

SLIDE BONUS ANNOUNCEMENT: ALTERNATIVES PREGNANCY

SLIDE INTRODUCTION

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

- please grab them and turn to 2 Samuel chapter 1.
- You can open a phone or a tablet to 2 Samuel 1,
- or you can use one of the hard-backed black bibles
 - under every single chair.
 - You'll find 2 Samuel 1 on page **254**.

INTRODUCTION: NETFLIX

You remember King David?

Well, King David's story is told in two seasons.

- 1 Samuel and 2 Samuel.
- And we finished up season 1 of David's story last Spring.
 - But like any good Netflix series.
 - we had to wait 9 months for the next season to drop.

And so, at long last, it is finally here! 2 Samuel!

But just like you may have forgotten what happened...

- in the previous season of Stranger Things...
- so, too, you may have forgotten what happened...
 - at the end of Season 1 of David's life.

So... **SLIDE** previously on 1 Samuel...

- 1 Samuel begins after the period of the Judges,
- where the key phrase is this:

SLIDE JUDGES 21:25

[25] In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

So, this is one of the lowest points in Israel's history.

- This is after wandering in the desert with Moses.
- This is after Joshua leads them into the promised land.
- But God's people are unwilling to follow God's laws...
 - and...there was no king to lead them.
 - And everyone's just doing whatever they want.

But **SLIDE** 1 Samuel opens with...

- God calling the Prophet Samuel to lead Israel.
 - But the people reject Samuel,
 - and demand a king.

Enter Saul, the first king of Israel.

- Saul looked the part.
 - He was taller than anyone else.
 - He was stronger.
 - He was a warrior.
- But his character did not match.
 - He continually did the wrong things.
 - He continually disobeyed God's commands.

And finally, in 1 Samuel 13, God rejects Saul.

SLIDE 1 SAMUEL 13:13-14a

[13] “You have done foolishly. You have not kept the command of the Lord your God, with which he commanded you. For then the Lord would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. [14] But now your kingdom shall not continue. The Lord has sought out a man after his own heart.

SLIDE Enter David.

- David was a shepherd boy.
- The runt of the litter.
- His own father didn’t even consider him...
 - as a potential king.

But God is looking for...a MAN AFTER GOD’S OWN HEART.

So, as David grows,

- the Lord gives him success in battle,
- and favor with the Israelites.
 - David becomes best friends with Saul’s son, Jonathan.
 - David marries Saul’s daughter, Michal.
- And Saul becomes jealous and envious of him,
 - and he begins trying to kill David,
 - because he sees that God’s favor has left him,
 - and was now on David.

And now, for almost 10-years...

- David has been on the run from the murderous intent of Saul.
 - For the last year-and-a-half things had gotten so bad...
 - that David actually fled to live in Ziklag...
 - amongst the Philistines,
 - the arch-enemies of Israel.

But in 1 Samuel 29,

- the Philistines go to war with Israel,
- and they decide not to bring David with them,
 - lest he turn on them and fight with Saul for his homeland.

So, David stays in Ziklag in Philistine territory,

- while the rest of the Philistines march on Israel.
- And here's what we read in the last chapter of 1 Samuel...
 - You can see this just to the left of the start of 2 Samuel.

1 SAMUEL 31:3-5

[3] The battle pressed hard against Saul, and the archers found him, and he was badly wounded by the archers. [4] Then Saul said to his armor-bearer, "Draw your sword, and thrust me through with it, lest these uncircumcised come and thrust me through, and mistreat me." But his armor-bearer would not, for he feared greatly. Therefore Saul took his own sword and fell upon it. [5] And when his armor-bearer saw that Saul was dead, he also fell upon his sword and died with him.

- Saul is dead.
- His son, Jonathan is dead.
- David is in Philistine territory.
 - He knows there was a battle,
- but he doesn't know the results.

SLIDE 2 Samuel chapter 1, starting in verse 1.

2 SAMUEL 1:1-4

[1] After the death of Saul, when David had returned from striking down the Amalekites, David remained two days in Ziklag. [2] And on the third day, behold, a man came from Saul's camp, with his clothes torn and dirt on his head. And when he came to David, he fell to the ground and paid homage. [3] David said to him, "Where do you come from?" And he said to him, "I have escaped from the camp of Israel." [4] And David said to him, "How did it go? Tell me." And he answered, "The people fled from the battle, and also many of the people have fallen and are dead, and Saul and his son Jonathan are also dead."

So, this man looks like a man in mourning.

- His clothes are ripped.
- The dirt on his head is a symbol of grief.

And he reports to David...

- that the battle was lost...
- and moreover, Saul and Jonathan are dead.

He is the bearer of bad news.

Verse 5:

2 SAMUEL 1:5-10

[5] Then David said to the young man who told him, "How do you know that Saul and his son Jonathan are dead?" [6] And the young man who told him said, "By chance I happened to be on Mount Gilboa, and there was Saul leaning on his spear, and behold, the chariots and the horsemen were close upon him. [7] And when he looked behind him, he saw me, and called to me. And I answered, 'Here I am.' [8] And he said to me, 'Who are you?' I

answered him, 'I am an Amalekite.' [9] And he said to me, 'Stand beside me and kill me, for anguish has seized me, and yet my life still lingers.' [10] So I stood beside him and killed him, because I was sure that he could not live after he had fallen. And I took the crown that was on his head and the armlet that was on his arm, and I have brought them here to my lord."

EXPLAIN: AMALEKITE LIES

Now, first of all...is that what really happened?

- Well, not according to what we just read in 1 Samuel 31.
 - Saul asked his armor bearer to kill him.
 - He won't do it.
 - So, Saul takes his own life,
 - and then his armor bearer does the same thing.

But now here's this Amalekite who tells a different version.

And some have thrown their hands up in the air saying,

- *"See, the Bible just constantly contradicts itself.*
- *You can't trust this book."*

And it's like,

- *"Woah...hold up...*
- *don't be dumb."*

I mean, you see what's going on here, right?!?

- Let me ask you:
 - have you ever met a trustworthy Amalekite?
 - I certainly haven't.
- This guy's a snake!

It's very clear that this sketchy Amalekite saw what happened to Saul...

- and he seems to be...
- opportunistically inserting himself in the story...
- to be the brave hero...
- who mercifully gave King Saul his last wish,
 - and now in a visible state of mourning,
- he brings the crown to David...
- likely expecting a reward or accolade.

But remember...David knows none of this.

We do, because of 1 Samuel 31...

EXPLAIN: DAVID'S RESPONSE

But David knows nothing.

And now he receives the news.

- 10 years of being chased.
- 10 years of running.
- 10 years of fearing for his life.
- 10 years of living in the wilderness.
- 10 years of not being able to be home with his wife.
- 10 years of being away from his land,
 - and his home,
 - and God's promise for his life.
- 10 years!
- A decade!
- And now it's finally over!

And this sketchy Amalekite shows up...

- with the crown that was rightfully David's.
- And the armlet that was rightfully David's.

And this is the moment that we waited for all through the first season...

- this is the moment where David gets to finally claim what is his.
 - He's the rightful king, now.
 - Let's celebrate!
 - Because Saul is finally out of the picture.
- That's what we should be expecting!
- But it's not what happens.

When David hears...

- that the man who hunted him like an animal...
 - for 10 years...
 - is now dead,
- look at how he responds.

Verse 11:

2 SAMUEL 1:11-12

[11] Then David took hold of his clothes and tore them, and so did all the men who were with him. [12] And they mourned and wept and fasted until evening for Saul and for Jonathan his son and for the people of the LORD and for the house of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword.

EXPLAIN: STRUCTURE

With urgency David and his men stop.

- They don't celebrate that David is the new king.
- They don't relish the fact that Saul is finally dead.
 - No! They mourn and weep and fast until evening.

And in the literary structure...this is at the structural center of the story.

- Ancient Biblical writers didn't have a way...
- to bold or underline the most important parts of a story...
- and so they often used the center point of structure...
- as a way of emphasizing the most important part.

We tend to put the most important thing in the conclusion of a story.

- They put it in the center.

So, this is not how we would likely have told the story.

- We would want to clean up the immediate situation...
- with the sketchy Amalekite...
 - and then we can deal with...
 - how David and his men reacted.

But the most important item in this story is the grief of David and his men.

POINT 1

And it shows us something about why David is...

A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART.

Because **SLIDE HE GRIEVES**

- His heart breaks first.
- We might say he had a soft heart.

Cause, if anyone had a right to celebrate the demise of Saul...it was David.

- But his immediate response is to GRIEVE.

APPLICATION: PEOPLE

And I wonder, for us, if we grieve the way David does?

- *“Hey...what’s the point of crying about it...”*
- *you’re not gonna change anything.”*

That’s not what David does.

And I want you to notice that in his grief,

- HE SURROUNDS HIMSELF WITH PEOPLE.

Sometimes, in our grief,

- we find ourselves drawn to cope with the pain...
- in some rather unhealthy patterns.
 - We turn inward and don’t let other people in.
 - We become depressed and isolate ourselves.
- In some cases we turn to something to cope with it:
 - food, drink, media...whatever.

But David and **all the men who were with him**...grieved.

Now, I think this is super important, church.

- But when life starts falling apart...
- you need to surround yourself with THE RIGHT people.
 - These were the men who were with him.
 - Not just some random guys.
 - But these were his people!

So too, we need people who will encourage us...

- and remind us of the truth of the gospel.
 - Not just a crew who will sit on the pity potty with you...
- but those who will legitimately mourn with you...
- and then encourage you with the truth of the gospel.

So, when life starts falling apart for you...

- I wonder, do you GRIEVE like David?
- Are you soft and broken?
 - Or do you harden?

TRANSITION

So, David and his men GRIEVE...

- but remember, there's this sketchy Amalekite...
- just milling around the camp.

What to do with this guy?

Well, look at verse 13:

2 SAMUEL 1:13-16

[13] And David said to the young man who told him, "Where do you come from?" And he answered, "I am the son of a sojourner, an Amalekite." [14] David said to him, "How is it you were not afraid to put out your hand to destroy the LORD's anointed?" [15] Then David called one of the young men and said, "Go, execute him." And he struck him down so that he died. [16] And David said to him, "Your blood be on your head, for your own mouth has testified against you, saying, 'I have killed the LORD's anointed.'"

EXPLAIN: DAVID'S RESPONSE

Now, we don't know if David suspects if this man is telling the truth or lying.

But whether he knows or not,

- David responds in a surprising way...
 - well, at least to the sketchy Amalekite...

- David has him executed on the spot.
 - Not exactly the reward he was hoping for.

But this is exactly in line with David's character as we saw in 1 Samuel.

If you remember, back in 1 Samuel 24,

- David is hiding from Saul in a cave.
- And Saul just so happens to come into that very cave...
 - to relieve himself.
- And even though his men urged him to kill Saul...

David's response was this:

SLIDE 1 SAMUEL 24:6

[6] He said to his men, "The LORD forbid that I should do this thing to my lord, the LORD's anointed, to put out my hand against him, seeing he is the LORD's anointed."

And then two chapters later, in 1 Samuel 26,

- David sneaks into Saul's camp...
- and has another opportunity to kill Saul in his sleep.

But once again, he will not put out his hand against the Lord's anointed.

POINT 2

And it's another reason why David is A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART.

- He has a posture of submission.
- **SLIDE HE SUBMITS**

David has never wanted to get the crown and the throne...

- by taking matters into his own hands.

God had promised David...

- that he would be the king.

But David knew and practiced this principle:

- The PURPOSES of God cannot be achieved...
- by breaking the PRECEPTS of God.

David has had multiple opportunities to force his way onto the throne...

- by raising his hand against the Lord's anointed King.
 - And now, even when someone else has done it for him,
 - he still wants nothing to do with it.
- Because you never achieve the PURPOSES of God...
- by compromising the PRECEPTS of God.

David SUBMITS.

APPLICATION

And this is really applicable to us.

I would wager that this year, the greatest temptation you will likely face...

- Isn't to, like, pick up a prostitute...
- Or start selling Black Tar Heroin...
- Or kill your boss to take her position.

No, I would bet your greatest temptation will be more along the lines...

- of seeing a good thing that you might want...
- and you being tempted to pursue it in your ways...
- instead of God's way.

The greatest temptation isn't usually to pursue some bad thing...
it's to pursue some good thing...in your way.

Here are a few examples:

- *“I feel like God wants me to provide for my family financially.”*
 - That’s a good desire, right?
 - *“But it’s not happening fast enough...”*
 - *so, I’m gonna compromise a little bit on my taxes.*
 - *Or maybe I’ll just overwork a little bit.*
 - *And I’ll make that good thing happen.”*
- Or, *“I feel like God wants me to be married...”*
 - *but it’s taking so long!*
 - *So, I’ll just compromise on my standards a bit.”*
- Or, *“I need to pass this class,*
 - *but I just don’t have the time...*
 - *to put all the effort needed...*
 - *and so I’ll just cheat a little bit.”*

This is one of the biggest kinds of temptations in our lives:

- **to pursue a good thing in the wrong way.**
 - **But the PURPOSES of God cannot be achieved...**
 - **by breaking the PRECEPTS of God.**

TRANSITION

David knows this, and he won’t take the crown from this sketchy Amalekite.

- His posture is waiting on God...
- trusting in God’s timing.
- HE SUBMITS.

Finally, look at verse 17:

2 SAMUEL 1:17-18

[17] And David lamented with this lamentation over Saul and Jonathan his son, [18] and he said it should be taught to the people of Judah; behold, it is written in the Book of Jashar.

EXPLAIN: LAMENT

So, in response to his grief, David pens a song.

- He produces a reflective expression of his grief.

That's what we call a lament.

- A lament is a formal expression of grief or distress.
- And there are songs of lament all through the Bible.
 - A lament is different from an informal,
 - spontaneous,
 - immediate outburst of grief..
 - like he and his men did back in verses 11 & 12.
 - A lament is a vehicle for the mind...
 - as well as for the emotions.

POINT 3

So, I'll say it like this: DAVID IS A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART...

because **SLIDE HE WORSHIPS**

Lament is worship.

Now, David's lament is in verses 19-27...

- and I don't have time to get into all of it...
- I had a portion of it read over us this morning...
- but I want to mention verse 26,
- because it causes some confusion for modern readers..

2 SAMUEL 1:26

[26] I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan;
very pleasant have you been to me;
your love to me was extraordinary,
surpassing the love of women.

EXPLAIN: SEXUAL?

Now, in 2024 when we read about David and Jonathan's relationship...

- it uses language that makes us question...
- whether there was something romantic or sexual...
- in the nature of their relationship.

But that is reading a lot of modern presuppositions onto an ancient text.

And like we say all the time when it comes to biblical interpretation:

- it cannot mean to us...
- what it did not mean to them.

The comparison David is making...

- when comparing his love for Jonathan to his love of women...
 - is not a point of sexuality,
 - but a point of devotion.

Jonathan was totally devoted to David becoming king of Israel,

- even though Jonathan himself was next in the line of kings.

Additionally, homosexuality was not an accepted practice among the Jews,

- and so, if there would have been something going on...
 - with David and Jonathan,
- their friendship wouldn't have been lauded.

In fact, the exploits would have been exposed.

- I mean, we're gonna get some of the nitty gritty details...
- about David's sexual sins...
- in coming chapters.

David has just lost his very best friend in the world, and his grief and lament communicate that clearly.

APPLICATION

And here's how this applies to us:

- We don't only worship when things are good.
- We are to praise God when our life falls apart, as well.
 - It's how we strengthen ourselves in those hard times.

ILLUSTRATION: WORSHIP IN SUFFERING

Before planting Fathom I was a worship pastor for ten years.

- And before I left my previous church to start this place...
- one gal came up to me to say some kind words,
 - but she mentioned one time when I led worship...
 - as being specifically impactful for her.

See, in our first year of marriage, my wife got sick.

- And after a few years of getting nowhere with doctors,
- we arrived at the point where doctors started throwing around...
- the scary words you never want to hear from doctors:
 - auto-immune disorders,
 - tumors,
 - cancer.

And so, they started testing my 25-year-old wife for all these things.

- All the while I was working at the church,
- encouraging our congregation to praise the Lord...
- week in and week out.

Well, on one Sunday morning in particular,

- that week we had been at the hospital for an MRI
- to check Maryse for brain tumors,
- and we were still awaiting the results.

And I get up to lead worship.

- And as you can imagine, I was an emotional wreck.
- And I can remember starting the service by saying:
 - *“Church, there are times when it feels so good and right...*
 - *to come together to worship God.*
 - *And then there are those times...*
 - *where you just don’t want to.*
 - *It’s been one of those weeks for me.*
 - *But I need this.”*

And as I led that day,

- I had tears all over my face...
- and I could barely sing at all.
- I had nothing to give.
- It probably sounded terrible!
 - Seriously, from a musical perspective...
 - it was probably the worst worship I ever led.

But this gal told me...

- that it was one of the most powerful moments...
- she had ever experienced in worship.

WORSHIP...

- is where we do work with the Lord...
- especially the hard work.

SLIDE W/PADS CONCLUSION

I don't know if you feel like parts of your life are falling apart right now...

- and this message isn't meant to diminish...
- the difficulty and pain you feel...
 - certainly not.
- Those difficulties and sufferings are very real.

But in those times...

- the temptation is to respond in less-than-biblical ways...

But in light of a terrible loss for David...

We see a MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART.

- AND he is but a shadow of another man who would come...
- Here's what Isaiah prophesized about Jesus,
 - the truer and better David:

SLIDE ISAIAH 53:3-5

[3] He was despised and rejected by men,
a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;
and as one from whom men hide their faces
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

[4] Surely he has borne our griefs

and carried our sorrows;

yet we esteemed him stricken,

smitten by God, and afflicted.

SLIDE [5] But he was pierced for our transgressions;

he was crushed for our iniquities;

upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,

and with his wounds we are healed.

SLIDE ENDING

In Jesus' Resurrection from the dead...

- He has built a floor...
- at the bottomless pit of our grief.

So, he stands with us,

- just as he stood with David...
- on that fateful day.

We have a God who is intimately familiar with life falling apart.

- God is intimately aware of the pain we feel,
 - because when he was in control...
 - and not required to feel pain...
- God sacrificed his only Son for you and for me.

And therefore...

- we can GRIEVE,
- and we can have a posture of SUBMISSION,
- and we can even WORSHIP.

When life is falling apart,

- only in those things can we find peace for today...
- and confidence for tomorrow.

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:

- Brown, Chris. *How to Get Better, Not Bitter*.
- Davis, Dale Ralph. Focus on the Bible Commentaries. 2 Samuel: Out of Every Adversity.
- Davis, Dale Ralph. *Grief That Is Gory and Good*.
- Greear, J.D. *New Beginnings*.
- Tsumura, David Toshio. The New International Commentary on the Old Testament. The Second Book of Samuel.