

**BIG IDEA: WHEN WE ARE REMINDED OF THE HOPE WE HAVE IN CHRIST, WE WILL EXPERIENCE LIFE IN CHAOS.****I. Introduction**

- A. Good morning! If I have't had the chance to meet you yet, my name is DJ, I am the student minister here at The Summit. It is great to be with you this morning. If today is your first time here, or you haven't been in a while, we have been spending the last several months in this Life in Chaos series, looking at the life of David. And more than that, looking closely at how God promises to bring life into our chaos when we fix our eyes on Him and stand on the promises of His word.
- B. One of the things that fascinates me as a culture is we love stories. When I was a kid, I loved stories. Even today, I love stories. But I remember growing up and every night having that anticipation of the bedtime story. And now with two kids of my own, I love sharing that time with my daughter. I love seeing her face build with excitement and joy as we turn from one page to another. As the plot thickens and the characters develop I can see in her eyes the connection that she begins to form with the characters. I am sure most of you can relate in some fashion. Whether it be books, movies, television, music, plays... we are a culture that loves a good story.
- C. I think that is why 1&2 Samuel are so exciting for me to read through and study, because these books tell the story of this, once shepherd boy turned king of Israel, David. But through this series, God has been working on my heart and revealing to me a deeper meaning to these stories. To the point where He has been putting on my heart questions like, "Do you know why we are reading through David's life? Do you know we have spent the last 16 weeks on looking at these accounts so closely? Let's go a little deeper, why is it that all over this building in a given week, there are kids, students, married adults, single adults, people studying these stories of Scripture?" **It is not so that we can learn about how to live a good life and be a good person. It is because we are reminding ourselves on a constant and communal level of who God is.**
- D. **Tim Keller puts it this way,** "The reason you can't handle life, the reason you don't understand how God works, is because you've read the Bible for years only at the moralistic level. You don't realize every prophet in the Bible is pointing to Jesus, the true Prophet. Every priest is pointing to the true Priest. Every king is pointing to the true King. Every servant is pointing to the true Servant. Every wrestler is pointing to the true Wrestler. Every hero is pointing to the true Hero. Every liberator is pointing to the true Liberator, and so on."
- E. In other words, as you and I gather and we read the Bible, we can either read it as mainly about us, that every one of these stories, that this account of David's life is mainly about us, and it's an example for us. That as you have sat through this Life in Chaos series, you have left with the thought of, "I need to be more like David." or "I need to be less like David." And can I share with you a hard truth this morning? If that's how you read the Bible, when you've read it or when you've heard it taught, you'll leave here feeling crushed. Because if that is how we look at the Bible, we will quickly realize how inadequate and without hope we truly are. And for us, often times that is the end of the story.
- F. But rather, God's purpose and plan for including these stories that you and I have grown up with, stories like Abraham, Noah, David, Jonah, Peter, Paul, and countless others is not to simply give us examples of what we are to be or not be. Rather, it is to remind us. That all of these stories, Old Testament and New, are there to give us a reminder of the hope that we have and the promise that we have been given. Essentially, and to say it very plainly, that every one of these stories serves as a reminder of Jesus.
- G. So this morning, I want to unpack that a little bit by looking at this part of David's life in 2 Samuel 23. And the big truth or big idea that I want to bring out this morning is, **"Unless you and I are constantly reminded of the hope of Christ, we will constantly be crushed by chaos."** Or to say it in a

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positive, **“When we are reminded of the hope we have in Christ, we will experience life in chaos.”**

## H. Recap David’s life up to this point

1. The former King Saul, became aware of David’s anointing to become king of Israel and was fueled with anger and jealousy.
2. Saul openly tries to kill David...David must leave the kingdom and flee into the wilderness
3. During this time, hundreds of men come around David and essentially pledge their allegiance to him
4. These men protect David and fight alongside him in the wilderness, and this group begins to become very close
5. As we have seen, Saul is unsuccessful in his quest to kill David and eventually is himself killed. David returns to his kingdom and many of these men become the leaders of his military. Very skilled fighters, very dedicated warriors to their king.
6. Here in 2 Samuel 23, we have David’s “last words.” No whether these are the last words he spoke before he died, or the last recorded words, or the last important words, we don’t know. We just know the in this moment, David, reflecting back on the chaos of his life, is speaking these words that will ultimately serve as a reminder of the hope that you and I have in Christ.

### I. 2 Samuel 23:13-17

**13** And three of the thirty chief men went down and came about harvest time to David at the cave of Adullam, when a band of Philistines was encamped in the Valley of Rephaim. **14** David was then in the stronghold, and the garrison of the Philistines was then at Bethlehem. **15** And David said longingly, “Oh, that someone would give me water to drink from the well of Bethlehem that is by the gate!” **16** Then the three mighty men broke through the camp of the Philistines and drew water out of the well of Bethlehem that was by the gate and carried and brought it to David. But he would not drink of it. He poured it out to the Lord **17** and said, “Far be it from me, O Lord, that I should do this. Shall I drink the blood of the men who went at the risk of their lives?” Therefore he would not drink it. These things the three mighty men did.

### J. Set the scene:

1. Philistines are just a few miles southeast of Jerusalem. At some point during this war, the Philistines took over David’s hometown of Bethlehem and are using that as their base of operations. It was their command post. And now they are trying to take out the heart of Israel, Jerusalem.
2. Things have become so bleak for David and Israel, that David has to leave his fortress in Jerusalem and flee once again. He and his men find themselves setting up their command in a cave.
3. If things weren’t bad enough, Samuel tells us that it was harvest time in Israel. If the Philistines could break the ranks of Israel into the city and either plunder or completely destroy their crops, it would mean that the people of Israel would be out of their annual food supply.

### K. So things are not going well for David and Israel, but then we come to this statement by David in verse 15:

**15** And David said longingly, “Oh, that someone would give me water to drink from the well of Bethlehem that is by the gate!”

- L. As I have been studying this passage this week, I have realized that David is not actually saying, “Hey, I am thirsty. Someone, go and get me a drink.” And the reason we know that is because of David’s background as a military commander. No skilled commander of an army would set up their command post somewhere there was not water. Water is one of the most basic necessities and priorities of an army.

**BIG IDEA: WHEN WE ARE REMINDED OF THE HOPE WE HAVE IN CHRIST, WE WILL EXPERIENCE LIFE IN CHAOS.**

M. Rather, **Tim Keller points out**, that David is speaking more of a spiritual thirst than a physical one. In fact, David is struggling at this moment with something that you and I often struggle with...a lack of hope. That David, probably sitting in this cave looking back on all of these struggles and hardships he has faced is asking himself, "Where is God? Where are these promises of God?" That David is remembering that scene way back in 1 Samuel 16 when God, through Samuel, anoints David as the one God has chosen. And now, David is saying, "God where are you in all of this?" As Keller observed, this is not a command of David, "Go get me some water!" Rather this is a sigh of David. This is a cry of David in a moment of weakness and brokenness.

**16** Then the three mighty men broke through the camp of the Philistines and drew water out of the well of Bethlehem that was by the gate and carried and brought it to David.

N. Side note just for a second, I love how there is not a discussion that takes place between verse 15 and 16. There is not any sort of conversation or negotiating. We literally have David's cry in his brokenness directly followed by an astounding act of bravery, sacrifice, and humility by these three mighty men. It is also interesting here how such a short narrative this scene is. That is you put in your favorite action movie, there is dialogue, special effects, twists and turns, danger, everything that goes into a good action movie. But here, the Bible is so brief on what happens. And I love that it does that, as much as I would like the details of how these men broke through the ranks of the Philistines to retrieve this water, God chose not to put the spotlight on them. Why? Because so much bravery as they had, as many odds as they defy, the goal of every story in Scripture is to point to the hope that we have in Christ. That as much as you and I love to brag about all of our successes. In reality, our lives should constantly point ourselves and others to the hope in Christ.

O. **Allyson Felix - "It was one of the hardest things I have ever done but Jesus got me through."**

P. However, we do know from other passages in 1 and 2 Samuel, that the Philistines were not sissies when it came to their fortresses. In fact, they would have building set up all around their parameters that would house their troops, who were ready at all times for battle. And yet, we have these three men stand face to face against the Philistines in Bethlehem, their headquarters, and they break their way through their ranks. They fight whoever comes to face them, uphill mind you, as you had to go up a hill to get into Bethlehem. And somehow, they make their way to this well, and you have to imagine the scene. Maybe two of the three would stand and fight while the third filled the water jug.

Q. But however it happened, the text tells us that these men were successful in their quest and brought water back to their king. But, if I am honest, David's reaction can be a little...strange if you don't understand the motives behind it.

**But he would not drink of it. He poured it out to the Lord 17 and said, "Far be it from me, O Lord, that I should do this. Shall I drink the blood of the men who went at the risk of their lives?" Therefore he would not drink it.**

R. The three men, exhausted and probably a little beaten from battle, return and give their king this water jug from the well. And David looks at this water, the water that these men fought so bravely and risk their lives for, and he pours it on the ground! And you can imagine, it probably makes a little puddle in the dirt only to shortly be soaked in and dried up without a trace.

S. As I was talking to some other guys on staff this week about this passage, we all kind of had the same reaction, "What a jerk move!" But as we studied this passage and looked into what David was doing, it is actually a massively beautiful picture of worship and a renewed hope for David. Because where you and I

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would have seen disrespect, these three men would have been honored and amazed. Because it doesn't say, David just dumped it out on the ground. Rather it says he offered it out to the Lord. **And in that moment, David is executing an act of worship. Saying that because of the sacrifice of these men, I know am reminded of God's presence in this cave.**

- T. As I have been processing through this story over the last week, I wonder what was going on in David's mind. That as he sits in this cave, the same cave that he had been in before when he had to flee from Saul, and he is broken and wondering, "God, where are you? God, where is my hope?" And in that moment, he is crying out to God if only I could be reminded of your presence. And then these three men risk their lives to remind their king of the hope that is in God. And immediately, David's sigh, his cry, his suffering, is turned to worship, joy, and rejoicing."
- U. I am convinced that some of you this morning need to be reminded about the hope we have. We all have these times in our lives where we feel like we are sitting in a cave. Several months ago, our staff got together and we went out for a week just to spend time with each other and in prayer for this next season of ministry. And I remember one night, someone asked me what I need prayer for. And in that moment I remember this feeling of heaviness, of inadequacy, of exhaustion, as I shared that I needed to be reminded of the hope and promises of Christ. That I was in a place where I was questioning God's calling on my life. Discouraged by the things that just were not working out my way. That like David, I felt like I was spending more time overcoming failure than rejoicing in success. Maybe you can relate. And I remember as men and women of this church gathered around me to pray feeling this overwhelming sense of hope and renewal. That in that moment, even though the obstacles didn't go away, even though the hardships didn't go away, that I was reminded of the power of Christ that works within me.
- V. And for David, that is how God used these men in his life. But as I said in the beginning, when we read and study these stories, we are not studying how to be like David, or even how to be like these men. Rather, we are being pointed to the cross of Christ. And the truth that we are reminded of this morning is that when we look at the cross, we see that we have victory. Just as David could foreshadow the Israelite victory because of the actions of these 3 men. **That when you and I look at the cross, whether we are in the cave of depression, the cave of addiction, the cave of fear, the cave of conflict, the cave of the unknown, whatever it is, that we are reminded that we can look up and see that Water of Life coming to us. That Jesus has already broken the ranks. He has already defied the odds and brought us the water. And now, you and I get to rest in the joy and the hope of His promise. That you and I can stand on the promise of Romans 8:1, "There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."**

**BLESSING:**

As you leave this morning, I pray that you are reminded of the hope of Christ. As a reminder and a blessing this week, will you hold out your hands and receive this prayer:

1 Peter 1:3-5 says:

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5 who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.