

The Last Words of David

2 Samuel 23

Pray

last time we were together in chapter 22, we looked at the song of David.

- We saw that David wrote this beautiful song to the Lord of praise & Thanksgiving
 - because David understood that it was **God who watched over him,**
 - **that it was God who blessed him & provided for him.**

which is always a good thing to do by the way, to praise & thank the Lord.

- **Because oftentimes we have a tendency to focus on the bad**
 - **what we don't have, what we think we need,**
 - **and all of the hard circumstances**
 - **rather than focusing on all that God has blessed us with**
 - **and all that he's done for us.**

if you're taking notes there are 2 things we want to look at in Chapter 23

- **Number one. The first section involves the last words of David in vs. 1-7**
 - Now these of course are not David's last words
 - as though he will never speak any other words ever again.
 - As in 1st kings, he does have a little bit more to say.

But **these are the last words that Samuel records of David that are in poetic form.**

- This is the last poem of David, his last piece of poetry, the last Psalm of David.

with the theme of **Godly leadership**

1 Now these are the last words of David.

Thus says David the son of Jesse;

Thus says the man raised up on high,

The anointed of the God of Jacob,

And the sweet psalmist of Israel:

David's life Journey is now coming to an end and here we read these are the last words

- David would speak to the nation

do you know you're going to have your last words

- **there will be a day when you will say your last words to people in this world**
 - **what will you say? what are the words that you will speak?**

David begins to mention some things about his life first of all **his humble beginning**

- he says he is **the son of Jesse**
 - you remember when Samuel was sent to the house of Jesse
 - to anoint the next king of Israel to replace Saul

that when he went down to Jesse's house seeking to pick out the next king

- and as each of Jesse's Sons came in front of him
 - he was looking for somebody that looked like Saul

and so when the first one came he thought surely the Lord's anointed is in front of me

- But the Lord said that's not him then the next one came that's not him either
 - then the Lord spoke to his prophet and he said listen Samuel

- the Lord doesn't see as man sees
 - man looks on what the outward appearance
 - but God looks on the heart

so after he went through all the sons he asked Jesse do you got any more kids

- he's like yeah there's one outside my little shepherd boy David looking after the flock
 - and they bring him in and the Lord said that's the one anoint him
 - and the Bible says the spirit Came Upon him
 - he went from being a peasant to royalty.

And the point is God is not concerned about how you look on the outside

- he's really concerned about what's going on in the inside that u have a servants heart

He was also a skillful musician as he is called here **the sweet psalmist of Israel**

- he wrote a lot of hits in the Psalms at least 73 of the 150 Psalms
- we know that he was good because you remember when Saul was troubled in his Spirit
- he said get David who can play me some music and Saul would relax

1 Peter 2:9 Reminds me of Davids life you are a **chosen** generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may **proclaim the praises of Him** who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

**2 "The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me,
And His word was on my tongue.**

David was voicing the message of God. He was speaking the words God wanted him to speak

- David was inspired by the Holy Spirit when he wrote his songs.
 - So much so he spoke of the future. He predicted the future messiah!
 - he was a spokesman for God.

the Spirit of God placed the word of God on David's tongue and he spoke it

- And a good question to ask ourselves is what's on your tongue?
 - what are the things that you are saying?
 - Is it the words of Jesus?

Is it encouraging words that build up, edifying words that strengthen? or discouragement?

- words of life or of death?

Jesus said in **Matthew 12:34-37** For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. ³⁵ A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things. ³⁶ But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. ³⁷ For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

- whatever is coming out of our mouth is a revelation of what's on your heart
 - David said the word of God was on my tongue & lips
 - I spoke God's word

and if we want to be used by God in a powerful way

- we too must have God's word on our tongues
- And to do this we must meditate on God's word day & night like Joshua told us

Joshua 1:8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

Psalm 1:1-3 Blessed is the man

Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly,
Nor stands in the path of sinners,
Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;

**² But his delight is in the law of the Lord,
And in His law he meditates day and night.**

**³ He shall be like a tree
Planted by the rivers of water,
That brings forth its fruit in its season,
Whose leaf also shall not wither;
And whatever he does shall prosper.**

READ highlights in Psalm 119

**³ The God of Israel said, The Rock of Israel spoke to me:
'He who rules over men must be just, Ruling in the fear of God.**

as David looks back over his life and his Reign he's struck

- with the great need for rulers to exercise Justice
- Being "just" refers to doing what is right, fair, and in agreement with God's standards,

It reminded me of our families protein powder we use is called "JUST INGREDIANTS"

He says if you're going to rule over men you have to be just

- if you're going to be a doctor you got to give people the right things = the truth!
- and if you don't your going to end up doing more damage than good

then he says leaders must rule **in the fear of God**

- that's what solid leadership looks like & that's the key to Justice
- When leaders rule in the fear of God
 - they recognize that a God of Justice reviews their work.

There's a God who's perfectly just who is looking over everything I do

- The God of all Justice is going to require an accounting of how we have led

So many decisions made by leaders are not made in the fear of God.

- What motivates most leaders is the fear of men.

The phrase, the fear of the Lord, is used 110 times in scripture. So it must be important.

- The fear of the Lord is a reverential awe
 - that produces humble submission to a loving God.

- Not my will, but His will be done.

David makes it very clear, These are words from the Lord.

- It was the God of Israel who spoke to him = the rock who gave him these words.
- I love how David describes God who spoke to Him as being a rock
- which is something that is reliable, steady, solid and firm
 - And I think this is a good reminder for all of us
 - To share with people what God's word says,
 - What the Rock of Israel says!
 - not what we think, feel, or believe,
 - but telling people what the Bible truly says.
 - Because when we are telling people what the Word of God says,
 - Its going to be solid advice! we know we're hitting the nail on the head.
- We know we are 100% accurate in what we're telling other people b/c it's the Word of God.
- It's what the Bible clearly teaches

Jesus said in **John 17:17** Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth..

- Thus verse tells us we become more like Jesus by soaking up the truth of Gods Word
- In vs. 4 David describes the Just leader that fears God and speaks forth Gods Word

**⁴ And he shall be like the light of the morning when the sun rises,
A morning without clouds,
Like the tender grass springing out of the earth,
By clear shining after rain.'**

here David's reflecting on how a wise ruler is blessed when he rules with Justice

- not only is he a blessing for those that He rules over but he himself is blessed

and even though David's Reign wasn't perfect it was blessed

- as Israel nationally grew in so many ways!
- over and over again David is lifted up as Israel's ideal King
- And he is a picture how Jesus is going to rule & reign the earth when He comes back

I love how David says Godly leaders are like the morning Sunrise

- Which speaks of consistency there is a consistency in a faithful leader
 - it's part of their life to show up like the like the sun faithfully rising every day

He also says Godly Leaders are like a morning without clouds which reminds us of clarity!

Shawna taught me a lesson on clarity yesterday as we were cracking eggs for our breakfast

- I was cracking our chickens eggs by our oven for scrambled eggs
 - And she was cracking store bought eggs in her kitchen aid mixer bowl
 - To make home made egg nog & one of her eggs was really cloudy
 - And she told me cloudy eggs are bad & not good
 - And then she went to my eggs and said see how crystal clear they are? They are good

He also says Godly leaders are like tender grass springing up out of the earth

- Their leadership is lifegiving = it's fruitful = its refreshing

⁵ "Although my house is not so with God,
Yet He has made with me an everlasting covenant,
Ordered in all things and secure.
For this is all my salvation and all my desire;
Will He not make it increase?

Here David says I haven't always ruled justly, I haven't always ruled fairly.

- I've had my share of mistakes. I've messed up more times than I can count. David recognized he hasn't always been that just ruler, He failed many times!
- and yet in spite of him, God is going to remain faithful to keep his promise
 - with David b/c God doesn't fail
 - God will do what HE promised = He will fulfill His Word

Aren't you glad God's faithfulness is not dependent upon our faithfulness?

- Because we like David, don't always measure up. Sometimes we fall terribly short,
 - but God is always faithful in spite of us.
- there's not a person in this room that hasn't failed
- the only person that doesn't is God

Paul said in **2 Timothy 2:13**, even if we are faithless, God remains faithful because he cannot deny himself

Well, this section goes on, look at verse 6 as we will see the contrast of a just ruler

⁶ But the sons of rebellion shall all be as thorns thrust away,
Because they cannot be taken with hands.
⁷ But the man who touches them
Must be armed with iron and the shaft of a spear,
And they shall be utterly burned with fire in their place."

Here David says God will oppose the sons of rebellion and they're going to end in ruin

- David knew that he could trust the Lord to take care of Wicked people

A good question to ask ourselves is....

Are We either living in the fear of God or are we rebelling against God?

- all of us have that choice to make. We can choose to fear God or to rebel against God.

Now this brings us to the second section we want to look at that involves **the mighty men**

- **who served David** in verses 8-39, We have 37 mighty men that are listed and they're broken down into three categories or three groups of mighty men, three ranks.
 - We would say number one, the first rank involves 3 top ranked mighty men.
 - in verses 8-17.

⁸ These are the names of the mighty men whom David had: [b]Josheb-Basshebeth the Tachmonite, chief among the captains. He was called Adino the Eznite, because he had

killed eight hundred men at one time.

Here is the beginning of the record of David's mighty men who served alongside David

- these were the men who originally came to David
 - and pledged their allegiance to him as their King
- they didn't start out as mighty men as they were in distress they were in debt
- and they were discontent but David received these people just as they were
 - and the time they spent with David changed them
 - and these men became courageous and faithful and bold
 - and used powerfully as Davids special forces!
- he takes these outcasts of society, and makes them into an army.
- And he invests in them.

David knew that he couldn't do anything great by himself

- I love how John Maxwell says **one is too small of a number to achieve greatness**
 - Teamwork makes the dream work

David was nothing without his mighty men and his mighty men were nothing without him

1 Corinthians 1:26-29 For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. 27 But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; 28 and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, 29 that no flesh should glory in His presence.

- Gods heart is to take people who are a mess & turn them into a message!
 - I'll make them my army. I'll forgive their sins & debt.
 - I'll put purpose and meaning in their lives.
 - They'll become my mighty men and women.

Adino killed 800 men at one time. he was a strong, mighty warrior for the king,

- Bold as a lion

The second top ranked guy is Eleazar. Look at verses nine and 10.

⁹ And after him was Eleazar the son of Dodo, the Ahohite, one of the three mighty men with David when they defied the Philistines who were gathered there for battle, and the men of Israel had retreated. ¹⁰ He arose and attacked the Philistines until his hand was weary, and his hand stuck to the sword. The Lord brought about a great victory that day; and the people returned after him only to plunder.

Here we meet Eleazar, the son of Dodo. Have you heard of the dodo bird?

- I love this mighty warrior & what he was known for...
 - B/c he was battling so long his sword just became imprinted in his hand
 - if you ever grip something so long
 - Sometimes its so hard to ungrip it
 - Yesterday it happened when I was shoveling...
- I love how he stood his ground when other people retreated

- and as a result it says the Lord brought a great victory that day
 - and then the people returned only to plunder
 - This guy did all the heavy lifting & stood his ground
 - and fought the enemy when everybody else retreated

I have heard of this happening in battle when a soldier fights hour after hour

- grasping the sword, the hand just becomes fixed to the weapon.
 - And they used to have to put it in hot water just to release the muscles & grip.

I see an awesome picture being painted for us because **Hebrews 4:12** says, **For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.**

- Are we hanging onto the sword, of the Word of God? Is it stuck to our hand?
 - Is it something we just can't let go of,
 - or is it just something we pick up once in a while?

Well, let's come to the third fella that's in this top ranked tier of three mighty men,

- and that's Shammah. Look at verses 11 & 12.

¹¹ And after him was Shammah the son of Agee the Hararite. The Philistines had gathered together into a troop where there was a piece of ground full of lentils. So the people fled from the Philistines. ¹² But he stationed himself in the middle of the field, defended it, and killed the Philistines. So the Lord brought about a great victory.

The Philistine had a savage war strategy as they were crafty and would often,

- let the children of Israel grow things and right around harvest
 - before it's ready to be picked and everything's grown on the vines
 - and even after the harvest when they got everything stored up,
 - then they would attack Israel & rob their produce & kill people.
 - And they would often do it while they're in the fields
 - so they would be taken by surprise

So here you got a guy in a field of lentils who's out there by himself defending a field.

There is a valuable lessons from these Mighty Men

- as they lifted up their hands with their sword to fight off the enemy

That's how we fight off the enemy as well

we know that the sword represents the word of God

- the Bible says the sword of the spirit is the word of God

Ephesians 6:17 **take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.** if you want to be a mighty man or a mighty woman of God

- your hand must be on the word of God the Bible

you must meditate on it day and night memorize it

- search it out like a bloodhound tracking a scent of blood
 - that's what it means in **John 5:39**.

You search the Scriptures, for in them you have eternal life;

- The word **search** in the Greek means
 - To search like a hound dog tracking a scent of blood diligently
 - we should be searching the scriptures for the scent of the blood of Jesus

I've heard it said, **you can cut the Bible anywhere and it will bleed red**

- You will find Jesus from Genesis to Revelation

Acts 17:11-12 The Bereans were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so. ¹² Therefore many of them believed,

This guy was steadfast for the king. He didn't waver when everybody else left him.

- He stayed to fight and protect that which belonged to the Lord.
 - He was unwavering in his commitment to God.

It reminds me of that beautiful old hymn **though none go with me. Still I will follow.**

- No turning back, no turning back,
 - even if I'm all by myself, I want to be a mighty man for the Lord.
 - Not wavering, not waffling back and forth, but steadfast immovable

¹³ Then three of the thirty chief men went down at harvest time and came to David at the cave of Adullam. And the troop of Philistines encamped in the Valley of Rephaim. ¹⁴ David was then in the stronghold, and the garrison of the

Philistines was then in Bethlehem. ¹⁵ And David said with longing, "Oh, that someone would give me a drink of the water from the well of Bethlehem, which is by the gate!"

¹⁶ So the three mighty men broke through the camp of the Philistines, drew water from the well of Bethlehem that was by the gate, and took it and brought it to David. Nevertheless he would not drink it, but poured it out to the Lord. ¹⁷ And he said, "Far be it from me, O Lord, that I should do this! Is this not the blood of the men who went in jeopardy of their lives?" Therefore he would not drink it. These things were done by the three mighty men.

Here we see David's men risk their lives to get him water

- They were sensitive to their king's desire.
 - They understand what he really wanted
 - and they immediately go, let's do it for the king.

and the question we need to ask is are we sensitive to our king's desire?

The truth is The more you grow in Christ, the more sensitive we should become

- to the will of God.

So they bring David water from the gate of Bethlehem.

- then he poured it out on the ground as an offering of praise and worship to God.

Let's come to the second of the three groups.

○ Who were two men with a lower rank. in verses 18-23,
¹⁸ Now Abishai the brother of Joab, the son of Zeruiah, was chief of another three. He lifted his spear against three hundred men, killed them, and won a name among these three.
¹⁹ Was he not the most honored of three? Therefore he became their captain. However, he did not attain to the first three.
²⁰ Benaiah was the son of Jehoiada, the son of a valiant man from Kabzeel, ^[a]who had done many deeds. He had killed two lion-like heroes of Moab. He also had gone down and killed a lion in the midst of a pit on a snowy day.

I really love this guy Ben because not only did he kill two lion-like heroes of Moab,

- but he went down and killed a lion on a snowy day.
- Obviously weather didn't bother him.
 - And he was so committed to rooting out problems
 - that he'll do it on a snowy day.

This guy reminds me of David fighting Giant like men & fighting a lion just like David

This guy became courageous like this as a result of being with David

- I believe that when we spend time with Jesus we will become like Jesus
- His character in us will increase & we begin to decrease as we are conformed into His Image
- And this is an encouragement for us to spend more time with Jesus
- And the more we do the fragrance of Christ will be upon us

²¹ And he killed an Egyptian, ^[a]a spectacular man. The Egyptian had a spear in his hand; so he went down to him with a staff, wrested the spear out of the Egyptian's hand, and killed him with his own spear.

he takes the Spear of the enemy turns it on him uses it against him defeating him

- And this to reminds me of when David took the sword of Goliath and used it on him

²² These things Benaiah the son of Jehoiada did, and won a name among three mighty men.

²³ He was more honored than the thirty, but he did not attain to the first three. And David appointed him over his guard.

A great Legacy of David's ministry & greatness we need to understand

- Is that under his leadership these men were transformed radically!!!
 - And it is such a picture of what happens when we make Jesus our king!

I'm not going to read the 3rd group of these mighty men who served in verses 24-39,

- there's no need for me to go through that tongue twisting gymnastics
- I know you would probably be Entertained... but

I hope this chapter encouraged you that if God can use them and if God can use David,

- He can use you in a mighty way & transform your life & help u defeat the enemy!

Pray & Share Gospel

- Have everyone pray, encourage people to pray with those around them