

Reflecting on 2 Samuel 21-24

May 31, 2020

Introduction: The final chapters of the Books of Samuel serve as an Epilogue to David's reign, combining two narratives, two lists, and two poems.

As we considered each of these elements in our message, we created five epitaphs that described David's life:

1. "Here lies David: He sought the Lord in every circumstance." (21:1-14)
2. "Here lies David: He worshipped the Lord with the deepest reverence." (24:1-25)
3. "Here lies David: He was a mighty warrior for God." (21:15-22; 23:8-39)
4. "Here lies David: He trusted in God completely." (22:1-51)
5. "Here lies David: He knew that everything good comes from God." (23:1-7)

We arrived at a Big Idea that summarized David's life: *David was an imperfect man who loved and served his perfect God.*

Questions to Discuss:

1. Which of the epitaphs about David strikes you as being most important? Why?

2. Looking over each of the main points about David, which epitaph do you think might best describe your life? Which description highlights an area where you need to improve?

3. In chapter 21, God uses David to rescue Israel from a famine. This blessing comes after David seeks God's direction. What keeps Christians from seeking the Lord regularly in their lives? What is often the result when Christians fail to seek the Lord?

4. In chapter 24, God halts a punishing plague when David worships the Lord on a threshing floor near Jerusalem. As he prays, David confesses, "I will not offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God that cost me nothing." What does "costly worship" look like for Christians today? Many Christians evaluate worship by "what they get out of it." How does David's example of "costly worship" counteract this misconception?

5. Chapter 22 contains a poetic tribute to God and His faithfulness. In this song, David confesses that he can always trust the Lord. Have you ever felt like you couldn't trust in the Lord? What brought about these thoughts/emotions? What instruction from these verses might encourage you in future difficult times?

6. Consider the legacy that you will leave for those that follow you. What encouragement can you draw from the fact that David was far from a perfect human being? How does David's legacy of loving and serving God shine through the fog of his many imperfections?