us to be vessels of Christ's love, offering a safe place for the broken and hurting to encounter the transformative power of the gospel.

Discussion Questions

1. David's response to Saul's death was one of mourning and honor, even though Saul had been his enemy. This demonstrates a level of maturity and alignment with God's heart that challenges our natural human inclinations. **When have you found it difficult to love or show compassion to an "enemy" or someone who has wronged you? What do you think it would look like to see them through God's eyes?**
2. As David waited to become king over all Israel, he consistently sought the Lord's guidance and timing. He resisted the temptation to take matters into his own hands, even when it seemed like he had the perfect opportunity. **Share about a time when you felt impatient for God's plan to unfold in your life. What did you learn through that experience about trusting in His timing and leadership?**
3. The transition from Saul's leadership to David's kingship foreshadows our own journey from being under the law to being under grace in Christ. In Jesus, we are set free from striving to earn our righteousness and can rest in His finished work. **How does the realization that you are under grace and not the law change the way you approach your relationship with God and others?**
4. As followers of Christ, we are called to extend unconditional love and grace to all people, just as Jesus embraced the marginalized and "sinners" of His day. This often requires stepping out of our comfort zones and seeing people through God's eyes. **What are some practical ways we can show love and acceptance to those who are different from us or who may be considered "outcasts" by society?**
5. Living under grace means that we have the freedom and power to be vessels of Christ's love to a hurting world. As we walk in the victory we have in Jesus, our lives should be marked by a courageous, sacrificial love that points others to Him. **How can we cultivate a heart that is in tune with God's love for the lost and broken? What steps can we take to actively share the transformative power of the gospel with those around us?**

Bible Passage

2 Samuel 2:1-7

After this David inquired of the Lord, "Shall I go up into any of the cities of Judah?" And the Lord said to him, "Go up." David said, "To which shall I go up?" And he said, "To Hebron." ² So David went up there, and his two wives also, Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail the widow of Nabal of Carmel. ³ And David brought up his men who were with him, everyone with his household, and they lived in the towns of Hebron. ⁴ And the men of Judah came, and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah.

When they told David, "It was the men of Jabesh-gilead who buried Saul," ⁵ David sent messengers to the men of Jabesh-gilead and said to them, "May you be blessed by the Lord, because you showed this loyalty to Saul your lord and buried him. ⁶ Now may the Lord show steadfast love and faithfulness to you. And I will do good to you because you have done this thing. ⁷ Now therefore let your hands be strong, and be valiant, for Saul your lord is dead, and the house of Judah has anointed me king over them."

Outline

1. The Death of King Saul
 - A. David learns about the death of King Saul and his friend Jonathan
 - B. David's reaction: mourning, weeping, and fasting
 - C. Lesson: David did not relish in the defeat of his enemies
 - D. David's maturity in loving his enemies and seeing them as God sees them
2. David Becomes King of Judah
 - A. David seeks God's guidance on going to the cities of Judah
 - B. God instructs David to go to Hebron
 - C. David's anointing as king of Judah and the establishment of his kingdom
 - D. The importance of waiting on God's timing and following His lead
3. Under New Leadership
 - A. The transition from King Saul's leadership to David's leadership
 - B. Comparison to the transition from being under the law to being under grace through Christ
 - C. The victory we have in Christ and the freedom to love others, including our enemies
 - D. The call to embrace and love those who are different from us, as Christ did

Notes

I believe that as followers of Christ, we are called to love our enemies and see them as God sees them. This means not taking joy in their defeats or hardships, but instead mourning with them and showing compassion. I understand that God's plan for my life will unfold according to His timing, not my own. It's crucial that I continually seek His guidance and follow His lead, trusting that He will fulfill His promises when the time is right. As a Christian, I am no longer under the law but under grace. Christ has already won the victory, and this gives me the freedom to love others unconditionally, even those who are different from me. It's not my place to condemn others for their sins, as I am a sinner myself. Instead, I am called to embrace them with the love of Christ. My deep desire is to share the good news of God's grace with those who are far from Him. As I bring others to know God, it fuels my own worship and praise. Each day, I aim to live under grace, seeking the Lord's direction and striving to love others as He loves them.

I believe that as followers of Christ, we are called to be under the leadership of grace, not the law. While the law served its purpose for a time, as appointed by God, we are now under a new covenant through Jesus. This doesn't mean the law is bad or should be disregarded completely. Rather, it reveals God's character and standards. But our obedience is now to Christ and His grace, not to the law itself. Under grace, we have the freedom and calling to love others unconditionally, including our enemies. We don't have to be afraid of the world or those who are different from us. In fact, truly following Jesus means embracing and serving those people, not separating ourselves from them out of fear of contamination. I dream of a church that reaches out to the marginalized and "sinners" with the heart of Jesus. A church that sits and eats with those the religious crowd condemns, just as Jesus fellowshiped with tax collectors and prostitutes. Not to condone their sin, but to extend grace, speak truth in love, and welcome them to experience the life-changing

power of Christ. As we become that kind of church, I believe we will see revival break out. We'll have a passion for God's name as we watch people move from death to life, from law to grace. Our worship will be fueled by the joy of seeing lives transformed by the gospel. I see a powerful parallel between the transition from Saul's leadership to David's and our own journey from being under the law to being under grace through Christ. Just as the Israelites had to learn to follow David and not Saul, we must learn to embrace our new identity in Jesus. In Christ, I am no longer bound by the law and its demands. I am free from striving to earn my righteousness and God's love. Instead, I can rest in the finished work of the cross, knowing that Jesus has already achieved the victory on my behalf.

This truth transforms the way I view and treat others, even those I once considered enemies. If Christ loved me while I was still hostile to Him, how can I withhold love and grace from anyone else? His command to love my neighbor extends to all people, regardless of how different they may be from me. As I seek to emulate Jesus, I am challenged to embrace the marginalized, the rejected, and the "sinners" - just as He did. This means stepping out of my comfort zone and engaging with those I might normally avoid. It requires seeing people through God's eyes, not the judgmental lens of the law.

Living under grace empowers me to extend unconditional love and acceptance, knowing that it is God's kindness that leads to repentance. I want to embody the heart of Christ, offering a safe place for the broken and hurting to encounter the transformative power of the gospel. As I walk in the freedom and victory I have in Christ, I pray that my life would be marked by a courageous, sacrificial love for others. I want to be a vessel of God's grace, pointing people to the One who has made all things new.

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After this David inquired of the Lord, "Shall I go up into any of the cities of Judah?" And the Lord said to him, "Go up." David said, "To which shall I go up?" And he said, "To Hebron." 2 So David went up there, and his two wives also, Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail the widow of Nabal of Carmel. 3 And David brought up his men who were with him, everyone with his household, and they lived in the towns of Hebron. 4 And the men of Judah came, and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah.

When they told David, "It was the men of Jabesh-gilead who buried Saul," 5 David sent messengers to the men of Jabesh-gilead and said to them, "May you be blessed by the Lord, because you showed this loyalty to Saul your lord and buried him. 6 Now may the Lord show steadfast love and faithfulness to you. And I will do good to you because you have done this thing. 7 Now therefore let your hands be strong, and be valiant, for Saul your lord is dead, and the house of Judah has anointed me king over them."

The story of David's rise from a humble shepherd to the king of Israel has always held a special place in my heart. It's a tale of faith, perseverance, and trust in God's plan, even in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds. As I've studied David's journey, I've come to realize that his story is not just a historical account, but a powerful lesson for all of us who face challenges and obstacles on the path to our God-given destiny. I want to share with you some of the key moments in David's journey and the lessons I've learned from them. From his anointing by Samuel to his years on the run from Saul, and eventually to his rise as king over all Israel, David's story is one that inspires and encourages me, and I hope it will do the same for you.

One of the most significant moments in David's life was his anointing by the prophet Samuel. When God rejected Saul as king, He sent Samuel to the house of Jesse to anoint one of his sons as the future king of Israel. As Jesse's sons passed before Samuel, God revealed that He had chosen David, the youngest and least likely candidate, to be the next king. This moment teaches us a powerful lesson about God's sovereignty and His plan for our lives. It reminds us that God's ways are not our ways, and that He often chooses the unlikely and the overlooked to accomplish His purposes. It also emphasizes the importance of trusting in God's timing, even when our circumstances seem to contradict His promises.

As David began to serve in Saul's court, his success and popularity quickly grew. He defeated Goliath, led successful military campaigns, and won the hearts of the people. However, David's success also attracted the jealousy and hostility of King Saul, who saw him as a threat to his throne. Saul's jealousy led him to make several attempts on David's life, forcing David to flee and seek refuge in the wilderness. This period of David's life teaches us valuable lessons about dealing with adversity and trusting God in difficult circumstances. When we face opposition or hardship, it's easy to become discouraged or to question God's plan for our lives. However, David's example reminds us that God is with us even in the darkest of times, and that He can use our struggles to strengthen our faith and prepare us for the future He has in store.

As Saul's hostility towards David intensified, David was forced to flee and spend several years on the run. During this time, he sought refuge in the wilderness, in foreign lands, and even among Israel's enemies. Yet, despite the constant danger and uncertainty, David remained committed to God and His plan for his life. One of the most important aspects of this period in David's life was the loyalty of his followers. Men from all over Israel gathered to him, recognizing him as God's chosen leader and pledging their allegiance to him. Their support and encouragement were a testament to David's character and his ability to inspire and lead others, even in the most challenging of circumstances. Throughout his years on the run, David continued to rely on God's protection and guidance. He sought God's direction through prayer and through the counsel of wise men like the prophet Gad. David's psalms from this period, such as Psalm 57 and Psalm 142, reveal a deep trust in God's faithfulness and a confidence in His ultimate deliverance. For me, David's example during this time teaches powerful lessons about faith, patience, and

perseverance. It reminds me that God's plans often involve seasons of waiting and hardship, but that He is always working behind the scenes to fulfill His purposes in His perfect timing.

After years of pursuing David, Saul's reign came to a tragic end when he and his sons were killed in battle against the Philistines. When David received the news of Saul's death, his reaction was one of grief and respect, not jubilation or vindication. David's response to Saul's death teaches us important lessons about forgiveness, respect, and honoring God's anointed leaders. Despite Saul's repeated attempts to kill him, David refused to rejoice in his death or to speak ill of him. Instead, he mourned the loss of Israel's king and his own dear friend, Jonathan. This example challenges me to let go of bitterness and resentment towards those who have wronged me, and to trust God to bring about justice and vindication in His own way and timing.

After Saul's death, David sought God's guidance and was directed to go to Hebron, where the men of Judah anointed him as their king. As king, one of David's first acts was to send a message of gratitude and blessing to the people of Jabesh-gilead, who had shown loyalty to Saul by burying his body. David's example as he began his reign teaches us the importance of seeking God's direction in all things, and of showing kindness and respect to others, even those who may have opposed us in the past. It reminds us that true leadership is not about power or position, but about serving others and honoring God in all we do.

Despite being anointed as king over Judah, David's path to the throne was not yet complete. Saul's son, Ish-bosheth, was proclaimed king over Israel by Abner, the commander of Saul's army, leading to a power struggle between the two kingdoms. The conflict between David and Ish-bosheth teaches us valuable lessons about trust, patience, and God's ultimate plan. Even though David had been anointed as king, he had to wait for God's timing and trust in His sovereignty to bring about the fulfillment of that promise. During this time, David continued to seek God's guidance and demonstrated his integrity and commitment to justice, even when it meant making difficult decisions. His response to the murder of Ish-bosheth, condemning the assassins and executing them, shows his unwavering dedication to righteousness and his refusal to compromise his values for political gain.

After years of waiting and trusting in God's plan, David's journey to kingship reached its culmination when the elders of Israel came to him in Hebron and

anointed him as king over all Israel. This moment marked the fulfillment of God's promise to David and the beginning of a new era in Israel's history. For me, this event powerfully demonstrates God's faithfulness and the importance of trusting in His timing. Even when the path ahead seems uncertain or the wait feels endless, we can have confidence that God is working out His plan and that He will fulfill His promises in His perfect timing. David's story reminds me that the journey to our God-given destiny is rarely straightforward or easy, but that God is always with us, guiding and sustaining us every step of the way.

From his anointing by Samuel to his years on the run, his rise to kingship, and the challenges he faced along the way, David's story is a testament to the power of faith, perseverance, and trust in God's plan. I believe that David's story is just as relevant for us today as it was thousands of years ago. We all face struggles, setbacks, and uncertainties on the path to our God-given purpose, but David's example encourages us to keep pressing forward, to trust in God's guidance, and to have faith in His ultimate plan for our lives. My prayer is that, like David, we would learn to seek God's direction in all things, to trust in His timing, and to remain faithful and obedient to Him, no matter what challenges we face. May David's journey inspire and encourage us to embrace the unique path God has set before us, and to have confidence that He who began a good work in us will carry it on to completion.

- David faced numerous challenges and setbacks on his journey from being anointed as king to actually taking the throne. **Can you relate to David's experience in your own life? How have you dealt with obstacles or delays in pursuing your God-given calling or purpose?**
- Pastor Jeremy highlights several key lessons from David's story, such as trusting in God's sovereignty, relying on His guidance, showing forgiveness and respect to others, and maintaining integrity in leadership. **Which of these lessons resonates with you the most, and why? How might you apply it to your current circumstances or challenges?**