

2 Samuel 19-20

Good evening and thank you for joining us. Would you please turn in your Bibles to 2 Samuel chapter 19? We're gonna study both chapters 19 and 20 tonight, and we are close to finishing this book, we'll do so in a couple of weeks and I think we'll stay in the OT for 1 more book and tackle 1st Kings.

Last week we saw the heart wrenching scene as David finds out his rebellious son Absalom is now dead. The uprising is over. And David, reluctantly, needs to pick up the pieces of his heart, return to Jerusalem and be the king that God has called him to be.

The title of tonight's message is Not done yet.

Let's pray.

1-7

1 And Joab was told, "Behold, the king is weeping and mourning for Absalom." 2 So the victory that day was turned into mourning for all the people. For the people heard it said that day, "The king is grieved for his son." 3 And the people stole back into the city that day, as people who are ashamed steal away when they flee in battle. 4 But the king covered his face, and the king cried out with a loud voice, "O my son Absalom! O Absalom, my son, my son!" David wasn't celebrating the victory at all.

5 Then Joab came into the house to the king, and said, "Today you have disgraced all your servants who today have saved your life, the lives of your sons and daughters, the lives of your wives and the lives of your concubines, 6 in that you love your enemies

and hate your friends. For you have declared today that you regard neither princes nor servants; for today I perceive that if Absalom had lived and all of us had died today, then it would have pleased you well. 7 Now therefore, arise, go out and speak comfort to your servants. For I swear by the LORD, if you do not go out, not one will stay with you this night. And that will be worse for you than all the evil that has befallen you from your youth until now.” Joab, the commander of David’s army tells David to snap out of it. David is so consumed with mourning Absalom’s death he forgets that people placed their lives on the line to fight for him. Joab warns David if he doesn’t acknowledge the people, and fill his role as king, the once faithful people will desert him by nightfall.

Have you ever noticed how our outlook affects other people?

Discouragement, depression, and defeat are all instruments the enemy will try to use to not only affect each of us individually, but also negatively affect our family, friends, and community. This is why the Bible says **1 Peter 5:6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, 7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.**

While in prison Paul said **Philippians 4:11 Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content:**

Contentment is the result of a decision we make with our minds rather than a feeling we have in our heart. How critical it is for all

of us to learn to be content no matter what our circumstances may be.

God had intervened on David's behalf. The rebels were defeated. The kingdom was spared. And David still has the responsibility of fulfilling the role God called him too.

8 Then the king arose and sat in the gate. And they told all the people, saying, "There is the king, sitting in the gate." So all the people came before the king.

For everyone of Israel had fled to his tent. Eventually, David changed his mind and his outlook. We must do the same. No matter what our circumstances may be, every one of us is blessed beyond words.

Each day we wake up, we choose either to see burdens or blessings. And we must never forget the choice we make affects those around us.

9-10

9 Now all the people were in a dispute throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, "The king saved us from the hand of our enemies, he delivered us from the hand of the Philistines, and now he has fled from the land because of Absalom. 10 But Absalom, whom we anointed over us, has died in battle. Now therefore, why do you say nothing about bringing back the king?" David's popularity ratings were so low because of the way he'd handled his victory - some of the people didn't know who they now wanted to rule over them.

11 So King David sent to Zadok and Abiathar the priests, saying, “Speak to the elders of Judah, saying, ‘Why are you the last to bring the king back to his house, since the words of all Israel have come to the king, to his very house? David was of the city of Bethlehem in the tribe of Judah. David was losing some of his core constituency, and he’s wisely concerned.

12 You are my brethren, you are my bone and my flesh. Why then are you the last to bring back the king?’ 13 And say to Amasa, ‘Are you not my bone and my flesh? God do so to me, and more also, if you are not commander of the army before me continually in place of Joab.’” What David just said here is significant.

Amasa was Absalom’s general. He was also from Judah. By demoting Joab and telling Amasa he is the new general David would be holding out an olive branch to the two parties who were most reluctant to return and support him as king – the men from Judah, and the former followers of Absalom.

14-16

14 So he swayed the hearts of all the men of Judah, just as the heart of one man, so that they sent this word to the king: “Return, you and all your servants!”

15 Then the king returned and came to the Jordan. And Judah came to Gilgal, to go to meet the king, to escort the king across the Jordan. 16 And Shimei the son of Gera, a Benjamite, who was from Bahurim, hurried and came down with the men of Judah to meet King David. We’ve seen this guy Shimei several times the last few weeks. He was the guy hurling curses - throwing stones - and kicking up dust at David when he was forced to flee Jerusalem.

17 There were a thousand men of Benjamin with him, and Ziba the servant of the house of Saul, and his fifteen sons and his twenty servants with him; and they went over the Jordan before the king. The last time David crossed the Jordan was at night – while the world was dark. Now he comes back in the light of day. The first time he crossed suffering. Now he comes back victorious. Hey, this is David's second coming. He's coming as king a second time.

And it's a picture of the son of David's second coming... Jesus, the Davidic heir, will also come to earth a second time. And He will return victorious.

In his first stint as king, like David, Jesus was refused. He was rejected by relatives – the Hebrews. He was betrayed by Judas – an Ahithophel. He was crucified by the rebellious hearts of all men... But one day Jesus will return to conquer his enemies, and come to Jerusalem to sit on His eternal throne.

18 Then a ferryboat went across to carry over the king's household, and to do what he thought good.

Now Shimei the son of Gera fell down before the king when he had crossed the Jordan. Shimei had been brutal to David. But now he has a change of heart.

19 Then he said to the king, "Do not let my lord impute iniquity to me, or remember what wrong your servant did on the day that my lord the king left Jerusalem, that the king should take it to heart.

20 For I, your servant, know that I have sinned. Therefore here I am, the first to come today of all the house of Joseph to go down to meet my lord the king." He repents and cries for mercy

21 But Abishai the son of Zeruiah answered and said, “Shall not Shimei be put to death for this, because he cursed the LORD’s anointed?” Abishai wanted to shut this guy’s mouth the first time.

Even after he repented, Abishai wants to take off his head.

Look at David’s response to Abishai’s request to kill Shimei

22 And David said, “What have I to do with you, you sons of Zeruiah, that you should be adversaries to me today? Shall any man be put to death today in Israel? For do I not know that today I am king over Israel?” 23 Therefore the king said to Shimei, “You shall not die.” And the king swore to him. David says, “I know who I am,” and “I know what God has called me to do. I don’t need to defend my position.”

Over the years, I have noticed that the most secure individuals, like David, are those least likely to cut down others

The sons of Zeruiah sound an awful lot like the sons of Zebedee – James and John don’t they? They too had fiery tempers.

Remember **Luke 9 53 But they did not receive Him, because His face was set for the journey to Jerusalem. 54 And when His disciples James and John saw this, they said, “Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?”[fn]**

55 But He turned and rebuked them,[fn] and said, “You do not know what manner of spirit you are of. 56 For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men’s lives but to save them.”[fn] And they went to another village.

Here, Abishai does “not know what manner of spirit” he is of... This wasn’t the time for judgment, but an opportunity to show mercy.

As Jesus taught us, David pardons his enemy.

24 Now Mephibosheth the son of Saul came down to meet the king. And he had not cared for his feet, nor trimmed his mustache, nor washed his clothes, from the day the king departed until the day he returned in peace. 25 So it was, when he had come to Jerusalem to meet the king, that the king said to him, “Why did you not go with me, Mephibosheth?”

Remember Mephibosheth's servant, Ziba, lied to David, saying that Mephibosheth stayed behind to support Absalom. Now, David allows Mephibosheth an opportunity to speak for himself. 26-30

26 And he answered, “My lord, O king, my servant deceived me. For your servant said, ‘I will saddle a donkey for myself, that I may ride on it and go to the king,’ because your servant is lame. 27 And he has slandered your servant to my lord the king, but my lord the king is like the angel of God. Therefore do what is good in your eyes. 28 For all my father’s house were but dead men before my lord the king. Yet you set your servant among those who eat at your own table. Therefore what right have I still to cry out anymore to the king?”

29 So the king said to him, “Why do you speak anymore of your matters? I have said, ‘You and Ziba divide the land.’ ”

30 Then Mephibosheth said to the king, “Rather, let him take it all, inasmuch as my lord the king has come back in peace to his own house.” Mephibosheth said to David, “I don’t care about the land. I’m just glad you’re back,” Notice, Mephibosheth desired the giver more than the gifts! That showed his true allegiance.

What about us? Do we say to our King, “I don’t care about gifts. I just want You”?

31-32

31 And Barzillai the Gileadite came down from Rogelim and went across the Jordan with the king, to escort him across the Jordan.

32 Now Barzillai was a very aged man, eighty years old. And he had provided the king with supplies while he stayed at Mahanaim, for he was a very rich man. Barzillai, who had brought goods to David when he was fleeing, now comes to meet David upon his return to Jerusalem.

33-36

33 And the king said to Barzillai, “Come across with me, and I will provide for you while you are with me in Jerusalem.”

34 But Barzillai said to the king, “How long have I to live, that I should go up with the king to Jerusalem? 35 I am today eighty years old. Can I discern between the good and bad? Can your servant taste what I eat or what I drink? Can I hear any longer the voice of singing men and singing women? Why then should your servant be a further burden to my lord the king? 36 Your servant will go a little way across the Jordan with the king. And why should the king repay me with such a reward? It’s amazing, Barzillai does a simple thing – he brought the king some supplies. And it wasn’t a big sacrifice – we’re told the guy was “very rich”. Now David returns... and he wants to reward Barzillai! David was a generous king!

You and I also serve a generous king don’t we?

37-39

37 Please let your servant turn back again, that I may die in my own city, near the grave of my father and mother. But here is your

servant Chimham; let him cross over with my lord the king, and do for him what seems good to you.”

38 And the king answered, “Chimham shall cross over with me, and I will do for him what seems good to you. Now whatever you request of me, I will do for you.” 39 Then all the people went over the Jordan. And when the king had crossed over, the king kissed Barzillai and blessed him, and he returned to his own place.

All seems right in the land—a glorious homecoming right? But as you guessed, more trials lie ahead for David.

At the end of chapter 19 a squabble erupts over the northern tribes of Israel and the southern tribe of Judah over who should escort king David back to Jerusalem.

Just a few months earlier, as David fled Jerusalem, very few followed him. Few people stood with him in the tough times, but now that the bandwagon is rolling again it’s, “all aboard”

40-43

40 Now the king went on to Gilgal, and Chimham^[fn] went on with him. And all the people of Judah escorted the king, and also half the people of Israel. 41 Just then all the men of Israel came to the king, and said to the king, “Why have our brethren, the men of Judah, stolen you away and brought the king, his household, and all David’s men with him across the Jordan?”

42 So all the men of Judah answered the men of Israel, “Because the king is a close relative of ours. Why then are you angry over this matter? Have we ever eaten at the king’s expense? Or has he given us any gift?”

43 And the men of Israel answered the men of Judah, and said, “We have ten shares in the king; therefore we also have more right to David than you. Why then do you despise us—were we not the first to advise bringing back our king?”

Yet the words of the men of Judah were fiercer than the words of the men of Israel.

When you’re serving Jesus and ministering to people, it’s helpful to remember that the same people who one week cried, “Hosanna!” the next week cried, “Crucify Him!”

Unfortunately, we all have these tendencies because the heart is deceitful and desperately wicked.

That is why Paul said it was the love of Christ that motivated him

2 Corinthians 5:14 For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died;

If you’re in ministry for the love of people, you will become quickly frustrated because people change their minds.

If you’re in ministry for the love of the lost, you’ll grow frustrated when, like Jeremiah, you preach and teach and witness for thirty years to your friends and neighbors, and not one person gets saved.

The only true motivation for ministry must be our love for Jesus, regardless of peoples’ response and reaction.

But this little rift at the end of chapter 19 creates another rebellion in chapter 20. A man named Sheba balks at the tribe of Judah’s claim to David, and organizes his own revolt.

Chapter 20

1-2

1 And there happened to be there a rebel,^[fn] whose name was Sheba the son of Bichri, a Benjamite. And he blew a trumpet, and said:

“We have no share in David,
Nor do we have inheritance in the son of Jesse;
Every man to his tents, O Israel!”

2 So every man of Israel deserted David, and followed Sheba the son of Bichri. But the men of Judah, from the Jordan as far as Jerusalem, remained loyal to their king. The same split occurs that we've seen before – It's Israel versus Judah

3 Now David came to his house at Jerusalem. And the king took the ten women, his concubines whom he had left to keep the house, and put them in seclusion and supported them, but did not go in to them. So they were shut up to the day of their death, living in widowhood. They'd been defiled by Absalom.

4 And the king said to Amasa, (the one who replaced Joab)
“Assemble the men of Judah for me within three days, and be present here yourself.” 5 So Amasa went to assemble the men of Judah. But he delayed longer than the set time which David had appointed him. 6 And David said to Abishai, “Now Sheba the son of Bichri will do us more harm than Absalom. Take your lord's servants and pursue him, lest he find for himself fortified cities, and escape us.” David is decisive-he orders the death of Sheba so as not to plunge the nation into another civil war.

David had promoted Amasa by making him commander of the army in Joab's place, probably because Joab had killed Absalom. Unfortunately, Amasa moved too slowly so David put Abishai in charge of his army.

7 So Joab's men, with the Cherethites, the Pelethites, and all the mighty men, went out after him. And they went out of Jerusalem to pursue Sheba the son of Bichri. 8 When they were at the large stone which is in Gibeon, Amasa came before them. Now Joab was dressed in battle armor; on it was a belt with a sword fastened in its sheath at his hips; and as he was going forward, it fell out. Amasa and Joab are allies-they're on the same side. The Jewish historian, Josephus, says Joab dropped the sword intentionally, so he would have an excuse to approach Amasa with an unsheathed blade.

9 Then Joab said to Amasa, "Are you in health, my brother?" And Joab took Amasa by the beard with his right hand to kiss him. 10 But Amasa did not notice the sword that was in Joab's hand. And he struck him with it in the stomach, and his entrails poured out on the ground; and he did not strike him again. Thus he died. Then Joab and Abishai his brother pursued Sheba the son of Bichri. Joab does the same thing to Amasa as he did to Abner and Absalom. Cold blooded murder

Notice the parallel. Joab kissed the man he was about to slay, as Judas did centuries later. Now in 1 Kings 2 we read that Solomon avenged Joab's murder of Amasa when he came to power. But David never punishes Joab.

11-13

11 Meanwhile one of Joab's men stood near Amasa, and said, "Whoever favors Joab and whoever is for David—follow Joab!" 12 But Amasa wallowed in his blood in the middle of the highway. And when the man saw that all the people stood still, he moved Amasa from the highway to the field and threw a garment over him, when he saw that everyone who came upon him halted. 13 When he was removed from the highway, all the people went on after Joab to pursue Sheba the son of Bichri. Amasa's murder was done in broad daylight, Joab stabbed his rival by the road, and left him there alive to die. This was a cold-blooded, unwarranted murder. And when the people saw it, they froze in their tracks.

But notice what verse 13 says, "When he was removed from the highway, all the people went on after Joab..." In other words, "out of sight, out of mind."

This is why abortion is still legal in this country. It's an invisible crime. No one sees the victims, and their torture. If an injustice doesn't make the nightly news, folks forget it ever happened. Sweep the issue out of sight and people neglect it and they go on their way. And we're all guilty of it.

14-19

14 And he went through all the tribes of Israel to Abel and Beth Maachah and all the Berites. So they were gathered together and also went after Sheba.^[fn] 15 Then they came and besieged him in Abel of Beth Maachah; and they cast up a siege mound against the city, and it stood by the rampart. And all the people who were with Joab battered the wall to throw it down.

16 Then a wise woman cried out from the city, “Hear, hear! Please say to Joab, ‘Come nearby, that I may speak with you.’”

17 When he had come near to her, the woman said, “Are you Joab?”

He answered, “I am.”

Then she said to him, “Hear the words of your maidservant.”

And he answered, “I am listening.”

18 So she spoke, saying, “They used to talk in former times, saying, ‘They shall surely seek guidance at Abel,’ and so they would end disputes. 19 I am among the peaceable and faithful in Israel. You seek to destroy a city and a mother in Israel. Why would you swallow up the inheritance of the LORD?” She’s saying ‘hey why destroy the city, and all of us, because you’re after this one man named Sheba?’

20 And Joab answered and said, “Far be it, far be it from me, that I should swallow up or destroy! 21 That is not so. But a man from the mountains of Ephraim, Sheba the son of Bichri by name, has raised his hand against the king, against David. Deliver him only, and I will depart from the city.”

So the woman said to Joab, “Watch, his head will be thrown to you over the wall.” Joab’s siege against the city of Abel wasn’t personal, he only wanted to kill this upriser Sheba. If the people of Abel helped him get Sheba it was all the better.

22 Then the woman in her wisdom went to all the people. And they cut off the head of Sheba the son of Bichri, and threw it out to Joab. Then he blew a trumpet, and they withdrew from the city, every man to his tent. So Joab returned to the king at Jerusalem. Sheba probably thought he was safe within the walls of that city, but no one is safe when they run against God’s will.

Let's finish the chapter

23 And Joab was over all the army of Israel; Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over the Cherethites and the Pelethites; 24 Adoram was in charge of revenue; Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was recorder; 25 Sheva was scribe; Zadok and Abiathar were the priests; 26 and Ira the Jairite was a chief minister under David. Though he gained the position through murder, David allowed Joab to once again take control over the armies of Israel.