

## **A Tale of Two Kings**

### **1. David had all the potential to be a great king.**

- 16:1, 5-13 = Divine blessing, confirmation, & guidance

\*\*notice however, humble beginning

\*\*notice also, God's choice for 'most likely to succeed' v.7

16:18; 17:4-11, 26, 32-37, 45-47; 18:30 = Courageous, confident, & great leader (vs Saul hiding in the luggage), giving guarantees ahead of time.

### **2. David demonstrates his righteous careful character through extreme trials.**

18:10-11, 17, 19, 25, 19:6, 9-12, 18, 20:41-42, 21:13-22:2, 22:21-23 = Saul's attempts to kill David -> Saul makes aggressive efforts to kill him, David loses one of his best friends, flees like a criminal, makes himself look insane, and Saul kills the priests in pursuing David.

\*23:1-14 = stands up to his people, seeks God's guidance

\*24 = David's test of sparing Saul's life & standing up to his men. Attention to detail despite everything pointing to God's deliverance.

\*26 = David spares him again & again stands up to his men.

\*30 = David's own peeps talk of stoning him. Seeking God through the situation is part of being righteous.

2Sa 1 & 4 = David continuing to respect the King's office

2Sa 7 = David's covenant with God

8:15 = justice and equity

9:1-13 = David's integrity

Character tests = Spares Saul's life, is pressured by his men, is under threat of being stoned, David is reliant on God, trusts God, continues to pray to God (ref Psalms)

### **3. David saves his soul by submitting faithfully and quickly to God's discipline.**

2Sa 11 = David's complacency leads to committing serious sin.

2Sa 12:1-25 = discipline (Psalm 51)

\*Notice that David accepts what God uses to punish him. David doesn't mope around.

\*Ref David's continued rapport with Nathan all the way into 1Kings

2Sa 15-18 Absalom's rebellion and David's response.

David ends his life with the legacy of a man after God's own heart intact, 'faithful in all things', (Act 13:22; 1Kings 15:3-5)

### **Concluding principles that come from comparing Saul & David's life:**

- 1. What makes a man mighty in God's eyes is not his ability to physically conquer but rather his commitment to carefully obeying God.*
- 2. Response to discipline is a defining moment and test for people, possibly more than anything else.*
- 3. Having the deck stacked in your favor is an indicator of future POTENTIAL, not future SUCCESS.*

### **New principles from David's life**

- 1. Complacency kills.** (David's comfy in his palace instead of going to battle, Pro 1:32)
- 2. God expects us to respond righteously to authority even if/when they respond unrighteously.** (Rom 13; 1Ti 5:19; 1Pe 3; Mat 5:38-41)
- 3. God expects us to be faithful, NOT perfect.**
- 4. Growing distant from church members and/or your pastor(s) after discipline is a huge red flag.** (notice David's continued comms with Nathan vs Saul)
- 5. God doesn't hold grudges.** (He will bless and work all things for good if you'll just turn and be faithful to Him. e.g. God doesn't desire the death of the wicked [Eze 18, 33], and uses Bathsheba to continue David's bloodline)
- 6. God demands our attention to detail even under pressure.** (David slows down when pressured to kill Saul, doesn't violate God's command about building the temple, etc. vs Saul's compromise, or Moses' rush to strike the rock)
- 7. God expects you to honor your covenants/keep your word even to your own detriment.** (Psa 15:4; 1Sa 20:14-17 w/ 2Sa 21:1-2)
- 8. Your sin has consequences and God expects you to accept that and move on.** (David's life was characterized by trouble after what happens with Bathsheba, but he doesn't complain about it)
- 9. It's important to be in your place when the fighting starts.** (You don't have to go sword to sword but do your part! This requires sacrifice, the good of the "nation" over personal achievement/comfort. Don't be someone who sits on the sideline or worse, thinks we shouldn't be fighting)

Closing Contemplation: at the end of your life, will your choices reveal you to have been more like Saul or David?