

The Story: Chapter 12

The Trials of a King

Pastor Kevin Donoho

July 2nd, 2023

MAIN SCRIPTURE: 2 Samuel 11

DURING THE STORY SERIES, REMIX CLASS SESSIONS WILL BE DIVIDED INTO TWO SEGMENTS:

- 1) THE STORY STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS CHOSEN BY THE LEADER.**
- 2) THE FOLLOWING REMIX QUESTIONS:**

Opening Discussion

- What thoughts, feelings, or impressions do you have about the sermon this week?

Thought #1: The move from good to not-so-good can happen fast!

Read 2 Samuel 11:1-2

“In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king’s men and the whole Israelite army. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem. One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful.”

Pastor Kevin reminded us that in last weeks message we heard something very similar. Goliath was taunting the Israelites and King Saul had an opportunity to truly step into the role he was intended for - a great leader. And he missed it. He didn’t step up when he should and that was when David entered the void of leadership.

What shifts do you see in David from last weeks message on David and Goliath to this weeks passage in 2 Samuel? What similarities do we see between King Saul and the David in this passage? How did those changes we see in David impact the people he was leading? (*Leaders: A lack of hunger to lead, resting instead of fighting, complacency, endangering others*)

Pastor Kevin reminded us it’s important that WE do a spiritual check-up periodically. What does this look like in your own life? How do you do this and with whom? Would you describe this current season you’re in as a season of

growth or stagnation? Are there changes or shifts you recognize in yourself? Consider sharing these with your group.

Thought #2: Sin is deceptive and always leads to destruction!

David makes a bad choice...and then continues making more.

Have you found yourself in this place? Where you make a mess of things, and in an effort to fix it, you make it even messier? Sin is deceptive and the enemy is the father of lies (John 8:44)! In this season of mess, can you identify the lie that you were believing or that the enemy was telling you? (*Leaders: You are trapped, you are worthless, You can't be forgiven, If you just do this one thing it will be fixed, etc*) Share this with your group. Bringing the deceptions of the enemy to light is one way we do battle!

Read Romans 6:16

"Don't you realize that you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey? You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God, which leads to righteous living."

Pastor Kevin also reminded us that sin leads to pain and death. God's design is for us to flourish and discover life! During this time of mess, how did you see evidence of pain and death in your life? When you choose to obey God's path for you, where do you see evidence of life and flourishing? Share these with your group.

Thought #3: The Holy Spirit is always there to help us!

Just like Google maps can tell us of the hazards that lie ahead of us, the Holy Spirit can do the same. If we are paying attention as we drive, we can avoid the mess in front of us. Similarly, if we pay attention to the promptings and leadings of the Holy Spirit, we can avoid going down a hazardous path of sin.

Read Galatians 6:16

"So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions."

Have there been times, either past or present, where you have felt as if there are two forces within you that are at odds with one another? Consider sharing this experience with your group. There may be very obvious times that you can discern what is from the Holy Spirit and what is not, but other times it can be more difficult. How do you discern the will of the Spirit in your life?

Read Galatians 5:24-25

“Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to His cross and crucified them there. Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit’s leading in every part of our lives.”

What does it look like to nail your passions and desires to the cross? Are there things you are currently struggling with that you are ready to surrender? What does it look like to keep in step with the Spirit, to follow His leading in every part of your life? How can your group walk with you in this?

Thought #4: We have the opportunity to confess when we notice the mess!

As we saw in this passage, no one is immune or invulnerable to mess. David was a man after God’s own heart and yet he struggled big time. It’s only right to assume that we will struggle at times as well.

Knowing sin is deceptive and the enemy is telling us lies, why do we struggle to admit this in our lives? King David believed strongly in justice and yet he couldn’t not see the problems his sin had caused until Nathan, the prophet, confronts him.

God can use people in our lives to speak truth to us about our decisions or our sins. Have you experienced this type of relationship, either in the past or now in the present? How did this person or people walk with you in confession and redemption?

While our sins have consequences that cannot be undone, the Lord meets us with grace when we come to Him with repentance.

Read the following passages together.

Psalm 51:1-5

“Have mercy on me, O God, because of your unfailing love. Because of your great compassion, blot out the stain of my sins. Wash me clean from my guilt. Purify me from my sin. For I recognize my rebellion; it haunts me day and night. Against you, and you alone, have I sinned; I have done what is evil in your sight.

You will be proved right in what you say, and your judgement against me is just. For I was born a sinner — yes, from the moment my mother conceived me. But you desire honesty from the womb, teaching me wisdom even there.”

Psalm 32:1-5

“Oh, what joy for those whose disobedience is forgiven, whose sin is put out of sight! Yes, what joy for those whose record the Lord has cleared of guilt, whose lives are lived in complete honesty! When I refused to confess my sin, my body wasted away, and I groaned all day long. Day and night your hand of discipline was heavy on me. My strength evaporated like water in the summer heat. Finally, I confessed all my sins to you and stopped trying to hide my guilt. I said to myself, “I will confess my rebellion to the Lord.” And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone.”

Reflect on these passages. What stands out to you? Are there lines that resonate with you more deeply than others? Where do you relate with King David? How have you seen the Lord’s faithfulness through your repentance?