

## 2 Samuel 5-6 Worshipping When it Hurts

Good evening and thank you for joining us. Would you please turn in your bibles to 2 Samuel 5?

Last time in our study we saw the end of Saul's son Ishbosheth, who tried to take the throne from David. Now that Saul's son and David's rival is gone, all of Israel is about to accept David as king.

But of course this doesn't mean that David will have an entirely smooth journey-no we'll continue to see the ups and downs, failures and successes in David's life.

We're going to study chapters 5-6, and the title of tonight's message is Worshipping When it Hurts

Let's pray

1-3

1 Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and spoke, saying, "Indeed we are your bone and your flesh. 2 Also, in time past, when Saul was king over us, you were the one who led Israel out and brought them in; and the LORD said to you, 'You shall shepherd My people Israel, and be ruler over Israel.' " 3 Therefore 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. This is the third time David is anointed king. Samuel first anointed him when he was a shepherd boy. Then the tribe of Judah anointed David after Saul's death. Now the elders of Israel anoint him king over all the nation. Each time his sphere of influence gets bigger, David receives a new anointing.

This is a monumental moment-this is the moment that David is now king of all of Israel!

4-5

4 David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years. 5 In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty-three years over all Israel and Judah. David was king for a total of 40 years.

Now most theologians believe David was 15 or so when Samuel anointed him. That means David spent 15 years waiting to sit on the throne, with most of that time spent fleeing from king Saul.

I firmly believe that waiting on the Lord is one of, if not the hardest thing to do as a Christian.

We often complain about our times of preparation, because we think it's taking longer than it should! Like 'Lord, why are you still having me wait, I'm ready now!' But God's plans are perfect and we know we're not to despise the day of small beginnings.

So now that David is the king of Israel, he needs a new capitol city. Hebron was too far south to serve as a capitol for a United Kingdom. David needed a city more centrally located, and that city will be Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is 2500 feet ASL. Its climate is pleasant, and it's easily defendable. And since Jerusalem had been in Jebusite hands for 400 years it wasn't tied to any one Israeli tribe. **Judges 1:21 And the children of Benjamin did not drive out the Jebusites that inhabited Jerusalem; but the Jebusites dwell with the children of Benjamin in Jerusalem unto this day.**

6 And the king and his men went to Jerusalem against the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land, who spoke to David, saying, "You shall not come in here; but the blind and the lame will repel you," thinking, "David cannot come in here." The Jebusites thought their city was invincible. Jerusalem is on a steep hill called "Zion". On top of the hill, a high wall surrounded the city.

And because of both its man made defenses and natural fortifications, the men boasted that even the blind and lame could defend it against David.

7 Nevertheless David took the stronghold of Zion (that is, the City of David). Well that ended quickly didn't it? But how did the victory come about?

8 Now David said on that day, "Whoever climbs up by way of the water shaft and defeats the Jebusites (the lame and the blind, who are hated by David's soul), he shall be chief and captain." [fn] Therefore they say, "The blind and the lame shall not come into the house." David was a brilliant military commander. The city drew its water from a spring outside its walls, so he sent a man up the water shaft. 1 Chronicles 11 tells us the brave man who went up the shaft was Joab! Once inside, Joab unlocked the gates, which allowed David's army to sneak in and destroy the Jebusites. It also solidified Joab's position as general.

**SHOW PIC** We see this location in Israel-it's called Warrens shaft. **CLOSE PIC**

9-10

9 Then David dwelt in the stronghold, and called it the City of David. And David built all around from the Millo [fn] and inward.

10 So David went on and became great, and the LORD God of hosts was with him. If we didn't know any better, we'd think that David just became an overnight success. But of course, there were 15 years of hardship, disappointment and difficulty preparing him for this moment.

And now news spreads about David unifying the kingdom and setting up a HQ.

11 Then Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and cedar trees, and carpenters and masons. And they built David a house.

Once David solidified his control of the kingdom, a neighbor, Hiram, king of Tyre wants to make peace. He sends enough cedar wood to build David an elaborate palace...

12 So David knew that the LORD had established him as king over Israel, and that He had exalted His kingdom for the sake of His people Israel.” David’s years of difficulty from fleeing Saul had certainly humbled him. His trials helped him realize that this sudden success and rise to power wasn’t because of his own doings – but rather it was a work of the Lord.

Yet as is so often the case, new success brings new problems...

13 And David took more concubines and wives from Jerusalem, after he had come from Hebron. Also more sons and daughters were born to David. In Jerusalem David’s harem begins to grow. This could’ve been the result of peace treaties signed with neighboring nations. Often a peace treaty was solidified with a marriage, the idea being that it’s more difficult to attack your inlaws. Which may or may not be true - depending on your in laws!

Whatever the reasoning, David was in direct disobedience to Deuteronomy 17:17 “Neither shall he multiply wives for himself, lest his heart turn away; nor shall he greatly multiply silver and gold for himself.

We’ll see most of the trouble that comes into David’s life came as a direct result from his relationships with multiple women and problems with his children.

14 Now these are the names of those who were born to him in Jerusalem: Shammua,[fn] Shobab, Nathan, Solomon, 15 Ibhar,

Elishua,[fn] Nepheg, Japhia, 16 Elishama, Eliada, and Eliphelet. Eleven sons were born in Jersualem.

17-18

17 Now when the Philistines heard that they had anointed David king over Israel, all the Philistines went up to search for David. And David heard of it and went down to the stronghold. 18 The Philistines also went and deployed themselves in the Valley of Rephaim. ” Israel’s perpetual enemy, the Philistines, see that David has now unified all of Israel. They realize they need to attack before David’s army grows even stronger.

19 So David inquired of the LORD, saying, “Shall I go up against the Philistines? Will You deliver them into my hand?”

And the LORD said to David, “Go up, for I will doubtless deliver the Philistines into your hand.” David didn’t say ‘hey I’m the giant killer, I’m now the king-let’s forge ahead’. No, he went and prayed.

20 So David went to Baal Perazim, and David defeated them there; and he said, “The LORD has broken through my enemies before me, like a breakthrough of water.” Therefore he called the name of that place Baal Perazim.[fn]” A name that means “Lord of the breakthroughs.” Our God specializes in breakthroughs.

21 And they left their images there, and David and his men carried them away. When the Philistines lost this battle evidently they must’ve dropped their idols. What kind of god gets captured?

Although the enemy was defeated, you can be sure the philistines aren’t done trying!

22 Then the Philistines went up once again and deployed themselves in the Valley of Rephaim.

23 Therefore David inquired of the LORD, Pause here...The philistines are defeated and try to do the same thing again. Notice this is the same enemy - the same strategy, the same circumstances. How easy would we all say 'hey, I've already prayed about this – why would God's answer be any different this time than it was last time?'

Our tendency is to forge ahead. But David didn't assume. He again inquired of the Lord.

23-25

...23 and He said, "You shall not go up; circle around behind them, and come upon them in front of the mulberry trees. 24 And it shall be, when you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the mulberry trees, then you shall advance quickly. For then the LORD will go out before you to strike the camp of the Philistines." 25 And David did so, as the LORD commanded him; and he drove back the Philistines from Geba[fn] as far as Gezer

Here's the tendency we all are tempted with. We look for patterns to imitate, formulas to follow, and programs to adopt. We want a blueprint - a template we can lay over a given situation - and know exactly what steps to take to solve our problem.

And Christians are particularly prone to this thinking. We want the six steps to overcoming temptation – or the three keys to being an effective witness.

Hey even pastors do this. They travel to a church that's growing, and study its behavior, assuming they can learn the secret formula. There's only one problem! There is no secret formula.

David was given two different strategies for the same circumstances. Rather than lead by formula, God told David to wait on the wind. David was told to circle behind the enemy and

wait for the sound of marching in the treetops – literally, the wind rustling the branches of the mulberries.

If we want to be an effective witness - and win battles for Jesus don't look to buy into a program, or a pattern. God is a Spirit, and following the Holy Spirit is like listening to the wind. No one commands the wind - or the Spirit. We adjust, and bend, and adapt to His course.

## CHAPTER 6

1 Again David gathered all the choice men of Israel, thirty thousand. 2 And David arose and went with all the people who were with him from Baale Judah to bring up from there the ark of God, whose name is called by the Name,[fn] the LORD of Hosts, who dwells between the cherubim.

**SHOW PIC** The ark of the covenant was 3 feet 9 inches long, 2 feet 3 inches wide and 2 feet 3 inches high. Inside the ark were the tablets of the law that Moses brought down from Mount Sinai, a jar of manna, and Aaron's rod that miraculously budded as a confirmation of his leadership. **CLOSE PIC**

The Ark was placed in Kirjath Jearim where it stayed for 70 years. But David has a heart for God, and he knows God's presence accompanies the Ark. And David rightfully wants to live close to God so he brings the Ark to Jerusalem.

But tragically, David is about to repeat the mistakes of those who came before him – both Philistines and Hebrews in mishandling the ark. Although David's motive is pure he mishandles the Ark and the results prove deadly

3 So they set the ark of God on a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill; and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drove the new cart.[fn] This wasn't

God's method for moving the Ark. The OT law demanded the Ark was to be carried on poles by the priests – not to be placed on a cart. If you remember the Philistines placed the Ark on a cart when they captured it back in 1 Samuel 6. The Hebrews are copying a pagan method.

4 And they brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill, accompanying the ark of God; and Ahio went before the ark. 5 Then David and all the house of Israel played music before the LORD on all kinds of instruments of fir wood, on harps, on stringed instruments, on tambourines, on sistrums, and on cymbals.” This was an incredible worship-fest!

Picture the scene. They're carrying the ark, on a new cart, having a tremendous time of worship. The atmosphere is exciting, it's bubbling over with joy. But there's a problem. This isn't pleasing to God because it was in disobedience to God's word.

6 And when they came to Nachon's threshing floor, Uzzah put out his hand to the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen stumbled. Touching the ark was strictly forbidden. Numbers 4:15 And when Aaron and his sons have finished covering the sanctuary and all the furnishings of the sanctuary, when the camp is set to go, then the sons of Kohath shall come to carry them; but they shall not touch any holy thing, lest they die. These are the things in the tabernacle of meeting which the sons of Kohath are to carry.

Uzzah reaches out his hand...

7 Then the anger of the LORD was aroused against Uzzah, and God struck him there for his error; and he died there by the ark of God. At first glance, this seems harsh by God doesn't it? But the account of Uzzah serves as a somber reminder that both motives AND methods are important to God.



We've all seen people do foolish things in the name of God – terribly misrepresent God - then excuse their carnal methods by appealing to their motive. “We meant well! Our heart was in the right place! We just wanna see people saved!”

Just like our motives, our methods need to be free from manipulation and self-promotion. Just like our motives, our methods also need to be led by the Spirit - not the flesh.

The church gets into trouble when we mimic the world's methods and techniques. Just because a strategy is successful in the business or corporate world doesn't mean it should be employed in the church.

**8 And David became angry because of the LORD's outbreak against Uzzah; and he called the name of the place Perez Uzzah[fn] to this day.** David's anger was based in confusion. He couldn't understand why his good intentions weren't enough.

**9 David was afraid of the LORD that day; and he said, “How can the ark of the LORD come to me?”** David knew it was important to bring the ark of the LORD into the center of Israel's life. He wanted all Israel to be excited about the presence and glory of God. Because of what happened to Uzzah, David felt he couldn't do what God wanted him to do.

**10 So David would not move the ark of the LORD with him into the City of David; but David took it aside into the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite.** This wasn't some random family that David dumps the ark to. No David did this in fulfillment of God's word. 1 Chronicles 26 tells us that Obed-Edom was a Levite of the family of Koath, the family within the tribe of Levi that God commanded to carry and take care of the ark.

11 The ark of the LORD remained in the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite three months. And the LORD blessed Obed-Edom and all his household.

When God's Word was obeyed, and His holiness was respected blessing followed. God wanted the ark to be a blessing for Israel, not a curse. But man's disobedience resulted in the curse.

12 Now it was told King David, saying, "The LORD has blessed the house of Obed-Edom and all that belongs to him, because of the ark of God." So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-Edom to the City of David with gladness. David rejoiced that the presence and glory of God once again brought a blessing instead of a curse.

13 And so it was, when those bearing the ark of the LORD had gone six paces, that he sacrificed oxen and fatted sheep. This time priests are bearing the Ark on poles. And every six paces - just to be safe - they stop and offer sacrifices. This was elaborate, excessive, over-the-top sacrifice.

Every six steps, I'm sure in unison, with great care, they set the cart down, and go and perform sacrifices.

It's a picture for us that can't have a free-wheeling cavalier attitude toward God. He is holy, we are sinners covered by the blood of the lamb. We can't be running around on stage, whooping and hollering and making light of the things of God. There's a reverence that's needed.

Here David has learned his lesson. Imagine the amount of sacrifice and the time it took to complete this journey. But this isn't burdensome religion, no in fact it's joyful...

14 Then David danced before the LORD with all his might; and David was wearing a linen ephod. David didn't hold back anything

in his worship. He didn't dance out of obligation but out of heartfelt love and appreciation. He was glad to bring the ark of the LORD into Jerusalem according to God's word.

To be clear, David was not naked or immodest. **1 Chronicles 15:27** David was clothed with a robe of fine linen, as were all the Levites who bore the ark, the singers, and Chenaniah the music master with the singers. David also wore a linen ephod.

David was dressed just like all the other priests and Levites in this procession.

So why don't we dance during worship? David's dancing was appropriate in the context. **SHOW PIC** This was like a parade with a marching band, a grand procession. David's dancing fit right in. If David did this as the nation gathered on the Day of Atonement, it would be out of context and wrong. **CLOSE PIC**

Now the mentioning of the linen ephod means that David set aside his royal robes and dressed just like everyone else in the procession.

**15** So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting and with the sound of the trumpet. As the Ark came into Jerusalem, incredible worship pours forth.

**SHOW PIC** This trumpet that's mentioned is the horn, the shofar. It signaled the presence of the Lord coming into the city of Jerusalem. **CLOSE PIC**

Psalm 132 speaks of this scene.

**16** Now as the ark of the LORD came into the City of David, Michal, Saul's daughter, looked through a window and saw King David leaping and whirling before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart. Michal has taken a seat at the window of

criticism. Not a good place to be. She's looking down, watching David, feeling superior and she despises her husband.

Remember, Michal is Saul's daughter. She's learned how a king was to act based on how her dad acted.

Now back in 1 Sam 19 we saw that as David fled, Michal took one of her images and laid it in her bed-she was an idolater. And you know what idolater's lack-joy.

David's coming with all the joy in his heart, and she despises him.

17 So they brought the ark of the LORD, and set it in its place in the midst of the tabernacle that David had erected for it. Then David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD. This is not the tabernacle that Moses had built, 1 chronicles tells us this is a different one.

18 And when David had finished offering burnt offerings and peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD of hosts. Burnt offering was an offering of consecration-there was nothing left. It was a picture of consecration to the Lord-I give everything to you.

Peace offerings were fellowship offerings, part of the food went to the priest, part to the Lord and part to the worshipper. It was a picture of fellowship. There's both consecration and fellowship here with this incredible worship scene.

19 Then he distributed among all the people, among the whole multitude of Israel, both the women and the men, to everyone a loaf of bread, a piece of meat, and a cake of raisins. So all the people departed, everyone to his house. What a day in Jerusalem!! Great celebration, lot's of work with all the sacrificing every 6 steps, but their hearts are overflowing. A great, memorable day, but a long day nonetheless.

And after blessing all the people of Jerusalem with bread, meat, and raisin cake...

**20 Then David returned to bless his household.** Pause here. Think about what David has gone through. He had failed miserably, but now he's learned you can't do a good thing the wrong way and expect God to bless it.

David is worshipping like never before, perhaps this is the most joyful moment in David's life, blessing all of Jerusalem, he wants to bless his family. A day unlike any nation has ever seen

**...20 And Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said, "How glorious was the king of Israel today, uncovering himself today in the eyes of the maids of his servants, as one of the base fellows shamelessly uncovers himself!"** Michal had despised David from her window, and as David is coming out to bless his family, she comes out to meet him at the front door to criticize him.

Michal was ashamed of David's uninhibited worship. Because he cast aside his priestly clothes, in her opinion, the king was an embarrassment to the throne.

We know that actions produces reaction, stinging words often bring forth stinging answers. Solomon hasn't written 'a soft answer...'

**21 So David said to Michal, "It was before the LORD, who chose me instead of your father and all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the LORD, over Israel. Therefore I will play music before the LORD.**

**22 And I will be even more undignified than this, and will be humble in my own sight. But as for the maidservants of whom you have spoken, by them I will be held in honor."** David says 'hey I'm

not your dad. If God had been pleased with Saul, He wouldn't have had to appoint me.' ouch. Not wrong, but ouch!

**23 Therefore Michal the daughter of Saul had no children to the day of her death.** Because of her disdain of David's love for God, Michal was sentenced to a lifetime of barrenness. Critical people are often unfruitful and barren.

Couples-your support spiritually of one other is critical.