

INTRODUCTION

Hey, if you have your Bibles, and I hope you do,

- please grab them and turn to 2 Samuel chapter 10.
- You can open a phone or a tablet to 2 Samuel 10,
- or you can use one of the hard-backed black bibles
 - under every single chair.
 - You'll find 2 Samuel 10 on page **261**.

INTRODUCTION: BATHSHEBA

Well, alright friends...

- we are almost...
- to the ONLY part of 2 Samuel...
- that EVERY church preaches on.

You can just cheat and look ahead at the heading for chapter 11.

- What does it say?
 - Yeah, David and Bathsheba.
- So, that's chapters 11 and 12,
- and we're almost there...

BUT we aren't the kind of church to skip over 10 chapters to get there.

- So, this is week 9 in our 2 Samuel series!

Next week we'll take a pause on 2 Samuel for Easter...

- but the week after Easter...it's on!
 - David and Bathsheba.

But today, I've gotta set us up for 1 Samuel 11, by preaching 1 Samuel 10.

EXPLAIN: THEME

And this one was kinda tricky.

- I wrestled this week with how to preach this chapter,
 - because on the surface,
 - it seemed like another battle and another victory.
- I even read one guy who said
- there is no discernable theme in this chapter.

But as I studied, it became really clear what I needed to talk about.

So, all through the first 10 chapters of this book...

- we have seen David,
 - the man after God's own heart,
- become king...
- and begin to lead Israel.

And next chapter is the biggest failure of his life.

But we've continually asked the question:

- WHAT IS a man after God's own heart?

David is that guy, and yet, he has some serious issues!

So, I'm calling today's sermon **SLIDE BE A MAN**

This is going to be a sermon on manhood.

ILLUSTRATION

And just so you know, I am an expert on the subject.

Why, you ask?

Because I am a man!

- I love to fish.
 - And I love to snowboard.
 - And I love to be outdoors.

- And I wear jeans.
 - And boots.
 - And I can grow an epic beard.
 - Though it's getting pretty gray!
- And I love sports.
 - And I love to workout.
 - And I drive a truck...
 - with a lift and oversized tires.
- And I've got a beautiful wife.
 - And I've got the sweetest daughter.
 - And I have dogs...
 - not cats...
 - but dogs.
- And I love chicken wings,
 - and I love Chipotle.
 - And I can grill a steak a perfect medium-rare.
 - just like God intended it to be.
- And I love lawn care.
 - And I have tattoos. More than one...less than 10.
 - And I own a gun,
 - and would use it...
 - if you break into my house...
 - and threaten my girls.

But listen, NONE OF THAT MAKES ME A MAN!

IT MAKES ME AWESOME!

But not a man.

TRANSITION

So, we're going to look at what it means to BE A MAN.

- And to the gals here, you might be like, *“Well, what about us?”*
- Well, this is ACTUALLY for women as much as it is for men.

You see, when men are men...like how the Bible defines it...

- it leads to a flourishing in our world that God desires...

And when men DON'T...

- you will see a wake of carnage and destruction...
 - in our world,
 - in our families,
 - and in our churches.

Now, this isn't a comprehensive sermon on manhood,

- because that would take weeks and weeks,
 - but for today we'll just look at this chapter,
- and I'll show you four aspects of biblical manhood.

So, let's get going. 2 Samuel 10 starting in verse 1.

2 SAMUEL 10:1-2

[1] After this the king of the Ammonites died, and Hanun his son reigned in his place. [2] And David said, "I will deal loyally with Hanun the son of Nahash, as his father dealt loyally with me." So David sent by his servants to console him concerning his father. And David's servants came into the land of the Ammonites.

EXPLAIN: NAHASH

Now, back in 1 Samuel chapter 11,

- we met Nahash the Ammonite.
 - He was terrorizing one of the tribes of Israel.
 - And he said they would be spared,
 - if they would scoop out their right eyes.
- So, other than being grotesque and painful...
 - this would mean slavery for all the men,
 - because the left eye was covered by the shield in battle,
 - so, these guys would be unable to be soldiers.

Well, God's Spirit rushes upon King Saul,

- and he wrecks shop on the Ammonites.

So, Nahash was Saul's enemy.

- Now, we don't know what David is referring to...
- when he says that Nahash dealt loyally with me.

Perhaps Nahash became an ally of David while he was at odds with Saul.

- As the old proverb goes...
 - the enemy of my enemy is my friend.

But now, David wants to deal loyally with Nahash's son.

Verse 3:

2 SAMUEL 10:3

[3] But the princes of the Ammonites said to Hanun their lord, "Do you think, because David has sent comforters to you, that he is honoring your father? Has not David sent his servants to you to search the city and to spy it out and to overthrow it?"

EXPLAIN

So, Hanun's advisors are suspicious of David's intentions.

- I mean, David is really crushing his opponents right now.

So, they say to Hanun, *"He's a spy! Don't trust him!"*

Verse 4:

2 SAMUEL 10:4-5

[4] So Hanun took David's servants and shaved off half the beard of each and cut off their garments in the middle, at their hips, and sent them away.

[5] When it was told David, he sent to meet them, for the men were greatly ashamed. And the king said, "Remain at Jericho until your beards have grown and then return."

EXPLAIN: EMASCULATE

So, Hanun's response to David's men is to emasculate them.

- He shaved their beards
- and cut off their clothes.

He is shaming these men.

- So, David essentially says,
 - *"No one needs to see this...*
 - *don't come back...*
 - *until your beards have grown back."*

Verse 6:

2 SAMUEL 10:6-8

[6] When the Ammonites saw that they had become a stench to David, the Ammonites sent and hired the Syrians of Beth-rehob, and the

Syrians of Zobah, 20,000 foot soldiers, and the king of Maacah with 1,000 men, and the men of Tob, 12,000 men. [7] And when David heard of it, he sent Joab and all the host of the mighty men. [8] And the Ammonites came out and drew up in battle array at the entrance of the gate, and the Syrians of Zobah and of Rehob and the men of Tob and Maacah were by themselves in the open country.

EXPLAIN: SYRIANS

So, the Ammonites realize that David is about to crush them,

- so they hire armies of Syrians.
 - Hiring armies was common in the ancient world.
- And an additional 33,000 men are hired.

So, David sends Joab and his mighty men.

- Remember, Joab is the commander of David's armies.
 - But now they are up against...
 - both the Ammonite...
 - and the Syrian armies.

Notably, they also set their lines on both sides of Joab's forces.

So, the Israelites are surrounded.

Verse 9:

2 SAMUEL 10:9-12

[9] When Joab saw that the battle was set against him both in front and in the rear, he chose some of the best men of Israel and arrayed them against the Syrians. [10] The rest of his men he put in the charge of Abishai his brother, and he arrayed them against the Ammonites. [11] And he said, "If the Syrians are too strong for me, then you shall help me, but if the

Ammonites are too strong for you, then I will come and help you. [12] Be of good courage, and let us be courageous for our people, and for the cities of our God, and may the LORD do what seems good to him.”

EXPLAIN: TACTICS

So, Joab sees what’s happening...

- and in response, he splits his forces:
 - half are with him to fight the hired Syrian forces.
 - And the other half he puts under the charge of Abishai,
 - his brother...
 - and they line up against the Ammonites.

Verse 13:

2 SAMUEL 10:13-14

[13] So Joab and the people who were with him drew near to battle against the Syrians, and they fled before him. [14] And when the Ammonites saw that the Syrians fled, they likewise fled before Abishai and entered the city. Then Joab returned from fighting against the Ammonites and came to Jerusalem.

EXPLAIN

- Joab defeats the hired Syrians...
 - and forces them to flee,
- and Abishai causes the Ammonites to flee.

Joab then returns to Jerusalem,

- but presumably Abishai stays,
- keeping the siege against the Ammonites.

And this is the battle we'll see in chapter 11...

- when the David and Bathsheba incident happens.

Verse 15:

2 SAMUEL 10:15-19

[15] But when the Syrians saw that they had been defeated by Israel, they gathered themselves together. [16] And Hadadezer sent and brought out the Syrians who were beyond the Euphrates. They came to Helam, with Shobach the commander of the army of Hadadezer at their head. [17] And when it was told David, he gathered all Israel together and crossed the Jordan and came to Helam. The Syrians arrayed themselves against David and fought with him. [18] And the Syrians fled before Israel, and David killed of the Syrians the men of 700 chariots, and 40,000 horsemen, and wounded Shobach the commander of their army, so that he died there. [19] And when all the kings who were servants of Hadadezer saw that they had been defeated by Israel, they made peace with Israel and became subject to them. So the Syrians were afraid to save the Ammonites anymore.

EXPLAIN

So, the hired Syrian forces muster once again,

- and come to fight against David again.

And those verses summarize the skirmish with the Syrians...

- and the eventual peace that comes.

TRANSITION

So, that's the chapter that sets up the most famous part of 2 Samuel...

But for the remainder of our time,

- I'd like to dig into four parts of what it means to BE A MAN.
 - And I'm gonna have to go quickly through these,
 - and there's so much more to be said,
- but let's get after it.

POINT: BETRAYAL/FORGIVENESS

The first thing I see in this text about BEING A MAN...
is that MEN DEAL WITH **SLIDE BETRAYAL**

Look back at verse 2 again.

2 SAMUEL 10:2a

[2] And David said, "I will deal **loyally** with Hanun the son of Nahash, as his father dealt **loyally** with me."

Wanna guess what the Hebrew word is that's translated here into *loyally*?

- It's HESED.
 - The very same word from last week.
- It's kindness,
- it's steadfast love,
- it's covenantal love,
- it's loyalty.
 - In chapter 9 it was towards the son of his best friend;
 - Mephibosheth...
 - in the present case, it is toward the son of his former ally.

But while David shows HESED to Hanun...he receives BETRAYAL.

He's trying to do right by him! And he gets stabbed in the back.

APPLICATION

Hey guys, part of BEING A MAN...is being let down by others.

- I don't know a guy who hasn't felt at least some BETRAYAL...
 - from friends or family...
 - at work or at home.
- Guys, this is part of life in a fallen and broken world.

But, here's how a GODLY MAN should respond to BETRAYAL:

- he responds with **SLIDE FORGIVENESS**

Hey, if you are a Christian man...I've got news for you...

- those who have experienced the grace...
 - of being forgiven by God...
- will extend forgiveness...
 - to those who let them down.

Maybe you've heard it before: FORGIVEN PEOPLE FORGIVE PEOPLE.

- If you're holding on to unforgiveness...
- if you are unwilling to forgive...
 - Don't you realize...it's doing worse things to you?
 - It's rotting you from the inside out.
- And I'm not saying what was done to you wasn't awful...

But YOU get to decide what you do with it.

FORGIVEN PEOPLE FORGIVE PEOPLE.

- If you've stood at the cross of Christ...
- and experienced forgiveness of you...
- then you WILL forgive others.

Men deal with BETRAYAL...

But you want to BE A MAN?

- Biblical men FORGIVE.

POINT: SHAME/FREEDOM

Second thing I see in this text about BEING A MAN...

- is that MEN DEAL WITH **SLIDE SHAME**

Remember the beard shaving incident?

They were shamed.

- And listen to me, gosh...
 - I meet with a lot of men...
 - I think there are a lot of guys in here today...
- who are carrying all kinds of shame around with them!
 - Shame of what they've done.
 - Shame of what they've failed to do.
 - Even shame of what's been done to them.

And it's cooler to pretend that you don't care...or you're tough...

But men, listen to me, you can't carry all that around with you.

- I love that David tells these dudes to stay in Jericho...
- until their beards grow back.
 - He doesn't publicly parade their failure...
 - in front of their friends and family members.
- No, he protects them.

And y'all, we've gotta be a church...

- where it's a safe place for men...
- to share failures and fears.
 - And we've gotta be really careful...
 - that we don't create a culture...
 - that shames men more
 - when they do screw up.

There's a lot of machismo crap that does that exact thing!

APPLICATION

So, what's the antidote to SHAME?

- Well, GODLY MEN walk in **SLIDE FREEDOM**
 - FREEDOM from shame...

ILLUSTRATION: 2019

Now, we talk about it all the time,

- but 5-years-ago I sinned against the people of this church.

I found myself in a really dry place emotionally and spiritually...

- and in an attempt to keep up appearances...
- and keep things looking good...
- and to keep the ministry plates spinning...
- I started plagiarizing portions of my sermons.

Some of you here today were a part of Fathom back then...but...

- I just wanted you to think I was ok.
- I just wanted you to think I had what it took.
- I just wanted you to think I could handle this pastoring stuff.
 - I wanted to BE THE MAN.

But I was failing!

And sometimes the kindest thing God can do for you...

is to bring you to the end of yourself.

- And that began a 10-month journey...
 - of church discipline,
 - and of repentance,
 - and ultimately a lot of restoration.

ILLUSTRATION: MARYSE

But on the night the elders confronted me,

- I called Maryse on my way home,
 - and I can vividly remember...
 - how much I didn't want to tell her...
 - what had happened.
- I didn't want her to know...
 - because as much as I care about what you think of me...
 - I care so much more about what she does!

And so, on the phone, driving home from church, I told her.

- And I also told her...
- that I really didn't want to tell her.

And when she asked me why I didn't want to tell her, I said,

- *"I am just so ashamed of myself.*
- *For getting here.*
- *For doing this.*
- *I should know better.*
- *I'm just so ashamed."*

And she said something that I'll never forget.

- She said: *"Chris, you never have to be ashamed...
to tell me anything."*

APPLICATION

Do you know the FREEDOM in that statement?

- Whenever I depart from the way of Christ by sinning...
- I need someone to love me enough to help.
- I need a place where I don't have to be ashamed!

And it's become something of a mantra for my ministry and for this church.

So men, I'll say it to you:

- You don't have to be ashamed...
- to tell us anything!

We say it all the time at Fathom:

- IT'S OK NOT TO BE OK.
- IT'S JUST NOT OK TO STAY THERE.

You don't have to pretend to be alright. You hear me?

- If you're not alright,
- the worst thing you can do...
- is pretend that you are.

FREEDOM is the antidote to the SHAME men deal with.

POINT: WEAKNESS/FRIENDS

The third thing I see in this text about being a man is that

- MEN DEAL WITH **SLIDE WEAKNESS**

Look at verse 11 once again:

2 SAMUEL 10:11

[11] And he said, "If the Syrians are too strong for me, then you shall help me, but if the Ammonites are too strong for you, then I will come and help you."

Hey, one of the things that we mistakenly believe...

- about what it means to BE A MAN...
 - is that it has to do with being STRONG...
 - and having no perceivable WEAKNESS.

- Like the cowboy motif...
- The Lone Ranger...
 - *"I don't need anybody or anything!"*

And yet, the Bible couldn't be more clear...

- that acknowledging and admitting WEAKNESS...
- is how to BE A MAN.

Joab's like,

- *"I'm gonna need help.*
- *You're gonna need help.*
- *They might be too strong for us."*

He admits WEAKNESS.

APPLICATION

And that's how men deal with their WEAKNESS...

BUT that means that GODLY MEN need **SLIDE FRIENDS**

- Men need some other men in their lives...
- where they can admit WEAKNESS...
- and have one-another's backs.

Hey guys, this is why we have men's groups and D-Groups and such.

- Guys, we aren't very good at this...
 - but we need some Godly friends...
 - who we can safely admit our WEAKNESS to.

So, when I teach on Godly friendships I always give two criteria.

- They must be FOR YOU...
- and they must be FOR GOD.

I'm not saying you admit weakness to anybody and everybody!

- It's easy to find people who affirm you...
- no matter what stupid decision you are making!
 - You can find them on the internet...
 - You can find them at work...
 - You can find them all over the place.

But those aren't Godly FRIENDS.

I'm talking about friends...

- who are safe...
- AND will say the hard things to you.

You need friends who are FOR YOU...and FOR GOD.

- And admitting those weaknesses...
- to good friends...
- is how you can BE A MAN.
 - It's where real strength is found.

POINT: CONTROL/FAITH

Ok, the fourth and last thing I see in this text about BEING A MAN

- is that MEN DEAL WITH **SLIDE CONTROL**

Look at verse 12 one more time:

2 SAMUEL 10:12

[12] Be of good courage, and let us be courageous for our people, and for the cities of our God, and may the LORD do what seems good to him."

APPLICATION

- I think one of the hardest things for men to handle,
- is just how unbelievably few things we have CONTROL over.

May the Lord do what seems good to him.

Joab's like,

- *"Hey, MAYBE God will help us in this battle..."*
- And that conversely means that MAYBE he WON'T!
 - *"Well Joab, that's not very reassuring!"*

But gosh...men love to CONTROL things.

We like certainty!

But being a man ultimately means you admit you AREN'T in CONTROL!

And the Biblical antidote to those CONTROL issues is this:

- GODLY MEN need **SLIDE W/PADS FAITH**

Guys, we respond to our CONTROL issues...

- by being men of FAITH.
- of TRUST...
- of SURRENDER.
 - If you want to stand up and BE A MAN...
 - you must first bow-down...
 - and SURRENDER to Jesus.

Because on your own,

- You DO NOT have what it takes...to **SLIDE BE A MAN**

You see, it's not primarily about:

- Changing your clothes, or
- eating more meat, or
- getting you a truck.

It's not even primarily about you:

- Being a leader at home, or...
- forgiving people, or even...
- trying to be a better man.

It's primarily about you...

- owning that you can't do this on your own...
- and surrendering your life to Jesus Christ.

ENDING

And if you surrender to Jesus...

- if you bow your knee to him...
- then he will fill you with the Holy Spirit...
 - and only then,
- can we BE THE MEN that we are called to be.

Because the good news for everyone who is in Jesus Christ...

- is that you have everything you need...
- to accomplish everything he has called you to do...
 - at work,
 - at home,
 - with your wife,
 - with your kids,
 - internally,
 - externally...

In Christ, you can do all those things...

So, listen guys, our call is to be men of...

- FORGIVENESS...
- FREEDOM...
- and FRIENDSHIP...
- BECAUSE of our FAITH in Christ.
 - you have what it takes to BE A MAN...
 - IF you will bow your knee to Jesus.

Let's pray.

RESPONSES:

Well, every week at Fathom we respond in 4 ways:

- COMMUNION – THE LORD’S SUPPER
- GIVING TITHES & OFFERINGS – fathomchurch.org/give
- PRAYER - fathomchurch.org/prayer
- SINGING

So, I’m going to read the Words of Institution from the Apostle Paul, we’ll take communion, and then we’ll sing:

1 CORINTHIANS 11:23–26 – WORDS OF INSTITUTION

[23] For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, [24] and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” **TAKE**

[25] In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” **TAKE**

[26] For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

Love you church, let’s stand and sing together.

RESOURCES CONSULTED:

- Davis, Dale Ralph. Focus on the Bible Commentaries. 2 Samuel: Out of Every Adversity.
- Davis, Dale Ralph. *Stinky Diplomacy*
- McDaniel, T.J. *Wise Words from a Wicked Man*.
- Tsumura, David Toshio. The New International Commentary on the Old Testament. The Second Book of Samuel.