

## What is David known as?

David: A Man After God's Own Heart. 1 Sam 13:14

## What does that mean to you?

That David's heart yearns for and cherishes all the same things that God does.

Also David's heart chases after the heart of God. David is intentional, deliberate in seeing, following and experiencing the things of God.

## What is so important about the heart and God?

Samuel is looking at David's oldest brother and thinks Ah this is the one I will anoint to be the next king of Israel. 1 Sam 16:7 "But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."

It is what the Lord looks at. Ex: Two Christians can do the same act of service and the Lord will look upon one as righteous and the other not. Why? It is because of the heart. What was the motive? Our glory or God's Glory? think Cain and Abel

Proverbs 4:23. "Guard your heart for everything you do flows from it. (NIV)

"Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life" NLT

Philippians 4:6-7 "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus". ESV

## What is the difference between hearts and minds?

In general the Bible treats the

Heart: as the seat of the emotions, desires and the will,

Mind: as intellect, reasoning, and understanding

The heart and mind influence each other. That is why in the Philippians passage the peace of God will guard both.

In Matthew 22:37. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This commandment emphasizes the need for a comprehensive devotion that engages both emotions and intellect.

## How does the Heart and Mind work with and or against each other in your life?

The mind may know what is good and noble and honorable but at times the heart wants what the heart wants no matter what we know. Before we had the Spirit we were slaves to what our hearts wanted. In our culture now we elevate our heart's desire to the point that it is pre-eminent in our lives, it is the most important aspect of who we are and the world without Christ is a slave to those desires. - But in Christ we are a new creation with a new heart. With Christ working in us and can reject our heart's old voice as Christ transforms our new hearts. So that our will is aligned with Christ, and our actions reflect Christ.

## Between the two (heart and mind) which is more prevalent in your devotion to God?

## Which do you think is more important to God?

A man after God's own heart; loves the Lord with all his heart, soul, mind and strength.

Psalms 19: vs 1-4a: The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

Day to day pours out speech,

and night to night reveals knowledge.  
There is no speech, nor are there words,  
whose voice is not heard.  
Their voice goes out through all the earth,  
and their words to the end of the world.

What word would you use to describe what David is experiencing right now as he writes this song?

The apostle Paul expands on this in Romans 1:20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

A man after God's own heart; lives a life in praise and awe of the God of creation.

Psalms 19: vs 4b-6: In them he has set a tent for the sun,  
which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,  
and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.  
Its rising is from the end of the heavens,  
and its circuit to the end of them,  
and there is nothing hidden from its heat.

The sun is another aspect of the glory of God. David is contrasting the sun as part of the creation to common pagan beliefs that the sun is a god himself. As a part of God's creation the sun plays a crucial role. All life needs the sun for life giving energy. Plants, animals, and man can live because God has placed the sun at just the right size and distance for us to live. A 2% change in the distance from the sun would make life on earth impossible. We live in a fine tuned universe and the sun is just one example

A man after God's own heart; recognizes God's provision in everything around him. From the sun in day, to the food in your garden, to the air we breathe, God placed it there and sustains it moment by moment.

Psalms 19:7-8: The law of the LORD is perfect,  
reviving the soul;  
the testimony of the LORD is sure,  
making wise the simple;  
the precepts of the LORD are right,  
rejoicing the heart;  
the commandment of the LORD is pure,  
enlightening the eyes;

David praises God for the wisdom and knowledge in His word. The first 6 verses show God in what theologians call general revelation. In God's word we have special revelation. This is where God tells us of His love for us and His plan for mankind. Four aspects of God's word to dwell on:

It revives the soul. It lifts us up, We know why things are the way they are and what God's intention is. Suicides are up because people see life as futile. We, through the law see life as meaningful, purposeful.

It makes us wise. Wisdom is different than knowledge. Knowledge is the understanding of facts, wisdom is the skillful application of knowledge. The world sees knowledge exploding but wisdom is in short supply

It rejoices our hearts: People in the world are all looking for something that will satisfy their hearts. They try sex, money, power and some see the futility in living solely for those things and so turn to alcohol and drugs to deaden the ache in the heart. But in God's word we have life to the fullest and our hearts rejoice.

It enlightens our eyes: We see things as they really are. We live in the real world.

A man after God's own heart: rejoices, loves, studies, cherishes God's word.

Psalm 19:9-10: the fear of the LORD is clean,  
enduring forever;  
the rules of the LORD are true,  
and righteous altogether.  
More to be desired are they than gold,  
even much fine gold;  
sweeter also than honey  
and drippings of the honeycomb.

God's laws are true and right and He rules in absolute justice and righteousness. In a world where up is down, men think they are women, and the object in life is to game the system, knowing that God rules and He will execute justice based on His character is sweeter than the honeycomb.

What injustice is there in this world?  
Will God make it right?  
Are you sure?

A man after God's own heart: seeks God's righteousness as delivered in His word, and rejoices when things are right.

Psalm 19:11. Moreover, by them is your servant warned;  
in keeping them there is great reward.

When we, through the Grace of God by Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ walk according to His word, there is great reward. It for sure is an eternal reward. Life everlasting in the presence of the Triune God. But also in this life also there is reward in the fullness of joy.

Ps 1:

Blessed is the man  
who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,  
nor stands in the way of sinners,  
nor sits in the seat of scoffers;  
but his delight is in the law of the LORD,  
and on his law he meditates day and night.  
He is like a tree  
planted by streams of water  
that yields its fruit in its season,  
and its leaf does not wither.  
In all that he does, he prospers.

Is it right to seek reward for your actions?  
Read 1 Sam 17:24-27  
What seems to be the motive for David to take on Goliath?

Rewards are mentioned over 50 times in the New Testament. Mostly from Jesus

A man after God's own heart: Seeks God's rewards both now and in eternity.

Psalm 19:12-13:  
Who can discern his errors?  
Declare me innocent from hidden faults.  
Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins;  
let them not have dominion over me!  
Then I shall be blameless,  
and innocent of great transgression.

David praises God for His forgiveness. He recognizes that he doesn't even know when he is sinning. "Who can discern his errors?"

He also recognizes that he as we all do, sin while presuming that God will show mercy and grace. It is a willful disregard for God's commandments and "presumes" that God will forgive anyway. After all that is what God is in the business of doing - Right?

David, again as we all do, needs God's help as he battles sin. "Let them not have dominion over me!"

In the end David is confidently sure (as he looks to his redeemer) that in the end he will be blameless. Future tense (shall be blameless)

A man after God's own heart: recognizes his sinfulness and God's provision for redemption through Jesus Christ

Psalms 19:14

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart  
be acceptable in your sight,  
O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

David is praying that his words, (James 3:6-12) which flow from his heart (Matthew 12:24, 15:18) be pleasing to the Lord. He knows that in his life and words that he can be duplicitous. Say one thing and do another. Secondly David is recognizing that God is the only rock to build a life on and that redemption is only through God. We can not attain it.

A man after God's own heart: sees himself as he really is and clings to God for redemption.

David and his genealogy

Who was David's great grandmother?

Who was Ruth? (Book of Ruth)

Who was David's great great grandmother? (1Chronicles 2:11-12, Ruth 4:20-21, Matthew 1:3-5, Luke 3:32)

Who was David's great (times 7) grandmother? Rahab. Read Gen 38. Judah, with Canaanite Shua, three sons, Er, Onan, Shelah.

Does David's genealogy seem like what you would expect of the greatest king in Israel?

A man after God's own heart is not trapped or defined by his ancestry. He sees himself as a sinner, saved by grace and made a new creation for God's service.

1 Samuel 16:1-11

The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." And Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' And invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do. And you shall anoint for me him whom I declare to you." Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" And he said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice." And he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD'S anointed is before him." But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen these." Then Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here." And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the Lord said, "Arise, anoint him, for this is he." Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramoth.

A man after God's own heart is not a function of age. (Youngest)

1. We need to be people who develop young men. If you are older, find someone you can pour your life, wisdom and knowledge into.
2. Paul and Timothy: 1 Timothy 1:2 "To Timothy, my true child in the faith:". 4:12 "Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity." Paul in 1 and 2 Timothy sets the example on how to encourage one younger in the faith.
3. This is also true for older Christians. We are not out of the game. In fact, we are in the game up till we take our last breath.

Do you feel you are out of the game due to your age, young or old?

Is there something you can do to or feel called to do to make an impact for the Kingdom of God?  
What do you need to do to make that a reality?

A man after God's own heart does his job to the best of his ability no matter where God has placed him.  
(Keeping the sheep)

So often, especially when we are young, we think "well only when I get this job will I be able to contribute" Or "I need to get an education or master this skill before I can be used by God."

No! We need to bloom where ever God has planted us. In fact, unless we do the best we can in the most menial of jobs we won't be fit to move on to the more advanced or important. David made the most out of his time with the sheep, practicing with the sling so that he could protect the sheep from the bear and the lion. And in doing so He had seen God work through him and through an experienced faith he could face that first great challenge of Goliath.

Whether young or old we are to do our best in whatever situation God places us.

Have you ever felt frustrated that you weren't being used like you thought you should? Work place?  
Ministry?

A man after God's own heart uses the "slow" times to deepen his relationship with the Lord.  
(Keeping the sheep)

Think David's Psalms. David made the most of his time. He did not squander that which is the most precious thing we have - time!  
Ephesians 5:15-16. "Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil."

Do you find you waste time? How?  
Is leisure a waste of time?

A man after God's own heart is filled with the Spirit for guidance and power.  
(And the spirit of the Lord rushed upon David from that day forward)

Do you realize that you have the Spirit of the living God residing in you?

The tabernacle and then the Temple that followed is where God's Spirit, in a supernatural way, resided. That residence is now in you. 1 Cor 6:18-20. "Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

From the get go God makes it abundantly clear that it is the Spirit of God that empowers David, that motivates him. We need to be sensitive to and reminded that the Spirit is working in us. We have God, (1 John 4:16), Jesus (Col 1:27) and the Spirit (2 Cor 1:22) working in us.

1 Samuel 16:14-18

Now the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a harmful spirit from the LORD tormented him. And Saul's servants said to him, "Behold now, a harmful spirit from God is tormenting you. Let our lord now command your servants who are before you to seek out a man who is skillful in playing the lyre, and when the harmful spirit from God is upon you, he will play it, and you will be well." So Saul said to his servants, "Provide for me a man who can play well and bring him to me." One of the young men answered, "Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is skillful in playing, a man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a man of good presence, and the LORD is with him."

A man after God's own heart is known by a good reputation.

The reputation of David had reached to a member of Saul's court. He is not famous or well known but what is known of him is of good report.

What are you known for?

What do you think will be on your tombstone?

Should we chase after a "good" reputation?

From this description of the young David what can we deduce?

A man after God's own heart develops his skills

This harkens back to last week where we talked about David making the most of his time. Here David while tending the sheep practiced on the harp. How many hours does it take to master something? 10,000. That's 8 hours a day for 5 years. We should be developing skills.

What skill could you be working on?

A man after God's own heart is a man a valor. He has a true moral compass and acts decisively on it.

This is before Goliath, David's reputation as a man of valor was apparent. There must of been instances where people witnessed his valor in small but tangible ways. We may not face Goliath's everyday but we can act valiantly, standing up to racism, bigotry, bullying as we go about our day. Gary Cooper in High Noon

What injustice or wrong in the world, is there that you can stand up against?

What would that look like?

A man after God's own heart is not afraid to die for what he believes in

When a man goes to war he goes to die. He is willing to give his life for the cause. He is sold out, all in, no holds barred.

Is there anything in your life that you would go to war for, that you would die for?

A man after God's own heart is prudent in speech.

What is prudent speech? It is speech characterized by wisdom, foresight, and careful consideration of consequences. The opposite would be someone who just lets the words flow without any consideration. We should follow James' advice. 1:19. Be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger. To have prudent speech we need to chose our words wisely.

When do you find your speech is not so prudent?

How can we encourage one another to have prudent speech?

A man after God's own heart has a "good presence"

So what does a man with good presence look like? What are we talking about here?

A man with good presence conveys an aura of respect, of confidence not in himself but in what is inside him. He knows who he is and whose he is. This is not boasting, it is a quiet confidence, a presence, that he knows who he is and what he is about and that in the end he will overcome.

A man after God's own heart has a reputation that God is with him.

Do we have a reputation that we are men of God? Is God the defining trait that people see in us?

Most people who know about us will see something that they associate with us. Maybe that we are a basketball fan or maybe we are known for our profession. Story of how I am known early in Kenya

Therefore Saul sent messengers to Jesse and said, "Send me David your son, who is with the sheep." And Jesse took a donkey laden with bread and a skin of wine and a young goat and sent them by David his son to Saul. And David came to Saul and entered his service. And Saul loved him greatly, and he became his armor-bearer. And Saul sent to Jesse, saying, "Let David remain in my service, for he has found favor in my sight." And whenever the harmful spirit from God was upon Saul, David took the lyre and played it with his hand. So Saul was refreshed and was well, and the harmful spirit departed from him.

Read 1 Samuel 17: 1-47

1 Samuel 17:4-7

A man after God's own heart will be in a battle and knows his enemy.

Do you know the strategy of Satan?

John 10:10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. What does Satan steal? What does he kill and destroy?

1 Peter 5:8. Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

Matthew 4:1-3. Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. And the tempter came and said to him.

Are all your sinful tendencies the direct result of Satan?

Ephesians 2:3 Among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind..

1 Peter 2:11. Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh which wage war against your soul.

Sometimes our battle is not against Satan but against ourselves!! We are the enemy

1 Samuel 17:20. "David rose early in the morning and left the sheep with a keeper"

A man after God's own heart tends to his responsibilities

What is your number one responsibility?

How can you tend to that and still move forward to what you feel God calling you to do?

God will never call you to forsake your responsibility to your wife and family. You do to the best of your abilities that which God has given you to do.

1Samuel 17:25-26a. And the men of Israel said, "Have you seen this man who has come up? Surely he has come up to defy Israel. And the king will enrich the man who kills him with great riches and will give him his daughter and make his father's house free in Israel. And David said to the men who stood by him, "What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel?"

A man after God's own heart expects reward for extraordinary effort.

We touched on this before from Ps 19. Is it morally right to be motivated by reward for your effort?

Do we have a stigma associated with money? What about public servants like mayors, senators and congressmen who enrich themselves from their time in service?

Financial reward for services is absolutely morally reasonable but it can be fraught with danger. 1Timothy 6:10. "For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs." Matthew 6:24 "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money."

Let us examine our lives and see where our hearts are concerning money. (Uncle Felix, no checking account, not credit cards, lives each day looking to the Lord.)

1Samuel 17:26b. "For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?"

A man after God's own heart declares his faith in God boldly.

In church and bible studies, men's group we declare what we believe.. When we are in public do we even say anything? Why? Should this be so? How should we speak in the world?

Colossians 4:6. "Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person." ESV. "Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone. NLT

Proverbs 18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits

Matthew 12:36. "I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.

1Samuel 17:28 Now Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spoke to the men. And Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, "Why have you come down? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your presumption and the evil of your heart, for you have come down to see the battle.

A man after God's own heart will be misunderstood.

Who is it that seems to misunderstand you the most? Family? Strangers?

As a Christian we have a new heart which leads to a new reason and motivation for life. People who knew us before will not understand. Paul is a great example of someone who was misunderstood. The Christians were scared to death of him because of his reputation. The Jews couldn't understand his change of heart.

We need to realize we will be misunderstood and that is OK. Who is it that we are here to please? God, and He knows our hearts.

1 Samuel 17:34-37. But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep sheep for his father. And when there came a lion, or a bear, and took a lamb from the flock, I went after him and struck him and delivered it out of his mouth. And if he arose against me, I caught him by his beard and struck him and killed him. Your servant has struck down both lions and bears, and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God." And David said, "The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." And Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you!"

A man after God's own heart recognizes that God is preparing him through the trials of life to move forward at the right time.

When we encounter difficulties and trials what is the first thing that runs through our minds? (Why me?, or what did I do to deserve this?)]  
Can you look back at a time in your life when you experienced trials and now see that God used those trials to teach you and shape you?

Hind sight is 20/20. As we mature we, hopefully, will see that all our trials are preparing us for future service. God always has a plan.

James 1:2-5 count it all joy my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives generously to all without reproach and it will be given him.

1 Peter 1:6-7. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith- more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire- may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Our difficult times are the crucible that refines us and makes us pure.

1 Samuel 17:38:39. Then Saul clothed David with his armor. He put a helmet of bronze on his head and clothed him with a coat of mail, and David strapped his sword over his armor. And he tried in vain to go, for he had not tested them. Then David said to Saul, "I cannot go with these, for I have not tested them." So David put them off.

A man after God's own heart trusts not in the things of this world (armor).

What things of the world are you trusting in?  
What is the armor the world says to put on?

Yes we all trust in things other than the Lord. God may have blessed you but take care. Those blessings can turn into traps. You may end up worshipping the gift rather than the giver.

1 Samuel 17:40. Then he took his staff in his hand and chose five smooth stones from the brook and put them in his shepherd's pouch. His sling was in his hand, and he approached the Philistine.

A man after God's own heart prepares rationally with what he knows.

What in your life is tested and true that you have seen the Lord use before?  
Is it time to use that skill, ability in new areas?

There are probably some skills that you recognize that God has placed in you and you have exercised them to some extent. Maybe just maybe He is looking to develop those skills in a greater way. If the opportunity comes take it.  
Personal experience in dentistry.

1 Samuel 17:45-46. Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head. And I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel,

A man after God's own heart is confident, not from a head knowledge but from an experiential walk and communion with the LORD, the great I AM, ruler of the universe

Where does your confidence come from?  
Your education? Your family name? Your status in society?

David reminds us that all our confidence should be based in the Lord. Who is it that David says will deliver Goliath into his hand? The Lord. David has that confidence in the Lord because he has experienced it in his life. It is not a blind faith. It is a faith built on experience. David is not "hoping", as the world thinks of hoping, that God will deliver Goliath, he knows God will.

A man after God's own heart knows that God will do what brings Him glory.

Do we really take to heart and understand that our lives, everything we do, all that we are, is to glorify God?  
According to the Westminster shorter catechism what is the chief end of man?

The Bible continually brings us back to the fact that it is all about God. This is all for His glory. Your job, your family, everything about you is for the Glory of God. Never let that thought pass far from you mind. Even in your sufferings, it is for God's ultimate glory, (Romans 8:28, Job, the whole book, the life of Joseph)

1 Samuel 17:47 and that all this assembly may know that the LORD saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the LORD'S, and he will give you into our hand."

A man after God's own heart knows that the battle is the Lords. God is sovereign and we can therefore walk in confidence.

Do you take worry, fret, lose sleep over your battles?  
What is behind the worry?  
Are you convinced, in your life, that the battle is the Lords?

A firm grasp, understanding of this concept changes your outlook on life. Yes you have a part to play but the battle is God's. When I worry, it is because I have taken my problems and held on to them tightly. At times, I confess I have held my worries as a badge of some kind of perverse honor. Philippians 4:6-7. "Do not be

anxious about anything but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

What can you lay before God in order to experience His peace?

Read 1 Samuel 17:48-58

Read 1 Samuel 18:1-5

1 Samuel 18:1. As soon as he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.

A man after God's own heart has soul brothers.

Do you have a man friend in your life that you can share your soul with?

What is preventing you?

American men are not taught or encouraged to form bonds with other men. We are individualistic. We handle it ourselves. To reach out for help is considered weak.

Secondly we are ashamed of our sin and ashamed to confess it to our brothers.

But we need to because I can guarantee you that someone else has already gone through what you are experiencing and their wisdom is just what you need to help you put to death the sin in your life.

Notice Jonathan as the king's son could have Lorded it over David. But he didn't. They shared a bond as equals.

1 Samuel 18:7-9. And the women sang to one another as they celebrated,  
“Saul has struck down his thousands,  
and David his ten thousands.”

And Saul was very angry, and this saying displeased him. He said, “They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed thousands, and what more can he have but the kingdom?” And Saul eyed David from that day on.

A man after God's own heart will be rejected.

Has anyone in your life rejected you because of your walk with Jesus?

In this case the rejection seems to be based on jealousy. Has jealousy played a part in your life? People being jealous of you or you being jealous of others?

Not everyone will live at peace with us if we are walking uprightly. Rightly ordered, our decisions should be to please God rather than man. Galatians 1:10 “For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.”

If we seek to please God we will at times be rejected by men.

1 Samuel 18:25-27 Then Saul said, “Thus shall you say to David, ‘The king desires no bride-price except a hundred foreskins of the Philistines, that he may be avenged of the king's enemies.’” Now Saul thought to make David fall by the hand of the Philistines. And when his servants told David these words, it pleased David well to be the king's son-in-law.

Before the time had expired, David arose and went, along with his men, and killed two hundred of the Philistines. And David brought their foreskins, which were given in full number to the king, that he might become the king's son-in-law. And Saul gave him his daughter Michal for a wife.

A man after God's own heart goes above and beyond the call of duty and he does not procrastinate.

Do we do our best or do we just get by? In work, family, marriage?  
Do we put off what can be done today solely because we could do it tomorrow? (Proverbs 6:6-10)

As a child of God, all that we do is a reflection on our Father. We should stand out (for good reasons) compared to the rest of our coworkers. Our attitude, our work ethic, our relationships in the office, all should be above the norm.

There is a time for rest and relaxation but between those times we were created to work (Gen 2:15)

18:8-9 And Saul was very angry, and this saying displeased him. He said, "They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed thousands, and what more can he have but the kingdom?" And Saul eyed David from that day on.

18:10-11. Saul had his spear in his hand. And Saul hurled the spear, for he thought, "I will pin David to the wall." But David evaded him twice.

18:12-13. Saul was afraid of David because the LORD was with him but had departed from Saul. So Saul removed him from his presence and made him a commander of a thousand.

18:17. Then Saul said to David, "Here is my elder daughter Merab. I will give her to you for a wife. Only be valiant for me and fight the LORD'S battles." For Saul thought, "Let not my hand be against him, but let the hand of the Philistines be against him."

Saul reneges on his promise. 18:19. But at the time when Merab, Saul's daughter, should have been given to David, she was given to Adriel the Meholathite for a wife.

18:20-21. Now Saul's daughter Michal loved David. And they told Saul, and the thing pleased him. Saul thought, "Let me give her to him, that she may be a snare for him and that the hand of the Philistines may be against him."

18:25. Then Saul said, "Thus shall you say to David, 'The king desires no bride-price except a hundred foreskins of the Philistines, that he may be avenged of the king's enemies.'" Now Saul thought to make David fall by the hand of the Philistines.

18:28-29. But when Saul saw and knew that the LORD was with David, and that Michal, Saul's daughter, loved him, Saul was even more afraid of David. So Saul was David's enemy continually.

## CONTRAST

18:30. Then the commanders of the Philistines came out to battle, and as often as they came out David had more success than all the servants of Saul, so that his name was highly esteemed.

What is Saul's attitude to David? Is it justified?  
How does David react to Saul's mistreatment? How do you think David thinks about himself? What do you think his identity is?

Read 19:1-7

A man after God's own heart has friends who will go to bat for them, to mediate for them

Who do you have that is on your team? How does you get people on your team?

The best way to have a good friend who will stick up for you is to be that person for them. This is true for David and Jonathan. Later in Samuel David will honor Jonathan due to his love for him.

Proverbs 18:24. "A man of many companies may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother"

1 Timothy 2:5. "For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."

Read 19: 8-24

Read Chapter 20 and 21

19:9-10. Saul tries to impale David with a spear for the second time

19:11-17. David flees his home through the deception of his wife Michal

19: 18-24. David flees to Samuel at Ramah and then they both moved to Naioth. Saul sends messengers to take David but the Spirit of God came upon them and they prophesied. Saul sends a second group and they prophesied. And finally a third set and they too prophesied. Saul then goes himself and The Spirit of God came upon him also and Saul prophesied with his clothes off all day and night.

David sees God's miraculous hand in protecting him from Saul. David is at a cross roads

#### Chapter 20

David flees Naioth and goes to Jonathan. He asks What is my sin, what is my guilt, What have I done that your father seeks my life? Jonathan replies that no this isn't so. My father never does anything without telling me. But David counters with your father knows we are good friends so he is keeping this from you. Jonathan asks "What is your plan?" **What is missing from David's questions?**

So David concocts this plan: tomorrow at the new moon feast I am expected to be there. If your father sees that I am missing tell him that I had to go to a family sacrifice in Bethlehem (note the plan is predicated on a lie), If he replies good then all is well. If he is angry then know that he intends to harm me.

David asks Jonathan how will I know what his response is? Before Jonathan answers the question he reaffirms the covenant between the two that David will remember the house of Jonathan and they swore their love for one another. Jonathan's plan to tell David is for David to hide by the stone heap and Jonathan will come to shoot three arrows. If he tells his boy who will retrieve the arrows that they are short of the mark then all is well. But I he says to the boy go beyond, then David is to go.

At the feast on the first day Saul said nothing but on the second day Saul asked Jonathan "where is the son of Jesse? Jonathan answered, "David earnestly asked leave of me to go to Bethlehem for his clan holds a sacrifice in the city and he is expected to be there.

Saul became angry at Jonathan and said, "You son of a perverse and rebellious woman" I know what is going on here. You have chosen the son of Jesse.

Saul then plays his ace card. "For as long as the son of Jesse lives on the earth, neither you nor your kingdom shall be established.

Jonathan knows now his father's heart so the next morning Jonathan goes out to the field and calls out that the arrows are further. He sends the boy back to the city with his weapons and then David and Jonathan met, wept (with David weeping the most) and they said their good byes.

#### Chapter 21

David flees to Nob where Ahimelech is the priest. David lies to Ahimelech and asks for bread but there is only holy bread which David takes. (Matthew 12:3-4). He also asks for weapons and takes Goliath's sword.

David ends up in Gath in front of King Achish and resorts to feigning madness to make his mistake. David is at his lowest point.

**How did David get to this point? What should you do if you find yourself in such a place.**

**Even a man after God's own heart can lose sight of God in the midst of his problems and forget to trust in God**

Have you ever went ahead in your own wisdom and strength and seen the disastrous effects of your folly?

What can you do to prevent such a course of action?

Proverbs 3:5-6. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Making it a discipline to spend time in the word, praying, meditating and listening. Also develop a cohort of wise Christian friends who can help you think clearly when you, yourself are a jumble of emotions.

How did David get to this point in his life where he has to flee to the cave of Adullam?

Whose fault is this? David's? Saul's? Nobody's?

God as Sovereign has a purpose for David. What is He trying to teach David?

1 Samuel 22:1. David departed from there and escaped to the cave of Adullam.

A man after God's own heart finds refuge in his distress.

Do you have a place that you can go for refuge where it is just you and the Lord?

Psalms 46, Psalm 91,

1 Sam 22:2. And everyone who was in distress, and everyone who was in debt, and everyone who was bitter in soul, gathered to him. And he became commander over them. And there were with him about four hundred men.

A man after God's own heart draws people to himself.

Do you find this to be true? What drew you to community with GCT?

What kind of people are coming to David? Family, those in distress, those in debt, everyone who was bitter in soul.

This is not the elite, the it crowd. David is not part of the elite anymore and he is drawing people like him who the powerful have cast aside. This is a precursor to Jesus reaching out to the tax collectors, sinners. Luke 15:1. Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him

1 Samuel 22:3-4. A man after God's own heart cares for his parents. And David went from there to Mizpeh of Moab. And he said to the king of Moab, "Please let my father and my mother stay with you, till I know what God will do for me." And he left them with the king of Moab, and they stayed with him all the time that David was in the stronghold.

A man after God's own heart takes care of his parents, he honors them.

Why is David concerned for his parents?

Why Moab?

David is concerned because Saul could get to David by way of his family. His brothers have joined him so sending his parents to Moab ensures their safety.

Moab because of David's Great grandmother Ruth. There must have been on going connections with the distant Moabite clans in the intervening years.

1 Samuel 22:9-19. Then answered Doeg the Edomite, who stood by the servants of Saul, "I saw the son of Jesse coming to Nob, to Ahimelech the son of Ahitub, and he inquired of the LORD for him and gave him provisions and gave him the sword of Goliath the Philistine."

Then the king sent to summon Ahimelech the priest, the son of Ahitub, and all his father's house, the priests who were at Nob, and all of them came to the king. And Saul said, "Hear now, son of Ahitub." And he answered, "Here I am, my lord." And Saul said to him, "Why have you conspired against me, you and the son of Jesse, in that you have given him bread and a sword and have inquired of God for him, so that he has risen against me, to lie in wait, as at this day?" Then Ahimelech answered the king, "And who among all your servants is so faithful as David, who is the king's son-in-law, and captain over your bodyguard, and honored in your house? Is today the first time that I have inquired of God for him? No! Let not the king impute anything to his servant or to all the house of my father, for your servant has known nothing of all this, much or little." And the king said, "You shall surely die, Ahimelech, you and all your father's house." And the king said to the guard who stood about him, "Turn and kill the priests of the LORD, because their hand also is with David, and they knew that he fled and did not disclose it to me." But the servants of the king would not put out their hand to strike the priests of the LORD. Then the king said to Doeg, "You turn and strike the priests." And Doeg the Edomite turned and struck down the priests, and he killed on that day eighty-five persons who wore the linen ephod. And Nob, the city of the priests, he put to the sword; both man and woman, child and infant, ox, donkey and sheep, he put to the sword.

A man after God's own heart recognizes that his decisions whether good or bad will effect others. He does not live in a vacuum

Do you see that your actions effect those around you?

Can you think recently of when your actions or inactions hurt someone close to you?

You may not be directly responsible for evil but all of us influence those around us. We do not live in a bubble. We are interconnected to those around us and our actions will be a cause with a resultant effect whether for good or evil.

1 Samuel 22:22. And David said to Abiathar, "I knew on that day, when Doeg the Edomite was there, that he would surely tell Saul. I have occasioned the death of all the persons of your father's house.

A man after God's own heart accepts responsibility for his actions.

Do you own your actions? Or do you try and explain away and justify what you do?

This character trait is lacking in our world today. We will stand out and change the world if we just own our actions. This is especially true for the sinful actions. We own them, repent, and move on learning from our mistakes. Swahili verb tense.

1 Samuel 22:23. Stay with me; do not be afraid, for he who seeks my life seeks your life. With me you shall be in safekeeping."

A man after God's own heart rectifies, makes right, his mistakes when possible

Is there something you can do to right a wrong that you were wholly or partly responsible for?

This attribute of David goes hand in hand with the preceding attribute of taking responsibility for your actions. When you go the next step and try and make right the wrong then you have truly owned your culpability, your guilt in the matter. In our world it is easy to say I'm sorry and show remorse. Where the rubber meets the road is if you do something about it. That is the kind of man we are to be.

1 Samuel 23:1-2. Now they told David, "Behold, the Philistines are fighting against Keilah and are robbing the threshing floors." Therefore David inquired of the LORD, "Shall I go and attack these Philistines?" And the LORD said to David, "Go and attack the Philistines and save Keilah."

A man after God's own heart seeks the Lord's guidance.

When you have a major decision to make is your first thought to take it to the Lord? If not, how can we train ourselves to do this?

It appears in the text that David could hear God in some way. What are your thoughts on this? Have you "heard" the Lord? What does that phrase mean to you.

When we are in Christ we have the Holy Spirit dwelling in our hearts and minds. How does this fact influence how we communicate with the Lord?

1 Samuel 23:3-5. But David's men said to him, "Behold, we are afraid here in Judah; how much more then if we go to Keilah against the armies of the Philistines?" Then David inquired of the LORD again. And the LORD answered him, "Arise, go down to Keilah, for I will give the Philistines into your hand." And David and his men went to Keilah and fought with the Philistines and brought away their livestock and struck them with a great blow. So David saved the inhabitants of Keilah.

A man after God's own heart listens to advice but ultimately trusts in the Lord.

Do we seek the Lord first, then wise counsel? If there is a discrepancy then do we follow our sanctified heart? Are you sure your heart is after the Lord or your own desires

Our hearts are desperately wicked but God is creating a new heart. You need wisdom to discern what is going on inside you.

A note about the men following David. Their concerns were valid yet they followed David anyway. Do you think that the fact that David trusts in the Lord plays a part in their faith in his leadership?

1 Samuel 23: 6-14 When Abiathar the son of Ahimelech had fled to David to Keilah, he had come down with an ephod in his hand. Now it was told Saul that David had come to Keilah. And Saul said, "God has given him into my hand, for he has shut himself in by entering a town that has gates and bars." And Saul summoned all the people to war, to go down to Keilah, to besiege David and his men. David knew that Saul was plotting harm against him. And he said to Abiathar the priest, "Bring the ephod here." **(Note on the ephod: It is a priestly garment like a vest that is sometimes used for ascertaining the will of God, Even though we might want access to an ephod since we have the Holy Spirit residing in us we do not need the ephod)** Then David said, "O LORD, the God of Israel, your servant has surely heard that Saul seeks to come to Keilah, to destroy the city on my account. Will the men of Keilah surrender me into his hand? Will Saul come down, as your servant has heard? O LORD, the God of Israel, please tell your servant." And the LORD said, "He will come down." Then David said, "Will the men of Keilah surrender me and my men into the hand of Saul?" And the LORD said, "They will surrender you." Then David and his men, who were about six hundred, **(Notice that**

**David now has an army of 600 from the previous 400)** arose and departed from Keilah, and they went wherever they could go. When Saul was told that David had escaped from Keilah, he gave up the expedition. And David remained in the strongholds in the wilderness, in the hill country of the wilderness of Ziph. And Saul sought him every day, but God did not give him into his hand.

1 Samuel 23: 15-18. David saw that Saul had come out to seek his life. David was in the wilderness of Ziph at Horesh. And Jonathan, Saul's son, rose and went to David at Horesh, and strengthened his hand in God. And he said to him, "Do not fear, for the hand of Saul my father shall not find you. You shall be king over Israel, and I shall be next to you. Saul my father also knows this." And the two of them made a covenant before the LORD. David remained at Horesh, and Jonathan went home.

A man after God's own heart has a Jonathan in his life and the corollary is we are to be Jonathans to others in our lives.

Do you have a Jonathan in your life? Are you a Jonathan to someone else?

We all need someone that knows us even better than we know ourselves. Johnathan came to David, he made the effort to seek David out, he knows what is going on in David's life, who or what is David's hardship, (Saul) how to encourage David (Do not fear), He points David to the future (you shall be king over Israel) and how he fits into David's life. (They are covenantal brothers) That person is worth their weight in gold.

1 Samuel 23: 19-26. Then the Ziphites went up to Saul at Gibeah, saying, "Is not David hiding among us in the strongholds at Horesh, on the hill of Hachilah, which is south of Jeshimon? Now come down, O king, according to all your heart's desire to come down, and our part shall be to surrender him into the king's hand." And Saul said, "May you be blessed by the LORD, for you have had compassion on me. Go, make yet more sure. Know and see the place where his foot is, and who has seen him there, for it is told me that he is very cunning. See therefore and take note of all the lurking places where he hides, and come back to me with sure information. Then I will go with you. And if he is in the land, I will search him out among all the thousands of Judah." And they arose and went to Ziph ahead of Saul.

Now David and his men were in the wilderness of Maon, in the Arabah to the south of Jeshimon. And Saul and his men went to seek him. And David was told, so he went down to the rock and lived in the wilderness of Maon. And when Saul heard that, he pursued after David in the wilderness of Maon. Saul went on one side of the mountain, and David and his men on the other side of the mountain. And David was hurrying to get away from Saul. As Saul and his men were closing in on David and his men to capture them,

1 Samuel 23:27-28. a messenger came to Saul, saying, "Hurry and come, for the Philistines have made a raid against the land." So Saul returned from pursuing after David and went against the Philistines. Therefore that place was called the Rock of Escape.

A man after God's own heart is protected by God

Do you have a story of God's protection in your life?

God may protect you by bringing a difficulty in your path so that you don't go down the path you had chosen, which in hindsight you now know would have been disastrous. Or maybe, like David, you are caught between a rock and a hard place and only God can bring about deliverance. God is in the business of protection.

1 Samuel 23:29. And David went up from there and lived in the strongholds of Engedi.

David is on the move. He starts at the cave of Adullam, then on to the forest of Hereth, then he saves Keilah and lives there among those people. David, through inquiring of the Lord learns that the people will deliver him over to Saul so he departs to the wilderness of Ziph. The Ziphites seek Saul's favor so they plot to give David over to Saul. As Saul seeks David out, David went to the wilderness of Maon. Saul continues to

pursue and God miraculously causes Saul to depart and David and his men went to the strongholds of Engedi.

A man after God's own heart will not know peace in human terms but will be at peace in his heart.

Can you relate to this conundrum? Can you say as the world is falling apart that you are at peace?

This is thought behind John 16:33. "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart: I have overcome the world"

1 Samuel 24:1-7. When Saul returned from following the Philistines, he was told, "Behold, David is in the wilderness of Engedi." Then Saul took three thousand chosen men out of all Israel and went to seek David and his men in front of the Wildgoats' Rocks. And he came to the sheepfolds by the way, where there was a cave, and Saul went in to relieve himself. Now David and his men were sitting in the innermost parts of the cave. And the men of David said to him, "Here is the day of which the LORD said to you, 'Behold, I will give your enemy into your hand, and you shall do to him as it shall seem good to you.'" Then David arose and stealthily cut off a corner of Saul's robe. And afterward David's heart struck him, because he had cut off a corner of Saul's robe. 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." So David persuaded his men with these words and did not permit them to attack Saul. And Saul rose up and left the cave and went on his way.

A man after God's own heart can discern between Godly and worldly judgements.

What is the advice of the men with David in the Cave?

"Here is the day of which the Lord said to you, Behold, I will give your enemy into your hand, and you shall do to him as it shall seem good to you."

Did the Lord say that to David?

Where do you think that phrase came from? Is it Biblical?

Actually it is: Judges 16:24. And when the people saw him, they praised their god for they said, "Our god has given our enemy into our hand.."

Who said this? Who are "the people"? They are not the Israelites, it is the Philistines.

Who is "the enemy"? It is Samson.

What happens right after this when they follow this course of action?

The party where they are making fun of Samson turns into their tomb as Samson kills more in his death than in his life.

So taking this idea to today what advice is out there in the world that on the surface seems like good advice?

"You just be you"

"Live your truth"

"Women's healthcare"

"Self-Love above all"

"Love is love"

"Christianity is inclusive of all"

The key to being able to discern well is to have the Word of God deep in your understanding. If not you will be swayed by every wind of doctrine (Ephesians 4:12-14)

What is the principle that David affirms that stays his hand against Saul?

That Saul is the Lord's anointed

Why is this a big deal to David? He is also the Lord's anointed and he realizes that he is undermining his own legitimacy

What is the example given by Jesus as we deal with enemies?

Matthew 5:44. "But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

Luke 6:27. "But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you."

This is in stark contrast to the advice we will hear in the world. Following Jesus is radical, transformational, and so different from what the world does.

1 Samuel 24:8-15. Afterward David also arose and went out of the cave, and called after Saul, "My lord the king!" And when Saul looked behind him, David bowed with his face to the earth and paid homage. And David said to Saul, "Why do you listen to the words of men who say, 'Behold, David seeks your harm'? Behold, this day your eyes have seen how the LORD gave you today into my hand in the cave. And some told me to kill you, but I spared you. I said, 'I will not put out my hand against my lord, for he is the LORD'S anointed.' See, my father, see the corner of your robe in my hand. For by the fact that I cut off the corner of your robe and did not kill you, you may know and see that there is no wrong or treason in my hands. I have not sinned against you, though you hunt my life to take it. May the LORD judge between me and you, may the LORD avenge me against you, but my hand shall not be against you. As the proverb of the ancients says, 'Out of the wicked comes wickedness.' But my hand shall not be against you. After whom has the king of Israel come out? After whom do you pursue? After a dead dog! After a flea! May the LORD therefore be judge and give sentence between me and you, and see to it and plead my cause and deliver me from your hand."

Vs 8. A man after God's own heart honors those above him in position.

Do you honor those over you, even and especially when they don't deserve honor by their actions? This includes parents, bosses, commanders, politicians. Why are we to honor them?

We honor those above us because God is sovereign and we honor the God who placed them in this position. When we complain and grumble we are effectively saying that God doesn't know what he is doing.

Vs 9-11. A man after God's own heart, when living uprightly, can speak the truth with boldness and it carries the weight of truth.

What truth do we hold that we can share with friends and enemies alike that carries life changing power?

There are many strategies to sharing the Gospel. One of them is to honor those with whom you are talking, share from your heart what God has done in your life, and present Jesus as the way, the truth and the life.

Vs 12-15. A man after God's own heart leaves vengeance, revenge, and deliverance to the Lord.

Why is it that we want to see vengeance so intensely?

Why is it that we should let the Lord execute vengeance and not ourselves?

Everybody, whether Christian, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, or atheist all have a gut reaction to perceived injustice. When we see a wrong we want to see it made right. This universality of seeking justice is because we are all made in the image of God. But what so easily forget is that we are not omniscient, we don't know all the factors and our judgement is skewed to what we think we know. Our vengeance would be imperfect. But God knows all and His judgement, though often delayed in our estimation, is inerrant and perfectly righteous.

1 Samuel 24:16-22. As soon as David had finished speaking these words to Saul, Saul said, "Is this your voice, my son David?" And Saul lifted up his voice and wept. He said to David, "You are more righteous than I, for you have repaid me good, whereas I have repaid you evil. (Romans 12:14-21) And you have declared this day how you have dealt well with me, in that you did not kill me when the LORD put me into your hands."

For if a man finds his enemy, will he let him go away safe? So may the LORD reward you with good for what you have done to me this day. And now, behold, I know that you shall surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in your hand. Swear to me therefore by the LORD that you will not cut off my offspring after me, and that you will not destroy my name out of my father's house." And David swore this to Saul. Then Saul went home, but David and his men went up to the stronghold.

The humble, truthful words of a man after God's own heart can bring a measure of reconciliation and clarity to his adversaries.

Saul acknowledges that David will be the next king and he seeks reassurance that David will deal fairly with Saul's offspring. Saul has a momentary correct understanding of the situation. He is not consumed with his hatred of David. Our words can bring clarity and understanding but unless the heart and mind are renewed the clarity is just for a time.

1 Samuel 25:1. Now Samuel died. And all Israel assembled and mourned for him, and they buried him in his house at Ramah. Then David rose and went down to the wilderness of Paran.

Thoughts on the death of Samuel:

1. Samuel was highly revered as all Israel assembled and mourned for him.
2. Samuel was the spiritual leader during the transition from Judges to the Kings.
3. Samuel was not a flashy charismatic leader

There is no stereotype that all leaders fit into. (Ezra and Nehemiah and their handling of those who married the local Canaanites.). God uses a willing heart built to accomplish His purposes. There may be David's among us but most of us are simple men following God the best we know how.

4. His death begs the question who wrote the book after Samuel died.
  1. See 1 Chronicles 29:29. "Now the acts of King David, from first to last, are written in the Chronicles of Samuel the seer, and in the Chronicles of Nathan the prophet, and in the Chronicles of Gad the seer."
  2. It appears that 1 and 2 Samuel is a compilation of those three authors.

1 Samuel 25: Then David rose and went down to the wilderness of Paran. And there was a man in Maon whose business was in Carmel. The man was very rich; he had three thousand sheep and a thousand goats. He was shearing his sheep in Carmel. Now the name of the man was Nabal, and the name of his wife Abigail. The woman was discerning and beautiful, but the man was harsh and badly behaved; he was a Calebite. David heard in the wilderness that Nabal was shearing his sheep. So David sent ten young men. And David said to the young men, "Go up to Carmel, and go to Nabal and greet him in my name. And thus you shall greet him: Peace be to you, and peace be to your house, and peace be to all that you have. I hear that you have shearers. Now your shepherds have been with us, and we did them no harm, and they missed nothing all the time they were in Carmel. Ask your young men, and they will tell you. Therefore let my young men find favor in your eyes, for we come on a feast day. Please give whatever you have at hand to your servants and to your son David."

A man after God's own heart seeks favor with those around him.

David is in a difficult position. He and his men are on the run and cannot plant and harvest. Neither can they keep livestock. They must rely on the generosity of neighbors.

How does David make his case?

He bestows peace upon Nabal and his house and possessions

He reminds Nabal that no harm came to his shepherds

He validates his claim by appealing to the word of the shepherds

He then asks humbly for whatever bounty is at hand

This is a well reasoned petition, graciously given.

Nabal's response: 1 Samuel 25:9-12. When David's young men came, they said all this to Nabal in the name of David, and then they waited. And Nabal answered David's servants, "Who is David? Who is the son of Jesse? There are many servants these days who are breaking away from their masters. Shall I take my bread and my water and my meat that I have killed for my shearers and give it to men who come from I do not know where?" So David's young men turned away and came back and told him all this.

This is an honor shame culture. Everything is considered in that mindset. You seek to honor someone and never to shame them. How would you describe Nabal response?

David's response: 1 Samuel 25:13. And David said to his men, "Every man strap on his sword!" And every man of them strapped on his sword. David also strapped on his sword. And about four hundred men went up after David, while two hundred remained with the baggage.

We must always be on our guard as we respond to personal attacks for even a man after God's own heart can lose it.

What is David's response to Nabal's slight? Why is David's anger boiling? When David asked for a favor do you think he was prepared for this response ?

Anger can rear its ugly head in a heartbeat. We must always be alert to what can trigger our anger?

When, if ever, is it appropriate to be angry? Read Matthew 5:21-26

A Wise Woman. 1 Samuel 25:14-31. But one of the young men told Abigail, Nabal's wife, "Behold, David sent messengers out of the wilderness to greet our master, and he railed at them. Yet the men were very good to us, and we suffered no harm, and we did not miss anything when we were in the fields, as long as we went with them. They were a wall to us both by night and by day, all the while we were with them keeping the sheep. (The young man confirms that David and his men were a wall to Nabal's shepherds). Now therefore know this and consider what you should do, for harm is determined against our master and against all his house, and he is such a worthless man that one cannot speak to him."

Then Abigail made haste and took two hundred loaves and two skins of wine and five sheep already prepared and five seahs of parched grain and a hundred clusters of raisins and two hundred cakes of figs, and laid them on donkeys. And she said to her young men, "Go on before me; behold, I come after you." But she did not tell her husband Nabal. And as she rode on the donkey and came down under cover of the mountain, behold, David and his men came down toward her, and she met them. Now David had said, "Surely in vain have I guarded all that this fellow has in the wilderness, so that nothing was missed of all that belonged to him, and he has returned me evil for good. God do so to the enemies of David and more also, if by morning I leave so much as one male of all who belong to him."

When Abigail saw David, she hurried and got down from the donkey and fell before David on her face and bowed to the ground. She fell at his feet and said, "On me alone, my lord, be the guilt. Please let your servant speak in your ears, and hear the words of your servant. Let not my lord regard this worthless fellow, Nabal, for as his name is, so is he. Nabal is his name, and folly

is with him. But I your servant did not see the young men of my lord, whom you sent. Now then, my lord, as the LORD lives, and as your soul lives, because the LORD has restrained you from bloodguilt and from saving with your own hand, now then let your enemies and those who seek to do evil to my lord be as Nabal. And now let this present that your servant has brought to my lord be given to the young men who follow my lord. Please forgive the trespass of your servant. For the LORD will certainly make my lord a sure house, because my lord is fighting the battles of the LORD, and evil shall not be found in you so long as you live. If men rise up to pursue you and to seek your life, the life of my lord shall be bound in the bundle of the living in the care of the LORD your God. And the lives of your enemies he shall sling out as from the hollow of a sling. And when the LORD has done to my lord according to all the good that he has spoken concerning you and has appointed you prince over Israel, my lord shall have no cause of grief or pangs of conscience for having shed blood without cause or for my lord working salvation himself. And when the LORD has dealt well with my lord, then remember your servant."

Vs 18-19. A good wife is more valuable than riches. They can often see the reality of a situation more clearly than you can.

How does your wife compliment you? Do you acknowledge and praise her for her those attributes?

Vs 23- 28a A good wife intercedes for her husband, she stands in the gap and makes things right.

Can you think of a time that your wife interceded for you? In my life it is often with the kids where I spoke a harsh word and I was oblivious.

Vs 28-31. A good woman seeks to restrain evil, she is concerned for Davids reputation.

Do you see this at work in your marriage, where your wife acts to alert you to behavior that will be detrimental to you and harm your reputation?

Vs 32-36. A man after God's own heart listens to Godly advice and is not so hard headed that he won't turn away from a course of action that will lead to destruction.

What is the sin that David blesses Abigail for saving him from? Blood guilt and from working salvation with his own hand. Notice that David in his anger didn't see this sin. Abigail pointed it out to him.

What does he mean by blood guilt?. How in our culture are we culpable of blood guilt?

1 Samuel 25:36-38. Nabal dies

Vs 39-42. Davids marries Abigail.

A man after God's own heart chooses his wife wisely.

If you are a single man, there is no more important decision than who you are to marry. But even more important than who she is, is who you are. You need to be the man who walks up rightly, loves sacrificially (willing to die for her), cherishes her solely, and covenants for life..

For those who have made your decision what were the factors that you can share with the younger me?

Vs 43-44. David displays his weakness

Even a man after God's own heart has weaknesses that can lead to his downfall.

David's wife Michal had been given to another so marrying Abigail is reasonable and shows wisdom. But soon after he marries Ahinoam of Jezreel. (Jezreel is in Samaria and it is the town that many years later, Ahab and Jezebel ruled.). David's weakness is women and this is just the beginning.

What are your weaknesses? What are you doing about it? Do you even have a strategy?

1 Samuel 26:1-9. Then the Ziphites came to Saul at Gibeah, saying, "Is not David hiding himself on the hill of Hachilah, which is on the east of Jeshimon?" So Saul arose and went down to the wilderness of Ziph with three thousand chosen men of Israel to seek David in the wilderness of Ziph. And Saul encamped on the hill of Hachilah, which is beside the road on the east of Jeshimon. But David remained in the wilderness. When he saw that Saul came after him into the wilderness, David sent out spies and learned that Saul had indeed come. Then David rose and came to the place where Saul had encamped. And David saw the place where Saul lay, with Abner the son of Ner, the commander of his army. Saul was lying within the encampment, while the army was encamped around him.

Then David said to Ahimelech the Hittite, and to Joab's brother Abishai the son of Zeruiah, "Who will go down with me into the camp to Saul?" And Abishai said, "I will go down with you." So David and Abishai went to the army by night. And there lay Saul sleeping within the encampment, with his spear stuck in the ground at his head, and Abner and the army lay around him. Then Abishai said to David, "God has given your enemy into your hand this day. Now please let me pin him to the earth with one stroke of the spear, and I will not strike him twice." But David said to Abishai, "Do not destroy him, for who can put out his hand against the LORD'S anointed and be guiltless?"

David experiences Deja vu. This is the second time he has the opportunity to take Saul's life.

God may require that a man after God's own heart learn a lesson multiple times.

Has God taken you through a situation and you came out of it only to have to face the same problem again? God knows what you need to experience to transform you into the man he wants you to be.

1 Samuel 26:10. And David said, “As the Lord lives, the Lord will strike him, or his day will come to die, or he will go down into battle and perish.”

1 the Lord will strike him

This may be the thought that God wanted to impress upon David. What happened in the last chapter with Nabal? David sought revenge yet in vs 25:38 we see that “the Lord struck Nabal and he died.”

2. His day will come to die.

He may die a natural death as Samuel in chapter 25

3. Or he will go down into battle and perish.

Spoiler alert: 1Sam 31:6. Thus Saul died and his three sons, and his armor-bearer and all his men on the same day together.

A man after God's own heart knows that God will take care of his enemies.

Do you plot to take care of your enemies? Do you know know the Lord's sovereignty in executing justice?

Romans 12:19. Beloved, never avenge yourselves but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, Vengeance is mine, I will repay says the Lord. (Hebrews 10:30-31, Deut 32:3. Ps 94:1)

1Samuel 11-12. The LORD forbid that I should put out my hand against the LORD'S anointed. But take now the spear that is at his head and the jar of water, and let us go.” So David took the spear and the jar of water from Saul's head, and they went away. No man saw it or knew it, nor did any awake, for they were all asleep, because a deep sleep from the LORD had fallen upon them.

What is David thinking as he and Abishai sneak into Saul's camp? What is David trying to prove, if anything? On a scale of 1 to 10 where is David's trust in the Lord?

David has complete trust and faith in God at this stage of his life. He is still on the run, he is not where he wants to be but he is content with where he is and that God will work everything out in His timing.

Do you think Ps 23 “Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, you are with me...” is on David's mind?

A man after God's own heart knows he right where God wants him to be, and knows intimately that God is with him.

1 Sam 26:13-16. Then David went over to the other side and stood far off on the top of the hill, with a great space between them. And David called to the army, and to Abner the son of Ner, saying, “Will you not answer, Abner?” Then Abner answered, “Who are you who calls to the king?” And David said to Abner, “Are you not a man? Who is like you in Israel? Why then have you not kept watch over your lord the king? For one of the people came in to destroy the king your lord. This thing that you have done is not good. As the LORD lives, you deserve to die, because you have not kept watch over your lord, the LORD'S anointed. And now see where the king's spear is and the jar of water that was at his head.”

What is David doing here, calling out to Abner?

David is using his actions as object lesson. He calls out to Abner who should have been protecting his king. Instead, it is David who is actually protecting his king. David's escapade is a lesson to all who will hear that David is looking out for the the best for the king.

A man after God's own heart uses his actions to prove his point. He does not spew empty words.

1Sam 17-20. Saul recognized David's voice and said, “Is this your voice, my son David?” And David said, “It is my voice, my lord, O king.” And he said, “Why does my lord pursue after his servant? For what have I done? What evil is on my hands? Now therefore let my lord the king hear the words of his servant. If it is the

LORD who has stirred you up against me, may he accept an offering, but if it is men, may they be cursed before the LORD, for they have driven me out this day that I should have no share in the heritage of the LORD, saying, 'Go, serve other gods.' Now therefore, let not my blood fall to the earth away from the presence of the LORD, for the king of Israel has come out to seek a single flea like one who hunts a partridge in the mountains."

David makes his case to Saul directly. He asks what is it that he has done. He seeks reconciliation. He likens himself to a flea

A man after God's own heart seeks reconciliation with his enemies.

1 Samuel 26:21-25. Then Saul said, "I have sinned. Return, my son David, for I will no more do you harm, because my life was precious in your eyes this day. Behold, I have acted foolishly, and have made a great mistake." And David answered and said, "Here is the spear, O king! Let one of the young men come over and take it. The LORD rewards every man for his righteousness and his faithfulness, for the LORD gave you into my hand today, and I would not put out my hand against the LORD'S anointed. Behold, as your life was precious this day in my sight, so may my life be precious in the sight of the LORD, and may he deliver me out of all tribulation." Then Saul said to David, "Blessed be you, my son David! You will do many things and will succeed in them." So David went his way, and Saul returned to his place.

Saul is contrite, David and Saul come to an understanding. David offers back the spear and Saul blesses David. But consider that last phrase. They did not come into full harmony. They came to an understanding. And then both went their own way.

We seek to live in unity with one another but is there times when we can't? Is it OK to get as far as an understanding and no more?

A man after God's own heart seeks reconciliation but knows through wisdom, history and past experience that the relationship may not be all that it could be. And is OK with that. (Romans 12:18. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.)

1 Sam 27:1 Then David said in his heart, "Now I shall perish one day by the hand of Saul. There is nothing better for me than that I should escape to the land of the Philistines. Then Saul will despair of seeking me any longer within the borders of Israel, and I shall escape out of his hand."

Do you see any potential problem with consulting with your heart to make a decision? What do we know about our heart?

Jeremiah 17:9. The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked: who can understand it?

Do you notice whom David did not consult? The Lord, friends, God's word.

David made a previous decision when he fled Saul in chapter 21 and the consequences were severe with the eventual death of the priestly family in Nob.

A man after God's own heart should always understand that his heart can lead him astray in the proverbial heartbeat.

A man after God's own heart should always seek the Lord in prayer and through His word before making major decisions.

1 Sam 27:2-4. So David arose and went over, he and the six hundred men who were with him, to Achish the son of Maach, king of Gath. And David lived with Achish at Gath, he and his men, every man with his

household, and David with his two wives, Ahinoam of Jezreel, and Abigail of Carmel, Nabal's widow. And when it was told Saul that David had fled to Gath, he no longer sought him.

**Who has been affected by David's decision?** 600 men and their households, David's two wives  
**From verse 4, was the decision successful?** In the short term David saw a favorable result. Unfortunately we will never know what God had in store if David had consulted him first.

**A man after God's own heart needs to understand that his decisions will affect others,**

**A man after God's own heart should make decisions for the long run. He is not looking for a quick fix.**

1 Sam 27:5-12. Then David said to Achish, "If I have found favor in your eyes, let a place be given me in one of the country towns, that I may dwell there. For why should your servant dwell in the royal city with you?" So that day Achish gave him Ziklag. Therefore Ziklag has belonged to the kings of Judah to this day. And the number of the days that David lived in the country of the Philistines was a year and four months. Now David and his men went up and made raids against the Geshurites, the Girzites, and the Amalekites, for these were the inhabitants of the land from of old, as far as Shur, to the land of Egypt. And David would strike the land and would leave neither man nor woman alive, but would take away the sheep, the oxen, the donkeys, the camels, and the garments, and come back to Achish. When Achish asked, "Where have you made a raid today?" David would say, "Against the Negeb of Judah," or, "Against the Negeb of the Jerahmeelites," or, "Against the Negeb of the Kenites." And David would leave neither man nor woman alive to bring news to Gath, thinking, "lest they should tell about us and say, 'So David has done.'" Such was his custom all the while he lived in the country of the Philistines. And Achish trusted David, thinking, "He has made himself an utter stench to his people Israel; therefore he shall always be my servant."

**Who is this King Achish what is David's previous experience with him?**  
**What is David's solution to living in the capital Gath with his cultural enemy.**  
**How does David appease King Achish without fighting against his own people?**

David sees a remedy to an awkward situation in requesting a transfer to another town. David has to feign allegiance to King Achish while being true to his God and his people. The situation lasts for 1 year and 4 months

David lies to Achish. David says that he is fighting and taking spoils from the towns of Judah but in reality he is fighting the non Jewish tribes to the south.

**One poorly conceived decision leads to more and more layers of deceit.**

1 Sam 28:1-2. In those days the Philistines gathered their forces for war, to fight against Israel. And Achish said to David, "Understand that you and your men are to go out with me in the army." David said to Achish, "Very well, you shall know what your servant can do." And Achish said to David, "Very well, I will make you my bodyguard for life."

**Look at the mess that David has gotten himself into. He is now committed to fight for King Achish for life as his personal bodyguard. This is not a result that David anticipated when he decided to seek relief from Saul.** David is between a rock and a hard place.

1 Sam 28:3-7. Now Samuel had died, and all Israel had mourned for him and buried him in Ramah, his own city. And Saul had put the mediums and the necromancers out of the land. The Philistines assembled and came and encamped at Shunem. And Saul gathered all Israel, and they encamped at Gilboa. When Saul saw the army of the Philistines, he was afraid, and his heart trembled greatly. And when Saul inquired of the LORD, the LORD did not answer him, either by dreams, or by Urim, or by prophets. Then Saul said to his servants, "Seek out for me a woman who is a medium, that I may go to her and inquire of her." And his servants said to him, "Behold, there is a medium at En-dor."

Both David and Saul have having to lay in the bed they have made

Saul sees the assembled Philistine army and is afraid but everywhere he turns he gets no answer. Neither the Lord nor the prophets. And the only other place that he sees to seek counsel is a medium but he had put out all of the mediums.

Saul is acting out of fear. How does fear influence your decisions?

Saul got rid of the mediums and now he is seeking one out. What does this say about Saul's heart?

Does our heart ever justify our sin like this?

Have you ever found yourself unsure of what to do and everywhere you look for answers there is silence?

Can God use silence to bring you into a deeper relationship with Him?

A man after God's own heart will do the right thing and if there is silence or uncertainty he will wait on the Lord.

1 Sam 28:8-14. So Saul disguised himself and put on other garments and went, he and two men with him. And they came to the woman by night. And he said, "Divine for me by a spirit and bring up for me whomever I shall name to you." The woman said to him, "Surely you know what Saul has done, how he has cut off the mediums and the necromancers from the land. Why then are you laying a trap for my life to bring about my death?" But Saul swore to her by the LORD, "As the LORD lives, no punishment shall come upon you for this thing." Then the woman said, "Whom shall I bring up for you?" He said, "Bring up Samuel for me." When the woman saw Samuel, she cried out with a loud voice. And the woman said to Saul, "Why have you deceived me? You are Saul." The king said to her, "Do not be afraid. What do you see?" And the woman said to Saul, "I see a god coming up out of the earth." He said to her, "What is his appearance?" And she said, "An old man is coming up, and he is wrapped in a robe." And Saul knew that it was Samuel, and he bowed with his face to the ground and paid homage.

Then Samuel said to Saul, "Why have you disturbed me by bringing me up?" Saul answered, "I am in great distress, for the Philistines are warring against me, and God has turned away from me and answers me no more, either by prophets or by dreams. Therefore I have summoned you to tell me what I shall do." And Samuel said, "Why then do you ask me, since the LORD has turned from you and become your enemy? The LORD has done to you as he spoke by me, for the LORD has torn the kingdom out of your hand and given it to your neighbor, David. Because you did not obey the voice of the LORD and did not carry out his fierce wrath against Amalek, therefore the LORD has done this thing to you this day. Moreover, the LORD will give Israel also with you into the hand of the Philistines, and tomorrow you and your sons shall be with me. The LORD will give the army of Israel also into the hand of the Philistines."

Did Samuel really speak with Saul?

Saul makes an oath by the Lord against the Lord, Desperation can lead to inconsistency.

Desperation leads to poor decisions when following the your own wisdom

God's judgment is set. You are always better off to be on the Lord's side.

1 Sam 28:20-25. Then Saul fell at once full length on the ground, filled with fear because of the words of Samuel. And there was no strength in him, for he had eaten nothing all day and all night. And the woman came to Saul, and when she saw that he was terrified, she said to him, "Behold, your servant has obeyed you. I have taken my life in my hand and have listened to what you have said to me. Now therefore, you also obey your servant. Let me set a morsel of bread before you; and eat, that you may have strength when you go on your way." He refused and said, "I will not eat." But his servants, together with the woman, urged him, and he listened to their words. So he arose from the earth and sat on the bed. Now the woman had a fattened calf in the house, and she quickly killed it, and she took flour and kneaded it and baked unleavened bread of it, and she put it before Saul and his servants, and they ate. Then they rose and went away that night.

Why was Saul filled with fear at the words of Samuel?

How did the medium's actions show her character?

What do we learn about human nature when we see a non believer act in kindness and mercy?

Saul has come to the realization that in going his own way he has come face to face with the wrath of God. This is true of all unbelievers eventually

Even a non believer can exhibit love and compassion toward others

All of us need each other. Even the most powerful needs others in their lives.

1 Sam 29 1-7. Now the Philistines had gathered all their forces at Aphek. And the Israelites were encamped by the spring that is in Jezreel. As the lords of the Philistines were passing on by hundreds and by thousands, and David and his men were passing on in the rear with Achish, the commanders of the Philistines said, "What are these Hebrews doing here?" And Achish said to the commanders of the Philistines, "Is this not David, the servant of Saul, king of Israel, who has been with me now for days and years, and since he deserted to me I have found no fault in him to this day." But the commanders of the Philistines were angry with him. And the commanders of the Philistines said to him, "Send the man back, that he may return to the place to which you have assigned him. He shall not go down with us to battle, lest in the battle he become an adversary to us. For how could this fellow reconcile himself to his lord? Would it not be with the heads of the men here? Is not this David, of whom they sing to one another in dances, Saul has struck down his thousands, and David his ten thousands'?"

Then Achish called David and said to him, "As the LORD lives, you have been honest, and to me it seems right that you should march out and in with me in the campaign. For I have found nothing wrong in you from the day of your coming to me to this day. Nevertheless, the lords do not approve of you. So go back now; and go peaceably, that you may not displease the lords of the Philistines."

David, through his own devices finds himself between a rock and a hard place. He has no one to blame but himself. But God... has provided a way of escape, a way out

What do you think David would have done if the lords of the Philistines had not pushed back on King Achish?  
Would he have attacked the Philistines from the rear and betrayed Achish?  
How does the fact that Israel is at war with the Philistines change things?  
Could David from the beginning have been planning to fight the Philistines from the inside?

We all can experience the grace of God when we don't deserve it.

1 Sam 29 8-11. And David said to Achish, "But what have I done? What have you found in your servant from the day I entered your service until now, that I may not go and fight against the enemies of my lord the king?" And Achish answered David and said, "I know that you are as blameless in my sight as an angel of God. Nevertheless, the commanders of the Philistines have said, 'He shall not go up with us to the battle.' Now then rise early in the morning with the servants of your lord who came with you, and start early in the morning, and depart as soon as you have light." So David set out with his men early in the morning to return to the land of the Philistines. But the Philistines went up to Jezreel.

David continues his ruse with King Achish. His is playing the double agent.

How does David's ability to lie so effortlessly feel to you?  
Is David learning the craft of being a King? Or think he is learning the craft?  
Can a Christian be a politician?

Matthew 10:16. "Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.

1 Sam 30:1-2. Now when David and his men came to Ziklag on the third day, the Amalekites had made a raid against the Negeb and against Ziklag. They had overcome Ziklag and burned it with fire and taken captive the women and all who were in it, both small and great. They killed no one, but carried them off and went their way.

So David is off feigning allegiance to Achish and while gone his village is raided and all taken prisoner.

Do you think that God is teaching David something through this? If so what?

Notice the Amalekites “killed no one” while David in chapter 27:8-9 ‘would leave neither man nor woman alive,.’”

God in his immeasurable grace doesn't give us what we deserve.

1 Sam 30: 2-6a. And when David and his men came to the city, they found it burned with fire, and their wives and sons and daughters taken captive. Then David and the people who were with him raised their voices and wept until they had no more strength to weep. David's two wives also had been taken captive, Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail the widow of Nabal of Carmel. And David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him, because all the people were bitter in soul, each for his sons and daughters

David is broken, His men are at the point of mutiny. All of his cunning and planning has led to this

A man after God's own heart, when it all falls apart, has a decision to make - follow your own course or turn to the Lord.

1 Sam 30: 6b-8. But David strengthened himself in the LORD his God.

And David said to Abiathar the priest, the son of Ahimelech, “Bring me the ephod.” So Abiathar brought the ephod to David. And David inquired of the LORD, “Shall I pursue after this band? Shall I overtake them?” He answered him, “Pursue, for you shall surely overtake and shall surely rescue.”

This is the first time since before David made the decision to follow his heart and seek refuge with his enemy, that David is seen seeking the Lord.

Do you ever get complacent and it takes a minor or major catastrophe to wake you up from you stupor and see things as they really are and turn back to the Lord?

A man after God's own heart is open to the Lord's discipline and returns whole heartedly to the Lord.

1 Sam 30: 8-15. So David set out, and the six hundred men who were with him, and they came to the brook Besor, where those who were left behind stayed. But David pursued, he and four hundred men. Two hundred stayed behind, who were too exhausted to cross the brook Besor.

They found an Egyptian in the open country and brought him to David. And they gave him bread and he ate. They gave him water to drink, and they gave him a piece of a cake of figs and two clusters of raisins. And when he had eaten, his spirit revived, for he had not eaten bread or drunk water for three days and three nights. And David said to him, “To whom do you belong? And where are you from?” He said, “I am a young man of Egypt, servant to an Amalekite, and my master left me behind because I fell sick three days ago. We had made a raid against the Negeb of the Cherethites and against that which belongs to Judah and against the Negeb of Caleb, and we burned Ziklag with fire.” And David said to him, “Will you take me down to this band?” And he said, “Swear to me by God that you will not kill me or deliver me into the hands of my master, and I will take you down to this band.”

David leaves 200 of his men at the brook because they are too weak to continue  
David finds an Egyptian, shows mercy on him and gains information

When we are in distress are we quick to show mercy? If you have experienced the mercy of God you should extend that mercy to others.

A man after God's own heart shows mercy to strangers

1 Sam 30: 16-25. And when he had taken him down, behold, they were spread abroad over all the land, eating and drinking and dancing, because of all the great spoil they had taken from the land of the Philistines

and from the land of Judah. And David struck them down from twilight until the evening of the next day, and not a man of them escaped, except four hundred young men, who mounted camels and fled. David recovered all that the Amalekites had taken, and David rescued his two wives. Nothing was missing, whether small or great, sons or daughters, spoil or anything that had been taken. David brought back all. David also captured all the flocks and herds, and the people drove the livestock before him, and said, "This is David's spoil." Then David came to the two hundred men who had been too exhausted to follow David, and who had been left at the brook Besor. And they went out to meet David and to meet the people who were with him. And when David came near to the people he greeted them. Then all the wicked and worthless fellows among the men who had gone with David said, "Because they did not go with us, we will not give them any of the spoil that we have recovered, except that each man may lead away his wife and children, and depart." But David said, "You shall not do so, my brothers, with what the LORD has given us. He has preserved us and given into our hand the band that came against us. Who would listen to you in this matter? For as his share is who goes down into the battle, so shall his share be who stays by the baggage. They shall share alike." And he made it a statute and a rule for Israel from that day forward to this day.

David secures a great victory. Everything is recovered and there was additional spoil. God was gracious. But there is division among the 400 who fought and the 200 who stayed behind.

What do you think about the 400 men's concerns? From a human perspective there is a reasonableness to the idea.

But what has David been learning during this whole chapter in his life? Grace and Mercy.

A man after God's own heart shows Grace and Mercy because God has shown it to him. Twice earlier God showed him grace by providing a way out and God through the Amalekites by not killing everyone

1 Sam 30: 26-31 When David came to Ziklag, he sent part of the spoil to his friends, the elders of Judah, saying, "Here is a present for you from the spoil of the enemies of the LORD." It was for those in Bethel, in Ramoth of the Negeb, in Jattir, in Aroer, in Siphmoth, in Eshtemoa, in Racal, in the cities of the Jerahmeelites, in the cities of the Kenites, in Hormah, in Bor-ashan, in Athach, in Hebron, for all the places where David and his men had roamed.

David shares his spoil with the towns of southern Judah. The places where he had roamed during his time running from Saul.

David didn't have to share with these towns, Why did he?

When we are given a blessing are we quick to share the blessing with others?

A man after God's own heart gives to others and at the same time uses wealth to plan for the future

1 Sam 31:1-7 Now the Philistines were fighting against Israel, and the men of Israel fled before the Philistines and fell slain on Mount Gilboa. And the Philistines overtook Saul and his sons, and the Philistines struck down Jonathan and Abinadab and Malchi-shua, the sons of Saul. The battle pressed hard against Saul, and the archers found him, and he was badly wounded by the archers. 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. And when his armor-bearer saw that Saul was dead, he also fell upon his sword and died with him. Thus Saul died, and his three sons, and his armor-bearer, and all his men, on the same day together. And when the men of Israel who were on the other side of the valley and those beyond the Jordan saw that the men of Israel had fled and that Saul and his sons were dead, they abandoned their cities and fled. And the Philistines came and lived in them.

What do you think of Saul falling on his sword? Could you envision yourself doing that?

The horrors of war as just that, horrors. The stuff of bad dreams and PTSD

In our popular culture we have sanitized it. We play video games about it. We euphemize war with adjectives like "surgical" and "tactical", as if when we kill people surgically then it lessens the horror.

As Christians can we go to war? If so what are the parameters? What is “just war theory”. Where did it come from? What are its basic tenets?

History: Just War Theory (aka Just War Doctrine) was introduced by Augustine. His initial observation was that war is evil but is not morally unavoidable in a world marked by sin and injustice. He broke his doctrine into two parts, the cause and the manner of the war. He identified the primary cause of the just war as self defense. And then the manner of prosecuting the war as limiting cruelty, and the deliberate harming of innocents. (Non-combatants)

Unfortunately this is easier said than done. Ex. Hamas hiding in schools and hospitals. The Dresden firing bombing by the Allies near the end of WWII. Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

8 centuries later Thomas Aquinas built upon Augustines work. His basic tenants of just war are still those that we hold to today.

Legitimate Authority: Only the political community may declare war.

Just Cause: fundamentally, self - defense against unjust aggression

Right Intention: war must not be pursued for revenge, hatred, or domination

Double effect: a grave harm may be morally tolerable if it is not intended as an end but occurs as an unavoidable collateral effect of defense

Others have added that cultural superiority and evangelization are not justification for a just war.

Synopsis: Just War Theory is an expressly Christian doctrine. (The Islamic world has nothing even approaching Just War Theory). The purpose is not to legitimize war, it questions it, restrains it, and subjects it to rigorous moral scrutiny. Its relevance today is greater than ever.

1 Sam 31: 8-13. The next day, when the Philistines came to strip the slain, they found Saul and his three sons fallen on Mount Gilboa. So they cut off his head and stripped off his armor and sent messengers throughout the land of the Philistines, to carry the good news to the house of their idols and to the people. They put his armor in the temple of Ashtaroath, and they fastened his body to the wall of Beth-shan. But when the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead heard what the Philistines had done to Saul, all the valiant men arose and went all night and took the body of Saul and the bodies of his sons from the wall of Beth-shan, and they came to Jabesh and burned them there. And they took their bones and buried them under the tamarisk tree in Jabesh and fasted seven days.

Notice the contrast of the desecration and honoring of the body. Christians throughout history have honored the body? What is the Biblical basis for that honor?

Genesis 1: 26-27, 1 Corinthians 3:16, 1 Corinthians 6:19, 1 Corinthians 6:16

We honor the body in life and in death. How do we honor the body in life?

2 Sam 1:1-10. After the death of Saul, when David had returned from striking down the Amalekites, David remained two days in Ziklag. 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. David said to him, "Where do you come from?" And he said to him, "I have escaped from the camp of Israel." 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." Then David said to the young man who told him, "How do you know that Saul and his son Jonathan are dead?" 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. And when he looked behind him, he saw me, and called to me. And I answered, 'Here I am.' And he said to me, 'Who are you?' I answered him, 'I am an Amalekite.' And he said to me, Stand beside me and kill me, for anguish has seized me, and yet my life still lingers.' 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."

How does the Amalekite's story differ from what is recounted in the last chapter? Yet this man had the crown and armlet of Saul so he was there during the battle.

Why would this Amalekite bring this news and crown to David?

2 Sam 1:8-10. Then David took hold of his clothes and tore them, and so did all the men who were with him. 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.

David and his men weep for Saul, Jonathan, the people who died in battle and for the reputation and honor of Israel. It is entirely appropriate to rejoice in our country's victories and lament in their losses.

2 Sam 1: 11-16. 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." David said to him, "How is it you were not afraid to put out your hand to destroy the LORD'S anointed?" Then David called one of the young men and said, "Go, execute him." And he struck him down so that he died. 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.'"

David twice stayed his hand against Saul because he was the Lord's anointed. Now he condemns to execution a man who admitted to killing Saul.

Do you think the Amalekite was trying to gain favor with David by saying that he had killed Saul?

Always tell the truth, and know to whom it is that you are seeking favor.

2 Sam 1:17-27. And David lamented with this lamentation over Saul and Jonathan his son, and he said it should be taught to the people of Judah; behold, it is written in the Book of Jashar. He said:

"Your glory, O Israel, is slain on your high places!

How the mighty have fallen! Three times David laments that the mighty have fallen

Tell it not in Gath,

publish it not in the streets of Ashkelon,

lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice, David laments that this news will bring joy to the Philistines

lest the daughters of the uncircumcised exult.

"You mountains of Gilboa,

let there be no dew or rain upon you,

nor fields of offerings! David curses the place where they died

For there the shield of the mighty was defiled,

the shield of Saul, not anointed with oil.

"From the blood of the slain,

from the fat of the mighty,

the bow of Jonathan turned not back,

and the sword of Saul returned not empty.

"Saul and Jonathan, beloved and lovely!

In life and in death they were not divided;

they were swifter than eagles; David remembers the Saul and Jonathan

they were stronger than lions.

"You daughters of Israel, weep over Saul,

who clothed you luxuriously in scarlet David reminds the women of what Saul and Jonathan had done for them

who put ornaments of gold on your apparel.

"How the mighty have fallen

in the midst of the battle!

"Jonathan lies slain on your high places.

I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan;

very pleasant have you been to me; David ends with a special tribute to Jonathan with whom he had a special covenant.

your love to me was extraordinary,

surpassing the love of women.

"How the mighty have fallen,

and the weapons of war perished!"

There is a time to weep and lament. A man after God's own heart can show emotion, weep, cry and lay your heart before God and man.

2 Samuel 2:1-4a. After this David inquired of the Lord, "Shall I go up into any of the cities of Judah?" And the Lord said to him, "Go up." David said, "To which shall I go up?" And he said, "To Hebron." 2 So David went up there, and his two wives also, Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail the widow of Nabal of Carmel. 3 And David brought up his men who were with him, everyone with his household, and they lived in the towns of Hebron. 4 And the men of Judah came, and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah. (2 Samuel 2:1-4, ESV)

David has learned his lesson. He is inquiring of the Lord. He is not following his heart.

A man after God's own heart learns his lesson (until he doesn't)

Has God taught you something and you didn't get it. You continued with your own way. What happened? David followed his heart, didn't seek the Lord and God let him suffer the consequences of such an action. So it is often with us. By suffering the consequences God wakes us up, gets our attention.

David is asking God if it is time to claim his kingship. David moves to Hebron, a city of refuge and an inheritance of Caleb.

David's two wives along with his ragtag army of 600 with their families follow him to Hebron and the men of Judah anoint him as their king.

David has been waiting to begin the process of becoming king for many years now. Notice that he is not looking to grab Saul's entire kingdom in one fell swoop. He is taking it one step at a time as the Lord leads.

A man after God's own heart moves in the direction the Lord is leading. He does so decisively, purposefully, and with great wisdom.

2 Samuel 2:4b-7. When they told David, "It was the men of Jabesh-gilead who buried Saul," 5 David sent messengers to the men of Jabesh-gilead and said to them, "May you be blessed by the Lord, because you showed this loyalty to Saul your lord and buried him. 6 Now may the Lord show steadfast love and faithfulness to you. And I will do good to you because you have done this thing. 7 Now therefore let your hands be strong, and be valiant, for Saul your lord is dead, and the house of Judah has anointed me king over them." (2 Samuel 2:4-7, ESV)

David sends his blessing to the valiant men of Jabesh-gilead for their loyalty to Saul. David honors them (even though they may consider David an enemy). This is a wise political and military move.

A man after God's own heart seeks wisdom and reconciliation in his dealings with men.

2 Samuel 2:8-11. But Abner the son of Ner, commander of Saul's army, took Ish-bosheth the son of Saul and brought him over to Mahanaim, 9 and he made him king over Gilead and the Ashurites and Jezreel and Ephraim and Benjamin and all Israel. 10 Ish-bosheth, Saul's son, was forty years old when he began to reign over Israel, and he reigned two years. But the house of Judah followed David. 11 And the time that David was king in Hebron over the house of Judah was seven years and six months. (2 Samuel 2:8-11, ESV)

Abner, Saul's cousin, and the military might behind Saul, takes Saul's son who did not die on Gilboa and "made" him king over Israel.

How do you make someone king? What does this say about the political system operating in Israel at this time?

The military might makes the rules. There is no democracy, no running for office. Abner controlled what was left of the army to he made the rules

The nation is now officially divided. David must find a way to unify God's people into one nation again. The northern tribes are led by Ish-bosheth, Saul's son. But the power behind ish-bosheth is Abner, Saul's cousin. In the south lies Judah, the largest tribe of the nation Israel. They are led by David with his nephew

Joab as his military leader helped by his two brothers Abishai and Asahel. Which brings us to the next verses:

2 Samuel 2:12-17. 12 Abner the son of Ner, and the servants of Ish-bosheth the son of Saul, went out from Mahanaim to Gibeon. 13 And Joab the son of Zeruiah and the servants of David went out and met them at the pool of Gibeon. And they sat down, the one on the one side of the pool, and the other on the other side of the pool. 14 And Abner said to Joab, "Let the young men arise and compete before us." And Joab said, "Let them arise." 15 Then they arose and passed over by number, twelve for Benjamin and Ish-bosheth the son of Saul, and twelve of the servants of David. 16 And each caught his opponent by the head and thrust his sword in his opponent's side, so they fell down together. Therefore that place was called Helkath-hazzurim, which is at Gibeon. 17 And the battle was very fierce that day. And Abner and the men of Israel were beaten before the servants of David. (2 Samuel 2:12-17, ESV)

What in the world do these guys think they are doing? 24 + young warriors from two different armies on either side of a pool and you can just feel the testosterone flowing. Remember these men know each other well. And as can be expected things didn't end well.

Gathering 12 men together to hang out and see what happens is a recipe for disaster. Group dynamics can go south in a heartbeat.

Be wise where you hang out and with whom. (2 Timothy 2:22. "So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.")

In my life, my bad decisions were often associated with group decisions that got out of control. When you put a bunch of youthful males together the collective IQ diminishes directly with the number in the group.

2 Samuel 2:18-23. 18 And the three sons of Zeruiah were there, Joab, Abishai, and Asahel. Now Asahel was as swift of foot as a wild gazelle. 19 And Asahel pursued Abner, and as he went, he turned neither to the right hand nor to the left from following Abner. 20 Then Abner looked behind him and said, "Is it you, Asahel?" And he answered, "It is I." 21 Abner said to him, "Turn aside to your right hand or to your left, and seize one of the young men and take his spoil." But Asahel would not turn aside from following him. 22 And Abner said again to Asahel, "Turn aside from following me. Why should I strike you to the ground? How then could I lift up my face to your brother Joab?" 23 But he refused to turn aside. Therefore Abner struck him in the stomach with the butt of his spear, so that the spear came out at his back. And he fell there and died where he was. And all who came to the place where Asahel had fallen and died, stood still. (2 Samuel 2:18-23, ESV)

Do you think Abner wanted or meant to kill Asahel? Why? This is another example of youthful passions getting ahold of Asahel.

In a bad situation even if you try to do the right thing, it can go wrong and you will live with the consequences.

2 Samuel 2:24-32. 24 But Joab and Abishai pursued Abner. And as the sun was going down they came to the hill of Ammah, which lies before Giah on the way to the wilderness of Gibeon. 25 And the people of Benjamin gathered themselves together behind Abner and became one group and took their stand on the top of a hill. 26 Then Abner called to Joab, "Shall the sword devour forever? Do you not know that the end will be bitter? How long will it be before you tell your people to turn from the pursuit of their brothers?" 27 And Joab said, "As God lives, if you had not spoken, surely the men would not have given up the pursuit of their brothers until the morning." 28 So Joab blew the trumpet, and all the men stopped and pursued Israel no more, nor did they fight anymore. 29 And Abner and his men went all that night through the Arabah. They crossed the Jordan, and marching the whole morning, they came to Mahanaim. 30 Joab returned from the pursuit of Abner. And when he had gathered all the people together, there were missing from David's servants nineteen men besides Asahel. 31 But the servants of David had struck down of Benjamin 360 of Abner's men. 32 And they took up Asahel and buried him in the tomb of his father, which was at Bethlehem. And Joab and his men marched all night, and the day broke upon them at Hebron. (2 Samuel 2:24-32, ESV)

So Joab and Abishai, Asahel's brothers go after Abner to revenge their brother's death. Abner gets reinforcements in the form of the people of Benjamin (Saul's people). Abner talks sense into Joab. This is a snapshot in the art of de-escalation and negotiation.

1. Abner speaks from a position of strength. Until he has the people of Benjamin behind him there was no chance of negotiation. Passions were running high
2. Abner cuts to the chase and speaks truth to the situation. "Shall the sword devour forever? Do you not know that the end will be bitter?" Abner gets right to the heart of the matter. This course of action will result in death and destruction for both sides. There is a better way.
3. Abner gives Joab a way out while saving face. "How long will it be before you tell your people to turn from the pursuit of their brother's." Abner reminds Joab that they are brothers. They have fought together and are all from one Abrahamic family.
4. Joab sees the reasonableness of Abner's suggestion and the way out that Abner supplied - their common brotherhood. Joab saves face with his men "As God lives, if you had not spoken, surely the men would not have given up the pursuit of their brothers until the morning.

**Synopsis:** De-escalate from strength, Negotiate from truth, Propose a way forward that works for both sides and doesn't belittle.

We all find ourselves in tense situations where passions run high. This is a framework for success.

29 And Abner and his men went all that night through the Arabah. They crossed the Jordan, and marching the whole morning, they came to Mahanaim. 30 Joab returned from the pursuit of Abner. And when he had gathered all the people together, there were missing from David's servants nineteen men besides Asahel. 31 But the servants of David had struck down of Benjamin 360 of Abner's men. 32 And they took up Asahel and buried him in the tomb of his father, which was at Bethlehem. And Joab and his men marched all night, and the day broke upon them at Hebron. (2 Samuel 2:29-32, ESV)

The author makes a note that Joab and the men of David were more successful than Abner and the men of Ish-Bosheth in this struggle. He is setting the stage for David becoming King over all of Israel.

2 Samuel 3:1 There was a long war between the house of Saul and the house of David. And David grew stronger and stronger, while the house of Saul became weaker and weaker. (2 Samuel 3:1, ESV)

David is gaining in power but does not press his might against the house of Saul yet.

2 Samuel 3:2. And sons were born to David at Hebron: his firstborn was Amnon, of Ahinoam of Jezreel; 3 and his second, Chileab, of Abigail the widow of Nabal of Carmel; and the third, Absalom the son of Maacah the daughter of Talmi king of Geshur; 4 and the fourth, Adonijah the son of Haggith; and the fifth, Shephatiah the son of Abital; 5 and the sixth, Ithream, of Eglah, David's wife. These were born to David in Hebron. (2 Samuel 3:2-5, ESV)

David has been busy: He settled in Hebron with two wives. Now he has at least three (note only Ahinoam, Abigail, (in the previous chapter) and Ithream are called wives.) Maybe the other 4 are wives or concubines.

**How would you describe the treatment, role and value of women by David. Since David is a man after God's own heart is this a prescriptive model to follow? Why or why not? If not why is David following this path?**

**A man after God's own heart has blind spots that will lead him astray. A man after God's own heart can easily adopt the cultural norms of the day into his own worldview.**

2 Samuel 3:6-11. 6 While there was war between the house of Saul and the house of David, Abner was making himself strong in the house of Saul. 7 Now Saul had a concubine whose name was Rizpah, the daughter of Aiah. And Ish-bosheth said to Abner, "Why have you gone in to my father's concubine?" 8 Then Abner was very angry over the words of Ish-bosheth and said, "Am I a dog's head of Judah? To this day I keep showing steadfast love to the house of Saul your father, to his brothers, and to his friends, and have not given you into the hand of David. And yet you charge me today with a fault concerning a woman. 9 God do so to Abner and more also, if I do not accomplish for David what the Lord has sworn to him, 10 to transfer the

kingdom from the house of Saul and set up the throne of David over Israel and over Judah, from Dan to Beersheba.” 11 And Ish-bosheth could not answer Abner another word, because he feared him. (2 Samuel 3:6–11, ESV)

What does it mean that Abner was making himself strong?

The Bible has poetic ways of describing the sex act. “Gone into”, “Know”. In our culture the holy, spiritual, God given act is used for cursing and belittling. Why is that?

Why is Abner so angry in his reaction to Ish-bosheth’s question?

Does Ish-bosheth have a point? Read 1 Kings 2:3–4, then 2 Kings 2:17–25

What does action does Abner threaten to take.

What is going through Ish-bosheth’s mind after this exchange?

2 Samuel 3:12–16. 12 And Abner sent messengers to David on his behalf, saying, “To whom does the land belong? Make your covenant with me, and behold, my hand shall be with you to bring over all Israel to you.” 13 And he said, “Good; I will make a covenant with you. But one thing I require of you; that is, you shall not see my face unless you first bring Michal, Saul’s daughter, when you come to see my face.” 14 Then David sent messengers to Ish-bosheth, Saul’s son, saying, “Give me my wife Michal, for whom I paid the bridal price of a hundred foreskins of the Philistines.” 15 And Ish-bosheth sent and took her from her husband Paltiel the son of Laish. 16 But her husband went with her, weeping after her all the way to Bahurim. Then Abner said to him, “Go, return.” And he returned. (2 Samuel 3:12–16, ESV)

What is Abner offering David? Abner describes his offer as a covenant? What does this mean? What covenants do we partake in?

David agrees but what does he ask in return? Notice David contacts Ish-bosheth directly. Why does he feel he deserves to have Michal back? (He never divorced her, He has not been reimbursed the bride price, He solidifies his right to the kingship of all Israel.)

Ish-bosheth agrees and takes her from her husband. What are your thoughts on Paltiel, her husband?

2 Samuel 3:17–21. 17 And Abner conferred with the elders of Israel, saying, “For some time past you have been seeking David as king over you. 18 Now then bring it about, for the Lord has promised David, saying, ‘By the hand of my servant David I will save my people Israel from the hand of the Philistines, and from the hand of all their enemies.’ ” 19 Abner also spoke to Benjamin. And then Abner went to tell David at Hebron all that Israel and the whole house of Benjamin thought good to do. 20 When Abner came with twenty men to David at Hebron, David made a feast for Abner and the men who were with him. 21 And Abner said to David, “I will arise and go and will gather all Israel to my lord the king, that they may make a covenant with you, and that you may reign over all that your heart desires.” So David sent Abner away, and he went in peace. (2 Samuel 3:17–21, ESV)

Abner meets with the elders of Israel and separately with Benjamin. Why separately with Benjamin? They are all in agreement. And Abner comes to David, David provides a feast to honor Abner. Abner makes a verbal commitment to bring Israel to David to enact the covenant. And David send Abner away - IN PEACE. Who is notably absent from this pow wow?

2 Samuel 3:22–25. 22 Just then the servants of David arrived with Joab from a raid, bringing much spoil with them. But Abner was not with David at Hebron, for he had sent him away, and he had gone in peace. 23 When Joab and all the army that was with him came, it was told Joab, “Abner the son of Ner came to the king, and he has let him go, and he has gone in peace.” 24 Then Joab went to the king and said, “What have you done? Behold, Abner came to you. Why is it that you have sent him away, so that he is gone? 25 You know that Abner the son of Ner came to deceive you and to know your going out and your coming in, and to know all that you are doing.” (2 Samuel 3:22–25, ESV)

What do you think is Joab’s motivation for his fierce disagreement with David’s meeting with Abner?

Joab has mixed motives for his reaction. He is a man of war, that is his job, that is how he thinks. David is also a man of war but he is transitioning to a King and hence he must think and make decisions like a king.

When you are at your job you need to think and act one way. When you are home you have a different role and you think and act in another manner. Do you experience that difference and how do you adapt?

A man after God’s won heart thinks and acts appropriately to the situation.

2 Samuel 3:26-30. 26 When Joab came out from David's presence, he sent messengers after Abner, and they brought him back from the cistern of Sirah. But David did not know about it. 27 And when Abner returned to Hebron, Joab took him aside into the midst of the gate to speak with him privately, and there he struck him in the stomach, so that he died, for the blood of Asahel his brother. 28 Afterward, when David heard of it, he said, "I and my kingdom are forever guiltless before the Lord for the blood of Abner the son of Ner. 29 May it fall upon the head of Joab and upon all his father's house, and may the house of Joab never be without one who has a discharge or who is leprous or who holds a spindle or who falls by the sword or who lacks bread!" 30 So Joab and Abishai his brother killed Abner, because he had put their brother Asahel to death in the battle at Gibeon. (2 Samuel 3:26-30, ESV)

Joab takes matters into his own hand. He lies and betrays Abner and David all for the sake of revenge

Revenge is a powerful emotional motivation but one that must be mastered. (Remember David almost taking revenge on Nabal)

Look at David's curse leveled at Joab. That is a curse of curses. What is "holds a spindle". Two thoughts, one is a translation that would mean crutch, so having a cripple in the house,. The. Second is just what it says a spindle as in a spinning wheel which is women's work so the house would be womanly.

2 Samuel 3:31-39. 31 Then David said to Joab and to all the people who were with him, "Tear your clothes and put on sackcloth and mourn before Abner." And King David followed the bier. 32 They buried Abner at Hebron. And the king lifted up his voice and wept at the grave of Abner, and all the people wept. 33 And the king lamented for Abner, saying,

"Should Abner die as a fool dies?

34 Your hands were not bound;  
your feet were not fettered;  
as one falls before the wicked  
you have fallen."

And all the people wept again over him. 35 Then all the people came to persuade David to eat bread while it was yet day. But David swore, saying, "God do so to me and more also, if I taste bread or anything else till the sun goes down!" 36 And all the people took notice of it, and it pleased them, as everything that the king did pleased all the people. 37 So all the people and all Israel understood that day that it had not been the king's will to put to death Abner the son of Ner. 38 And the king said to his servants, "Do you not know that a prince and a great man has fallen this day in Israel? 39 And I was gentle today, though anointed king. These men, the sons of Zeruiah, are more severe than I. The Lord repay the evildoer according to his wickedness!" (2 Samuel 3:31-39, ESV)

David shows heartfelt sorrow for the death of Abner. Even to the point of fasting. The people saw his remorse and it pleased the people.

Do you think David's remorse is a show for the people especially those from Israel and Benjamin?

If your heart is in the right place then showing genuine sorrow is appropriate. Corollary: If your emotions and actions are not genuine, people will see right through you.

2 Samuel 4:1-4. When Ish-bosheth, Saul's son, heard that Abner had died at Hebron, his courage failed, and all Israel was dismayed. 2 Now Saul's son had two men who were captains of raiding bands; the name of the one was Baanah, and the name of the other Rechab, sons of Rimmon a man of Benjamin from Beeroth (for Beeroth also is counted part of Benjamin; 3 the Beerothites fled to Gittaim and have been sojourners there to this day).

4 Jonathan, the son of Saul, had a son who was crippled in his feet. He was five years old when the news about Saul and Jonathan came from Jezreel, and his nurse took him up and fled, and as she fled in her haste, he fell and became lame. And his name was Mephibosheth. (2 Samuel 4:1-4, ESV)

The writer introduces two sets of characters and then later will expound on them. The first are two brothers who are captains in Ish-bosheth's army. The second is a son of Jonathan who is crippled.

**How do you think cripples are treated in that society?**

2 Samuel 4:5-12. 5 Now the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, Rechab and Baanah, set out, and about the heat of the day they came to the house of Ish-bosheth as he was taking his noonday rest. 6 And they came into the midst of the house as if to get wheat, and they stabbed him in the stomach. Then Rechab and Baanah his brother escaped. 7 When they came into the house, as he lay on his bed in his bedroom, they struck him and put him to death and beheaded him. They took his head and went by the way of the Arabah all night, 8 and brought the head of Ish-bosheth to David at Hebron. And they said to the king, "Here is the head of Ish-bosheth, the son of Saul, your enemy, who sought your life. The Lord has avenged my lord the king this day on Saul and on his offspring." 9 But David answered Rechab and Baanah his brother, the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, "As the Lord lives, who has redeemed my life out of every adversity, 10 when one told me, 'Behold, Saul is dead,' and thought he was bringing good news, I seized him and killed him at Ziklag, which was the reward I gave him for his news. 11 How much more, when wicked men have killed a righteous man in his own house on his bed, shall I not now require his blood at your hand and destroy you from the earth?" 12 And David commanded his young men, and they killed them and cut off their hands and feet and hanged them beside the pool at Hebron. But they took the head of Ish-bosheth and buried it in the tomb of Abner at Hebron. (2 Samuel 4:5-12, ESV)

**These two brothers think they are ingratiating themselves with the next king. We know David and his response is predictable. But have we ever done things where our primary motivation is to seek the favor of someone else? Boss? Spouse? Seeking favor is not necessarily wrong. The sin here is what they did. They did not know God's morality. So what is the best course of action in all circumstances?**

**A man after God's own heart seeks to know the Lord with all his heart soul mind and strength and then seek to please the Lord only.**

2 Samuel 5:1-5. Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, "Behold, we are your bone and flesh. 2 In times past, when Saul was king over us, it was you who led out and brought in Israel. And the Lord said to you, 'You shall be shepherd of my people Israel, and you shall be prince over Israel.' " 3 So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and King David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the Lord, and they anointed David king over Israel. 4 David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years. 5 At Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and at Jerusalem he reigned over all Israel and Judah thirty-three years. (2 Samuel 5:1-5, ESV)

David completes the covenant he made with Abner and the leaders of Israel. The leaders submit to David's kingship for two reasons: 1. It was David who led them during the reign of Saul and 2. They recognize that the Lord had spoken that David should be the ruler.

**A good rule of thumb in decision making: follow the evidence that this course of action is reasonable historically successful, and make sure it follows the expressed Word of God.**

David is anointed for the third time. First by Samuel as a boy, Second by Judah and now by Israel.

We are given a timeline of David. He is thirty when he begins his reign over Judah. He then reigns of the unified Israel 33 years.

2 Samuel 5:6-10. 6 And the king and his men went to Jerusalem against the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land, who said to David, "You will not come in here, but the blind and the lame will ward you off"—thinking, "David cannot come in here." 7 Nevertheless, David took the stronghold of Zion, that is, the city of David. 8 And David said on that day, "Whoever would strike the Jebusites, let him get up the water shaft to attack 'the lame and the blind,' who are hated by David's soul." Therefore it is said, "The blind and the lame shall not come into the house." 9 And David lived in the stronghold and called it the city of David. And David built the city all around from the Millo inward. 10 And David became greater and greater, for the Lord, the God of hosts, was with him. (2 Samuel 5:6-10, ESV)

One of David's first actions is to establish his reign in Jerusalem. The Jebusites of Jerusalem taunt David and his men with the phrase "but the blind and the lame will ward you off". Signifying that blind and lame people could keep the Israelites out. David used a water shaft to infiltrate Jerusalem and kill all the "blind and the lame" using their own words against them. Jerusalem plays a pivotal role in Israel's history. The Temple Mount where Solomon will build his temple and presently stands the Dome of the Rock is also known as Mount Moriah. It is the place where Abraham was to sacrifice his son Isaac before God provided the Ram.

This section ends with God's favor on David and David becoming greater and greater.  
True Greatness is dependent on one thing: God's presence with you. Earthly greatness will follow.

2 Samuel 5:11-15. And Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and cedar trees, also carpenters and masons who built David a house. 12 And David knew that the Lord had established him king over Israel, and that he had exalted his kingdom for the sake of his people Israel.

13 And David took more concubines and wives from Jerusalem, after he came from Hebron, and more sons and daughters were born to David. 14 And these are the names of those who were born to him in Jerusalem: Shammua, Shobab, Nathan, Solomon, 15 Ibhar, Elishua, Nepheg, Japhia, 16 Elishama, Eliada, and Eliphelet. (2 Samuel 5:11-16, ESV)

God confirms David's kingdom through the gifts of Hiram King of Tyre. "David knew that the Lord had established him king over Israel"

Have you ever experienced confirmation in your walk with the Lord? What did it look like?

When God sets you on a path God will provide confirmation that He has put you there

Immediately after the confirmation the author lists more wives and concubines that David took for himself. It is as if the author is comparing David's greatness in capturing Jerusalem and establishing his kingdom with his besetting weakness - women. Deuteronomy 17:17.

Do you find yourself taking 2 steps forward and one step back? Do you have that besetting sin that you justify (David is king, he can have as many wives as he can handle) and come back to time and time again? How are we to put this to death?

John Owen: "Be killing sin or sin will be killing you"

2 Samuel 5:17-25. 17 When the Philistines heard that David had been anointed king over Israel, all the Philistines went up to search for David. But David heard of it and went down to the stronghold. 18 Now the Philistines had come and spread out in the Valley of Rephaim. 19 And David inquired of the Lord, "Shall I go up against the Philistines? Will you give them into my hand?" And the Lord said to David, "Go up, for I will certainly give the Philistines into your hand." 20 And David came to Baal-perazim, and David defeated them there. And he said, "The Lord has broken through my enemies before me like a breaking flood." Therefore the name of that place is called Baal-perazim. 21 And the Philistines left their idols there, and David and his men carried them away.

22 And the Philistines came up yet again and spread out in the Valley of Rephaim. 23 And when David inquired of the Lord, he said, "You shall not go up; go around to their rear, and come against them opposite the balsam trees. 24 And when you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the balsam trees, then rouse yourself, for then the Lord has gone out before you to strike down the army of the Philistines." 25 And David did as the Lord commanded him, and struck down the Philistines from Geba to Gezer. (2 Samuel 5:17-25, ESV)

The Philistines seek out David. Did they feel betrayed? For whatever reason they are after him. David goes to the "stronghold" and inquires of the Lord. David is being consistent by inquiring of the Lord when dealing with military matters. He doesn't seem to inquire with family matters

A man after God's own heart should bring all things before the Lord. (Not to the point that we are immobilized)

David defeats the Philistines. Then they come against him again. David again inquires of the Lord. This time God gives him specific instructions. Circle to the rear and wait on the Lord.

Waiting on the Lord can be some of the hardest times in our lives.

Psalm 27:14. "Wait for the Lord, be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!"

Psalm 37:34. "Wait for the Lord and keep his way, and he will exalt you to inherit the land; you will look on when the wicked are cut off.

Isaiah 40:31. "But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

Waiting is synonymous with Trusting.

Proverbs 3:5. Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Psalm 125:1. Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever.

2 Samuel 6:1-4. 6 David again gathered all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand. 2 And David arose and went with all the people who were with him from Baale-judah to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the name of the Lord of hosts who sits enthroned on the cherubim. 3 And they carried the ark of God on a new cart and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. And Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, were driving the new cart, 4 with the ark of God, and Ahio went before the ark.

Where was the Ark? Baale-Judah, which is also known as Kiriahth-jearim.

How did it get there? We have to go back to 1 Samuel chapter 4 through the first 2 verses of chapter 7. This is pre David so we didn't cover it in our study but I would recommend reading it

How did they transport the Ark?

How should they have transported the Ark? See Exodus 25:13-14

What is the significance of the Ark?

Of Abinadab's sons (probably grandsons) who went before the Ark?

What is the implication of where Uzzah was located?

2 Samuel 6:5-11 5 And David and all the house of Israel were celebrating before the Lord, with songs and lyres and harps and tambourines and castanets and cymbals. 6 And when they came to the threshing floor of Nacon, Uzzah put out his hand to the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen stumbled. 7 And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Uzzah, and God struck him down there because of his error, and he died there beside the ark of God. 8 And David was angry because the Lord had broken out against Uzzah. And that place is called Perez-uzzah to this day. 9 And David was afraid of the Lord that day, and he said, "How can the ark of the Lord come to me?" 10 So David was not willing to take the ark of the Lord into the city of David. But David took it aside to the house of Obed-edom the Gittite. 11 And the ark of the Lord remained in the house of Obed-edom the Gittite three months, and the Lord blessed Obed-edom and all his household.

What did Uzzah do wrong?

What is the penalty for touching the Ark? See Numbers 4:15. 15 And when Aaron and his sons have finished covering the sanctuary and all the furnishings of the sanctuary, as the camp sets out, after that the sons of Kohath shall come to carry these, but they must not touch the holy things, lest they die. These are the things of the tent of meeting that the sons of Kohath are to carry.

Did Uzzah have good intentions?

What does this tell you about the nature and character of God?

Is this the same God we worship?

Can you think of two verses from Romans that repeat the essence of this story? Romans 3:23 and 6:23.

What is the underlying reason that this incident even happened? The people didn't know their Bible.

If we are to be men after God's own heart we must know the character and nature of God as found in the Bible. We must know God rightly.

What is David's response? Vs 8 and 9. David is first angry. To whom or what do you think his anger is directed? Then David is afraid. What is David afraid of? Then as David reflects on himself, what is David's final realization?

Have we come to the realization that David has come to? Do we have a healthy fear of the Lord? Is He so holy and righteous in our lives that we question how He can come to me a sinner? But the truth is He has and that show of love in Christ to reconcile us to Him is worth pondering continually.

A man after God's own heart is quickly reminded of his own sin and rests on the mercy and grace of God.

What happened to the Ark?

Is the presence of God a good thing?

How long did the Ark stay with Obed-edom?

2 Samuel 6:12-15. 12 And it was told King David, "The Lord has blessed the household of Obed-edom and all that belongs to him, because of the ark of God." So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-edom to the city of David with rejoicing. 13 And when those who bore the ark of the Lord had gone six steps, he sacrificed an ox and a fattened animal. 14 And David danced before the Lord with all his

might. And David was wearing a linen ephod. 15 So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouting and with the sound of the horn.

After three months David changes course and seeks to again bring the Ark to Jerusalem. What changed his mind?

In what ways do you think that God blessed Obed? (The Bible doesn't specifically say)

A man after God's own heart seeks the presence of God in his life.

What did David do as he brought the Ark to Jerusalem? How would you describe the event?

A man after God's own heart worships the Lord extravagantly with all his might and leads others to do the same.

2 Samuel 6:16-23. 16 As the ark of the Lord came into the city of David, Michal the daughter of Saul looked out of the window and saw King David leaping and dancing before the Lord, and she despised him in her heart. 17 And they brought in the ark of the Lord and set it in its place, inside the tent that David had pitched for it. And David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the Lord. 18 And when David had finished offering the burnt offerings and the peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the Lord of hosts 19 and distributed among all the people, the whole multitude of Israel, both men and women, a cake of bread, a portion of meat, and a cake of raisins to each one. Then all the people departed, each to his house. 20 And David returned to bless his household. But Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David and said, "How the king of Israel honored himself today, uncovering himself today before the eyes of his servants' female servants, as one of the vulgar fellows shamelessly uncovers himself!" 21 And David said to Michal, "It was before the Lord, who chose me above your father and above all his house, to appoint me as prince over Israel, the people of the Lord—and I will celebrate before the Lord. 22 I will make myself yet more contemptible than this, and I will be abased in your eyes. But by the female servants of whom you have spoken, by them I shall be held in honor." 23 And Michal the daughter of Saul had no child to the day of her death.

This is a tale of two different hearts.

How would you describe Michal's heart toward the Lord. Michal seemingly has it all. A wife of the king, a daughter of the former king, and beautiful on top of that. Why is Michal so bitter?

1. She is not participating, She is at the window. She is an onlooker. Onlookers are often bitter. They want to participate and be part of the group but her pride will not let her debase herself to dance with abandon before the Lord
2. When she confronts David she is the definition of sarcastic. "How the king of Israel honored himself today"
3. Not only sarcastic but haughty as well. She is above the rabble. "Uncovering himself today before the eyes of his servants' female servants as one of the vulgar fellows shamelessly uncovers himself!"

As men after God's own heart we need to check our judgement when we look from afar with a haughty sarcastic spirit.

How would you describe David's heart in this passage? David is full of the joy of the Lord. This joy manifests in his actions. He;

1. Leaps and dances before the Lord, seemingly unconcerned what people thought of him.
2. Offers multiple burnt offerings and peace offerings to the Lord
3. Blesses the people. And gave out cakes of bread, a portion of meat and a cake of raisins. He is sharing his joy tangibly

As men after God's own heart we should bless the Lord in our worship and the people of God in our work and gifts.

David's response to Michal:

David cuts right to his understanding of her bitterness. That God has chosen David over her father's house

As men after God's own heart we must check our bitterness or it will eat at our souls.

David does not care what people think, His concern is what will please the Lord.

Lastly, Michal has no children. This is a strong confirmation that Michal's heart was not with the Lord. It is a strong rebuke to her heart.

2 Samuel 7: 1-3. 7 Now when the king lived in his house and the Lord had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, 2 the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent." 3 And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the Lord is with you." (2 Samuel 7:1-3, ESV)

Notice the timing: David has a house and he is at rest with his enemies. (He is not at war). It is at this time that he considers what's to do next.

A man after God's own heart has seasons in life.

Do you see that David make a comment and Nathan knows him so well that he understands what David is intending?

A man after God's own heart has friends and advisors that know him well.

2 Samuel 7:4-17. 4 But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, 5 "Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the Lord: Would you build me a house to dwell in? 6 I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. 7 In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" ' 8 Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. 9 And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. 10 And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, 11 from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. 12 When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. 14 I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, 15 but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. 16 And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.' " 17 In accordance with all these words, and in accordance with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David. (2 Samuel 7:1-17, ESV)

This passage of scripture is known as the Davidic covenant. A covenant is a binding bond between two or more parties. We don't use the word much nowadays except for the covenant of marriage.

In the Bible many covenants are mentioned. We will look at the covenants that God has instituted in the Bible between Himself and individuals and peoples.

God/Noah, his descendants and all living creatures: God will never again destroy the earth with a flood: Sign: Rainbow; Gen 6:18. And 9:9-17

God/Abram; God promises land to Abraham and his descendants, Abram receives the name Abraham, He will be the father of many nations, God will maintain this covenants with Abraham's descendants through the promise of a child by Sarah, Sign: circumcision. Gen 15:18, 12:1-8, 22:15-18 17:1-21, 28:12-22 (God reiterates his promises to Jacob.)

God/Moses and the people of Israel: God and Israel will enjoy a unique relationship, Moses receives the Torah and the Ten Commandments. Exod 19:1-24:8

One other covenant that is not expressly identified as a covenant but it fulfills the concept. This is the creation (covenant) or also known as the Adamic covenant. God speaks creation into existence, He places

man and women as God's stewards over what God has made. God blesses man, Man is given responsibilities; "God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it; rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and every creature that crawls upon the earth.'" Man is also given one command with a dire consequence: "You may eat freely from every tree of the garden, but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil; for in the day that you eat of it, you will surely die."

When Jesus and Paul speak of the old covenant and the new covenant what do you think they are referring to?

Back to David: God tells Nathan what to say to David:

5-7. God, in a series of rhetorical questions nixes David's desire to build a house for God.

Why do you think God denies David's request?

8-9a. God reminds David what He has already done in David's life.

9b-17. God sets the breath of His covenant with David in the form of 10 "I will" statements.

1. I will make for you a great name: What do you think about this promise? Do you desire a great name?
2. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel. Do you see the hand of God in the formation of the modern state of Israel.?
3. And will plant them Related to the previous promise this secures God's intention
4. I will give you rest. After a life that David has experienced to this point, rest is a welcome promise.
5. I will build a house for you. This is not a literal house. It is a dynasty form of a house. He already has the sons born to him to begin such a house.
6. I will raise up your offspring. In the short term who is this referring to?
7. I will establish his kingdom. God assures David that his lineage will continue
8. He shall build a house for my name and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. God assures David that his son will build God's house and God will establish, a very strong word, his kingdom forever. How is this covenant fulfilled?
9. I will be to him a father. Again God fulfilled this promise in Solomon but ultimately in Jesus.
10. I will discipline him... but my steadfast love will not depart. God faithfulness to the house of David is not dependant on their righteousness but on God's faithfulness.

Question: Has God made a covenant with us? With you specifically?

1. Rev 2:17. Jesus gives us a new name
2. John 14:2. Jesus is building a place for us
3. John 10:28. Jesus plants us eternally with him, no one will snatch them out of his hand
4. Matthew 11:28. Come to me all who labor and I will give you rest.
- 9, Matthew 6:9. Our father,
10. Hebrews 12:11 Discipline is painful in the moment but yields righteousness.

David's response:

18 Then King David went in and sat before the Lord and said, "Who am I, O Lord God, and what is my house, that you have brought me thus far? 19 And yet this was a small thing in your eyes, O Lord God. You have spoken also of your servant's house for a great while to come, and this is instruction for mankind, O Lord

God! 20 And what more can David say to you? For you know your servant, O Lord God! 21 Because of your promise, and according to your own heart, you have brought about all this greatness, to make your servant know it. 22 Therefore you are great, O Lord God. For there is none like you, and there is no God besides you, according to all that we have heard with our ears. 23 And who is like your people Israel, the one nation on earth whom God went to redeem to be his people, making himself a name and doing for them great and awesome things by driving out before your people, whom you redeemed for yourself from Egypt, a nation and its gods? 24 And you established for yourself your people Israel to be your people forever. And you, O Lord, became their God. 25 And now, O Lord God, confirm forever the word that you have spoken concerning your servant and concerning his house, and do as you have spoken. 26 And your name will be magnified forever, saying, 'The Lord of hosts is God over Israel,' and the house of your servant David will be established before you. 27 For you, O Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, have made this revelation to your servant, saying, 'I will build you a house.' Therefore your servant has found courage to pray this prayer to you. 28 And now, O Lord God, you are God, and your words are true, and you have promised this good thing to your servant. 29 Now therefore may it please you to bless the house of your servant, so that it may continue forever before you. For you, O Lord God, have spoken, and with your blessing shall the house of your servant be blessed forever." (2 Samuel 7:18–29, ESV)

1 vs 18-19. David is humbled before what God has done for him. **Does our response to God's covenant with us mimic David's? Are we humbled before God, are we in awe at what God has done?**

2 vs 20-21. David is blown away by the fact that he is known by God. **Have we come to the full realization that we are known by God, intimately, completely.** David is also amazed that God has revealed himself to David and his plans for him. **Are we amazed at God's revelation of himself in our lives. Do we realized that we believe only because God chose us from before the foundations of the earth. There are millions of people who have read the same books I have, listened to the same sermons I have and had friends talk to them about God yet their eyes remain dark. They cannot see and believe. We must praise God for His love for us in revealing Himself.**

3 vs 22. David's reflection on what God has done and how he is known by God and knows God, results in praise: You are great, O Lord God, There is none like you, there is no God besides you. **Reflecting on the character and nature of God is the spark that ignites the flames of worship**

4 vs 23-27. David contemplates on what God has done with the nation Israel and also in what He is going to do in Davids lineage. **Do not forget what God has done in your life and the lives of those you know. It is a source of reassurance and encouragement.**

5 vs 28. David seeks the Lord's blessing for he knows that nothing is really accomplished without the Lord's blessing. Ps 127:1. Unless the Lord builds the house those who labor, labor in vain. **We run around getting things done but unless the Lord is behind it, it will fade away.**

8 After this David defeated the Philistines and subdued them, and David took Metheg-ammah out of the hand of the Philistines.

2 And he defeated Moab and he measured them with a line, making them lie down on the ground. Two lines he measured to be put to death, and one full line to be spared. And the Moabites became servants to David and brought tribute.

3 David also defeated Hadadezer the son of Rehob, king of Zobah, as he went to restore his power at the river Euphrates. 4 And David took from him 1,700 horsemen, and 20,000 foot soldiers. And David hamstringed all the chariot horses but left enough for 100 chariots. 5 And when the Syrians of Damascus came to help Hadadezer king of Zobah, David struck down 22,000 men of the Syrians. 6 Then David put garrisons in Aram of Damascus, and the Syrians became servants to David and brought tribute. And the Lord gave victory to David wherever he went. 7 And David took the shields of gold that were carried by the servants of Hadadezer and brought them to Jerusalem. 8 And from Betah and from Berothai, cities of Hadadezer, King David took very much bronze.

9 When Toi king of Hamath heard that David had defeated the whole army of Hadadezer, 10 Toi sent his son Joram to King David, to ask about his health and to bless him because he had fought against Hadadezer and defeated him, for Hadadezer had often been at war with Toi. And Joram brought with him articles of silver, of gold, and of bronze. 11 These also King David dedicated to the Lord, together with the silver and gold that he

dedicated from all the nations he subdued, 12 from Edom, Moab, the Ammonites, the Philistines, Amalek, and from the spoil of Hadadezer the son of Rehob, king of Zobah.

13 And David made a name for himself when he returned from striking down 18,000 Edomites in the Valley of Salt. 14 Then he put garrisons in Edom; throughout all Edom he put garrisons, and all the Edomites became David's servants. And the Lord gave victory to David wherever he went.

15 So David reigned over all Israel. And David administered justice and equity to all his people. 16 Joab the son of Zeruiah was over the army, and Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was recorder, 17 and Zadok the son of Ahitub and Ahimelech the son of Abiathar were priests, and Seraiah was secretary, 18 and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over the Cherethites and the Pelethites, and David's sons were priests. (2 Samuel 8:1–18, ESV)

From the last lesson 2Sam. 7:11b "And I will give you rest from all your enemies". God is going to do it - give the rest, but David does not just sit back and do nothing. He gets off his tush and gets to work doing what a king does. He protects his kingdom, he goes to war, he fights his battles knowing that it is God who gives the victory (think Goliath)

A man after God's own heart get's up off his tush and gets to work knowing that God will give rest and will bless.

Think about your own life. Have you seen God work in your life when moved forward not really knowing what the end will look like and then as you look back you see God's hand everywhere?

Let's look at how he gained his victories:

A man after God's own heart is intentional

David just didn't sit back and say "I'm here in my house, leave me alone and I'll leave you alone". No! He saw the threats and took measures to eliminate them. Peace and rest is not the absence of conflict, it is the ability and strength to secure the peace. Ronald Reagan "Peace through strength". John 16:33. "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart: I have overcome the world." Jesus secures our peace because He has overcome the world, He is Lord of All!

In this instance, David looked around him, saw the threats and intentionally started to eliminate the threats.

In your life, is there a "threat" or an obstacle, or a weight around your neck? Maybe it is a relationship that needs attention or mending. What are you going to do about it? What are you intentionally going to start to do in your life to slay that dragon, repair that relationship?

A man after God's own heart is methodical

The Philistines and in the west (Gaza), the Moabites are in the east (the other side of the Jordan), Aram, Damascus, and Syria are in the north, and Edom to the south. David was not haphazard in his campaigns. He was methodical in his actions

When you have obstacles in your life, do you take the time to think through the method or methods of removal? David did not take on all of these enemies at once. He broke the problem down into small steps and then methodically handled one at a time.

A man after God's own heart takes action appropriate to the situation.

David does not take a sledge hammer to every situation nor should we. He subdues the Philistines and takes only one town for Israel. (Gath). The implication is that he derives tax from the other towns. With Moab he takes a different approach. He split the men into three "lines" and two he had killed and one spared. This insures that the men of Moab won't pose a threat later. (This is interesting since David is related to Moab through Ruth). With Hadadezer David captured much of the army but hamstringed all but 100 of the chariot horses. With King Toi David makes peace. With Edom David put garrisons throughout the land to keep control.

Taking the best course of action in any situation requires discernment and wisdom. There is no “Thor like” hammer with which to pound in all situations. Wisdom and discernment come from the Lord and we are to seek it. This continual reliance on God keeps us on our knees. Have you ever found a time that what worked in one situation didn’t work in another/

Vs 15 So David reigned over all Israel. And David administered justice and equity to all his people. (2 Samuel 8:15, ESV)

**A man after God’s own heart administers justice and equity to all his people.**

The word equity has changed in meaning in the last 20 years do to DEI. Originally it meant treating all people the same based on our shared image of God. Recently it has come to mean in DEI circles: Equality of outcome. David and we take the former definition and should treat all in our sphere of influence with equity and justice. For us it means in our family, our work, our recreation. There are no favorites. This is hard to do, especially in our families. Specifically our kids.

Have you ever changed discipline from one kid to the other because for one kid the discipline wasn't” discipline?

In a geopolitical landscape, as Americans, we have to remember that democracy is not for every culture. David was a benevolent dictator and there are many cultures where that would be the preferred government. What is the problem with dictators? Democracy?

Vs 16-18 is a list of Davids officials, or in our government it is his cabinet. The key takeaway is delegation. David did not micromanage everything. He appointed capable men and then let them do their jobs. Since David was a man of war delegating the army to Joab must have taken a great deal of trust and faith.

**A man after God’s own heart delegates to capable men.**

I personally have a problem with delegation, both at home and in the work place. As leaders we must empower those under our authority in order for them to grow and mature. It is hard, they will make mistakes. That is when we are to come alongside and encourage and teach. We will not always be there. We are responsible to equip the next generation and that means delegation.

How do you delegate in your family? In your work place?

Lastly we have to take a glimpse at Benaiah. He was over the Cherethites and Pelethites (David’s personal body guards) On a side note, many dictators use personal body guards from other countries to eliminate or reduce the chance of assassination. Maduro in Venezuela had Cuban body guards. 2 Sam 23:20-23, **This guy is a man’s man. I think in the next generation we need to see more young men named Benaiah!** And David said, “Is there still anyone left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan’s sake?” (2 Samuel 9:1, ESV)

**A man after God’s own heart keeps his promises.**

A quick reminder.

1 Sam 18:3. Then Jonathan made a covenant with David, because he loved him as his own soul.

1 Sam 20:15-17. 15 and do not cut off your steadfast love from my house forever, when the Lord cuts off every one of the enemies of David from the face of the earth.” 16 And Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, “May the Lord take vengeance on David’s enemies.” 17 And Jonathan made David swear again by his love for him, for he loved him as he loved his own soul. (1 Samuel 20:16–17, ESV)

So David remembers his covenant with Jonathan and seeks to fulfill it. **Do we take our promises seriously? Do we let our yes be yes? As men of God and after his own heart we should be known as men who keep our promises. Are you ever convicted of this? When and How?**

2 Sam 9:2-5. 2 Now there was a servant of the house of Saul whose name was Ziba, and they called him to David. And the king said to him, “Are you Ziba?” And he said, “I am your servant.” 3 And the king said, “Is

there not still someone of the house of Saul, that I may show the kindness of God to him?" Ziba said to the king, "There is still a son of Jonathan; he is crippled in his feet." 4 The king said to him, "Where is he?" And Ziba said to the king, "He is in the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, at Lo-debar." 5 Then King David sent and brought him from the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, at Lo-debar. (2 Samuel 9:2–5, ESV)

A man after God's own heart diligently seeks to fulfill his covenants.

David didn't just wonder about his promise but he actively sought out if there was a way to make good on what he had promised. This separates good intentions and wishful thinking from a real life, heartfelt, conviction.

When we make a promise how much effort should we put into keeping it? What is the most important earthly promise (covenant) you have made or will make? How much effort do you put into keeping that promise? What might it cost you?

The marriage promise, covenant is made in public. We do that so that we have people who witness the covenant and will hold us accountable. We are men who need to hold each other accountable for the promises we made to our wives. Everyone of us have had times when we thought about or tempted to back out of our promise. We are not slaves to our feelings or desires. Through the Holy Spirit we can master our doubts and temptations. As men after God's own heart we are to encourage each other to keep our promises especially our marital vows.

This leads us to the second aspect of David's covenant keeping. Not only does he diligently seek to keep his covenants but does so even when no one knows he has made the vow except he and God. David's covenant with Jonathan was only between them, no one else knew. David didn't have to seek to fulfill his vow. No one would have been the wiser. But David's conscious would not let him forget it.

A man after God's own heart fulfills his promises even when no one would know if he didn't. He is a man of character, a man of integrity.

What are things that you should do that you don't do when no one is looking? Do you put your grocery cart back where it belongs? Do you clean up after yourself in a public place? Do you keep your trash with you until you can dispose of it appropriately? Do you keep a public restroom clean? Do you do the right thing when no one is looking?

We find that Jonathan has a son who is crippled. That is the defining characteristic of the son?

In that culture and even in ours, what is the stigma associated with being a cripple?

David continues to pursue his fulfillment of his promise even though from a worldly perspective the son may not be worthy of David's attention.

New Testament parallel: Matt 25:37:40. "The least of these, my brothers"

2 Sam 9:6-13. 5 Then King David sent and brought him from the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, at Lo-debar. 6 And Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan, son of Saul, came to David and fell on his face and paid homage. And David said, "Mephibosheth!" And he answered, "Behold, I am your servant." 7 And David said to him, "Do not fear, for I will show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan, and I will restore to you all the land of Saul your father, and you shall eat at my table always." 8 And he paid homage and said, "What is your servant, that you should show regard for a dead dog such as I?"

9 Then the king called Ziba, Saul's servant, and said to him, "All that belonged to Saul and to all his house I have given to your master's grandson. 10 And you and your sons and your servants shall till the land for him and shall bring in the produce, that your master's grandson may have bread to eat. But Mephibosheth your master's grandson shall always eat at my table." Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants. 11 Then Ziba said to the king, "According to all that my lord the king commands his servant, so will your servant do." So Mephibosheth ate at David's table, like one of the king's sons. 12 And Mephibosheth had a young son, whose name was Mica. And all who lived in Ziba's house became Mephibosheth's servants. 13 So Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem, for he ate always at the king's table. Now he was lame in both his feet. (2 Samuel 9:5–13, ESV)

What is Mephibosheth's response to being called to David's house? Vs 7 Why do you think Mephibosheth is afraid? Do you think it is a valid fear?

Before we move on, we need to see an analogy that is taking place in the rest of this story. David is a representation of God and Mephibosheth is a representation of us. David is King, Sovereign, Fear Inspiring. Mephibosheth is crippled, weak, insignificant as we are crippled by sin.

**What is David's first word to Mephibosheth?**

So David speaks one word to Mephibosheth - He speaks his name.

**What could David have said? Off with his head!, or So you thought you could hide from me? Why do you think he spoke his name?**

When your name is spoken you are honored. You are recognized as a person not a thing or obstacle but a person with worth and value. Son in law Phillip.

**As men after God's own heart we should acknowledge everyone's worth and value and using names is a good beginning.**

**Why is David showing this kindness to Mephibosheth? Was it something that Mephibosheth had done? When God shows kindness to us is it because of something we have done?**

**After David explains that it is because of Jonathan that David is extending this kindness, what is Mephibosheth's response? Vs 8. Mephibosheth recognizes that he is the same as a dead dog. What are we dead in?**

**A man after God's own heart will be forever amazed at the Grace of God.**

David blesses Mephibosheth with all of Saul's land and his servants

**What does God bless us with? Ephesians 1:17-19**

Four times the author mentions that Mephibosheth ate at the king's table. Repetition means this concept is important. In verse 11 it mentions that he ate like one of the king's sons

**Who else will eat at the king's table? Rev 19:6-9. We will  
Who else are considered children of the King? John 1:12. We are**

Synopsis:

1. David sought out Mephibosheth - God pursues us
2. David sought to show kindness to Mephibosheth because of Jonathan - God shows kindness to us because of Jesus
3. David provided for all of Mephibosheth's needs - God will supply all our needs. Philippians 4:19
4. Mephibosheth eats at the King's table - we eat at the Lord's table now and for ever.
5. Mephibosheth is like a son of David - we are children of the living God.

Notice that the author ends commenting of Mephibosheth's lameness, The trait that should disqualify him.

6. Mephibosheth did not deserve what David did for him - We don't deserve what God has done for us. All we can do is fall at our feet and worship

2 Samuel 10: 1-2. 10 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. (2 Samuel 10:1-2, ESV)

Ammon - a kingdom east of the Jordan river, Today known as Jordan whose capital is Amman.

Apparently David and Nahash, king of the Ammonites, had an understanding or pact. And David seeks to honor and continue that pact with his son Hanun. So David sends his servants to console Hanun during his grieving.

2 Samuel 10:3-5. 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?" 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." (2 Samuel 10:3-5, ESV)

But. Even men after God's own heart will have "buts", come their way. Have you ever had a "but" catch you by surprise? How did you handle it? What are some of the "buts" that come across our path in this day and age?

So the advisors to Hanun give him bad advice and this advice escalates.

Choose your advisors carefully. Who do you go to for advice? Is it different for different problems. What should you look for in advisors in general?

So David's envoy of comforters are humiliated. Half of their beards shaved off and their literal butts exposed. What were these people thinking when they did that? The stupidity of man is evident in the Bible but also in our own day.

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. (2 Samuel 10:6-8, ESV)

So Hanun hires Syrians and surrounding nations for a total of 33,000 soldiers. These are mercenaries. David sends out Joab, his commander of his army to fight them. The battle is on two fronts. The first is out in the open field against the Syrians and the other front is against the Ammonites at their fortified gate.

2 Samuel 10:9-14. 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." 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. (2 Samuel 10:9-14, ESV)

Joab recognizes the situation. He takes the best of his army and fights against the Syrians, in the open country at their rear. He then takes Abishai, his brother with the rest of the men against the Ammonites at the city gate. He then confers with Abishai that they would help each other if they found the forces too strong for one or the other.

When confronted with a difficult situation: 1. Make a plan. 2. Have contingencies. What problems might you have to plan your way out of? Money, loss of a job,

Joab encourages Abishai with the words "Be of good courage, and let us be courageous for our people...and may the Lord do what seems good to him."

As men after God's own heart we are to be courageous and the reason behind it is that we are courageous for our people. And secondly we know that the Lord is sovereign behind this and will do what is good to Him. Our church is in the midst of a difficult situation. We made plans and for the most part those plans have worked but right now we find ourselves in a hard financial position and this passage reminds us that we are to have courage, push forward, trust that the Lord will do good. We are to look at the formidable situation and rise up with wings of eagles, run and not grow weary, walk and not faint. God is going to do something and He will most likely do it through us.

And look what happens, the Syrians flee as do the Ammonites. God gives the victory as Joab and Abishai fight the battle.

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. (2 Samuel 10:15–19, ESV)

Just when God takes care of one “but” a second arises.

They bring “out the Syrians who were beyond the Euphrates”. the implication being that they are throwing everything at David.

David hears of the situation and he responds, David enters the battle.

There are times when a man after God's own heart must take charge. There is a time for delegation but not this time.

Have there been times in your life where you were the only one who could handle it? When those times come we need to step up and meet the challenge.

The narrative is straight to the point. “David fought with him, and the Syrians fled”  
David kills many and subdues the Syrians.

When they “saw that they had been defeated by Israel, they made peace with Israel and became subject to them.”

A man after God's own heart secures peace through strength.

Where do we need to secure peace through strength? How are we to accomplish this?

#### Anatomy of a fall

2 Samuel 11:1. In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel. And they ravaged the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem. (2 Samuel 11:1, ESV)

Let's change that to “in the spring of the year, the time when \_\_\_insert your name\_\_\_\_\_ should be doing \_\_\_your job\_\_\_\_\_.

What is it that is your responsibility, your job, the thing that you should be doing? And you're not! You take a break because you deserve it, you've earned it.

What is it that David should have done?

Why do you think he didn't go? The truth is we don't deserve anything, We've earned nothing but death. Anything more than death is by the grace and mercy of God. But David remained at Jerusalem.

A man after God's own heart should should do what he should be doing.

2 Samuel 11:2. It happened, late one afternoon, when David arose from his couch and was walking on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful. (2 Samuel 11:2, ESV)

In David's break from doing what he should be doing (his kingly duties), David takes a stroll on his roof.

What gets David into trouble?

How do we know that he lingered in his gaze of Bathsheba?

Why do our eyes lead us into temptation? Genesis 3:6. “So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of it's fruit and ate. An she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Matt 6:22 “the eye is the lamp of the body, So if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light.

What should David have done when his eyes lingered?

How should we prepare ourselves ahead of time for visual temptation?

Even a man after God's own heart is not immune to his eyes fueling his desires But he should master his eyes and crucify his illicit desires.

2 Samuel 11:3. And David sent and inquired about the woman. And one said, "Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" ([2 Samuel 11:3](#), ESV)

David escalates the situation. He asks who is this woman? He doesn't just glance, his gaze lingers and he admires her beauty and now he take the next step. He wants to know who she is.

As you remember your own personal "fall" what were the steps that led to your sin? What could you have done to stop the progression? David sees the beautiful woman, he lets his gaze linger on her beauty and that intensifies his desire for her but to satisfy that desire he must know who she is.

When progressing down a dangerous path resist the "next step". Fight the desire to satisfy your lust. Take a cold shower, go for a run, go to the gym, mow the yard.

Before we move on we must ask the question: How much responsibility does Bathsheba have in whole affair?

2 Samuel 11:4. So David sent messengers and took her, and she came to him, and he lay with her. (Now she had been purifying herself from her uncleanness.) Then she returned to her house. ([2 Samuel 11:4](#), ESV)

Once David finds out who she is, it is a small step to bring her home and satisfy his desires. After all he is the King!

What do you think was the thought process that was going on in David's mind? Did He even think this through? Was he just letting his emotions and desires rule his life? What can we learn from this to apply to our lives?

A man after God's own heart should run his desires and emotions through the filter of the Word of God. God made us creatures of emotion and desires but not all desires are righteous and good. We must master and crucify the unrighteousness desires that we all experience daily. If we don't we will end up like David.

At this point which of the 10 Commandments has David broken? (7 Adultery, and 10 Coveting). When in this narrative did David break those commandments (vs 3 when he found out she was Uriah's wife.). Any others? (#1 No other Gods before me and 3 Taking the name of the Lord in vain). When we place ourselves, our needs, wants desires above God then we have made a God of ourselves and have broken #1. When we intentionally sin we take the name of the Lord our God in vain. #3 We are His and by wontedly sinning we take the Name that we are known by and bring it to shame. We take that name in vain. Also #8, Stealing, David stole something that was not his to take, and #9 lying. David without a doubt lied to Bathsheba when he bought her to his bed.

2 Samuel 11:5 And the woman conceived, and she sent and told David, "I am pregnant." ([2 Samuel 11:5](#), ESV)

For such a short sentence it packs a powerful punch. Notice the author doesn't say "Bathsheba", instead she is referred to as "the woman". Why? By not using Bathsheba's name the author keeps the focus on David. This is his story, his sin, our lesson. She only says three simple words: "I am pregnant". And David's world come crashing down.

The second law of motion is "for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction". This is never so true as in this story. David takes a dubious path fraught with danger and he thinks he is immune from the consequences? With three little words David is hit with the equal and opposite reaction.

Where would your head be if you were confronted with these words. Unbelieving? Repentant? Scared? In the depths of despair?

We should never think that we are immune from the consequences of our sin.

2 Samuel 11:6-8. 6 So David sent word to Joab, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent Uriah to David.

7 When Uriah came to him, David asked how Joab was doing and how the people were doing and how the war was going. 8 Then David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house and wash your feet." And Uriah went out of the king's house, and there followed him a present from the king.

David has impregnated Bathsheba. And what is the first thing that David does? He contacts Joab to have Uriah sent to David. David did not repent, he did not confess, he follows the lead of Adam and Eve in Genesis 3 and seeks to hide his sin. Genesis 3:7-9. This is not just a reaction of Adam, Eve and David. We all try and cover our sin. We lie to ourselves and think that no one will ever know. It is hidden and doesn't effect anyone else. Think back to a sin you committed whether in your heart or mind or in the flesh. Did you ever bring it to light to anyone. If we do not confess our specific sins to God then 2 things will happen. 1. If we are not found out then we will be emboldened to take it to the next level, or 2. It will eat at our soul and we will fall away from fellowship with the Lord and each other.

Sin will kill you, it will destroy your life slowly but surely.

Look at vs 7. David engages Uriah in conversation. He is lying to Uriah by implying that he just wants an update on the war. The truth is that this is all a ruse.

Vs 8. At the end of the conversation David tells Uriah to “wash his feet” at his house. This is a polite way of saying to go home and have sex with your wife. (Remember Ruth 3:1-5. Ruth does not wash his feet but only uncovers them. Feet in Hebrew writing often referred to the male genitalia.

David is scheming how to get off the hook for his sin. If Uriah sleeps with his wife then all will assume the child is Uriah's. How often do we deflect, obfuscate, and mislead in relation to our sin. David is teaching a master class in covering sin.

In verse 8 David sends a present with Uriah. What do you think it was?

2 Samuel 11:9-13. 9 But Uriah slept at the door of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and did not go down to his house. 10 When they told David, “Uriah did not go down to his house,” David said to Uriah, “Have you not come from a journey? Why did you not go down to your house?” 11 Uriah said to David, “The ark and Israel and Judah dwell in booths, and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are camping in the open field. Shall I then go to my house, to eat and to drink and to lie with my wife? As you live, and as your soul lives, I will not do this thing.” 12 Then David said to Uriah, “Remain here today also, and tomorrow I will send you back.” So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the next. 13 And David invited him, and he ate in his presence and drank, so that he made him drunk. And in the evening he went out to lie on his couch with the servants of his lord, but he did not go down to his house.

But Uriah foils David's plan. He stays at the door to David's house. Vs 10, David confronts Uriah on why he did not go home. Vs 11. Look at Uriah's answer. This is a black and white contrast between the lying schemer David and the honorable, upright Uriah. Remember David is an Israelite. He knows God's law. Uriah is a Hittite. He is a foreigner yet he is the honorable one.

If you want to foil the plans of the enemy just do the right thing.

David keeps Uriah there for two more days, gets him drunk but he never goes home. What will David do?

2 Samuel 11:14-15. 14 In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it by the hand of Uriah. 15 In the letter he wrote, “Set Uriah in the forefront of the hardest fighting, and then draw back from him, that he may be struck down, and die.” (2 Samuel 11:14-15, ESV)

There is just too much here to wrap my mind around.

What is going on in David's head? How can he justify killing an loyal honorable man? And then to add insult to injury David has Uriah deliver his death sentence to Joab.

I cannot fathom how David got from Adultery to Murder. My first reaction is that I would never do anything like that. But here's the rub. Yes I could and so could you. As we travel down the road of sin our moral compass loses direction and before long we can entertain thoughts that previously would be unthinkable.

Never underestimate the lengths we can go to justify our sin!

2 Samuel 11:16-17. 16 And as Joab was besieging the city, he assigned Uriah to the place where he knew there were valiant men. 17 And the men of the city came out and fought with Joab, and some of the servants of David among the people fell. Uriah the Hittite also died (2 Samuel 11:16-17, ESV)

Joab carries out David's wishes. What do you think was going on in Joab's head. How would you have handled a death sentence like this against one of arguably, your best soldiers? What do you do when your boss asks you to do something wrong? Have you ever been in such a situation?

2 Samuel 11:18-21. 18 Then Joab sent and told David all the news about the fighting. 19 And he instructed the messenger, “When you have finished telling all the news about the fighting to the king, 20 then, if the king's anger rises, and if he says to you, ‘Why did you go so near the city to fight? Did you not know that they would shoot from the wall? 21 Who killed Abimelech the son of Jerubbesheth? Did not a woman cast an upper millstone on him from the wall, so that he died at Thebez? Why did you go so near the wall?’ then you shall say, ‘Your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.’ ” (2 Samuel 11:18-21, ESV)

Joab coaches the messenger to the point that he anticipates all the questions that David may ask. And then at the end he tells the messenger to say "Uriah the Hittite is dead also." That is all David wanted to know. We don't know if Joab understood the situation but he knows what to do and he did it. Uriah is dead.

2 Samuel 11:22-25. 22 So the messenger went and came and told David all that Joab had sent him to tell. 23 The messenger said to David, "The men gained an advantage over us and came out against us in the field, but we drove them back to the entrance of the gate. 24 Then the archers shot at your servants from the wall. Some of the king's servants are dead, and your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also." 25 David said to the messenger, "Thus shall you say to Joab, 'Do not let this matter displease you, for the sword devours now one and now another. Strengthen your attack against the city and overthrow it.' And encourage him." (2 Samuel 11:22-25, ESV)

Now we get the story from the messenger's perspective. He tells the story of the battle and ends with the death of Uriah the Hittite. Look at David's response. He tells to messenger to take a message to Joab. He tells Joab to not let this matter displease you. David has to have Joab on his side. He is saying in a round about way that Uriah's death needed to happen and people die in war and you never know who it will be. He then tells Joab to keep on with the battle and win. In general he encourages Joab.

[Our sin doesn't just affect us it strains our relationship with our friends and those around us.](#)

2 Samuel 11:26-27. 26 When the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she lamented over her husband. 27 And when the mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord. (2 Samuel 11:26-27, ESV)

Notice that the author calls her the wife of Uriah. He doesn't use Bathsheba. **Why did he do that?** Bathsheba goes through the obligatory mourning and then David sends for her and she marries David and the child conceived in sin is born. For all practical purposes it looks like David has gotten away with the whole thing. David has broken 7 of the 10 commandments. 1 (no other Gods), 3 (taking the name of the Lord in vain), 6 (murder), 7 (adultery), 8 (stealing), 9 (lying), 10 (coveting). We are tempted to think that David go away with it. But we have one last but in the story. "But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord" [Be assured your sin will be exposed. Numbers 32:23. You have sinned against the Lord, and be sure your sin will find you out.](#)

2 Samuel 12:1. And the Lord sent Nathan to David. He came to him and said to him, "There were two men in a certain city, the one rich and the other poor. (2 Samuel 12:1, ESV)

**Who is Nathan?** We were introduced to Nathan the prophet in 2 Sam 7:2-17, when David desired to build a temple for the Lord and the word of the Lord came to Nathan to tell David that he was not to build the temple for the Lord but his son would. Nathan also shows up later in David's life when there is strife between the son's of David as to who will succeed him. Nathan in all that is recorded is a true prophet of God and a good friend to David.

The Lord sends Nathan. David's sin with Bathsheba was known among the palace. Understandably, Nathan doesn't go and confront David till the Lord tells him to.

Notice how Nathan begins his presentation. This is in the form of a parable. This is very effective as Nathan doesn't come out and accuse David directly. Instead, by use of this parable David will pronounce judgement on himself.

2 Samuel 12:2-4 2 The rich man had very many flocks and herds, 3 but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. And he brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children. It used to eat of his morsel and drink from his cup and lie in his arms, and it was like a daughter to him. 4 Now there came a traveler to the rich man, and he was unwilling to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the guest who had come to him, but he took the poor man's lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him." (2 Samuel 12:2-4, ESV)

**Who is the rich man? Who is the poor man? Who is the little ewe lamb? What was the relationship between the poor man and the ewe lamb? What is the injustice that occurs? Does this action by the rich man illicit a gut reaction by you? Why?**

[Stories are a great way to convey truth and righteousness.](#)

**Do you share your story with others? We all have stories. If you don't know all the right verses to share the Gospel share your story. It is personal and powerful.**

2 Samuel 12:5-6 5 Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man, and he said to Nathan, "As the Lord lives, the man who has done this deserves to die, 6 and he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity." (2 Samuel 12:5-6, ESV)

**What is the penalty for stealing a sheep?** Exodus 22:1. "If a man steals an ox or a sheep, and kills it or sells it, he shall repay five oxen for an ox, and four sheep for a sheep. So David is well acquainted with the law on stealing a sheep.

**What is the penalty for adultery?** Leviticus 20:10. 10 "If a man commits adultery with the wife of his neighbor, both the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death. David is willing to apply the law to this rich man but can't see his own sin which has a harsher penalty.

2 Samuel 12:7a. Nathan said to David, "You are the man! (2 Samuel 12:7, ESV). Never were there more direct, convicting, and pointed four words ever spoken. I can imagine deathly silence after the pronouncement. David is in shock at the audacity of Nathan and then the truth slowly dawns on David and he realizes the gravity of his sin.

**Do you have a Nathan in your life who loves you so much that they will confront you with sin?**  
**We all need Nathans in our lives to tell us the truth.**

2 Samuel 12:7b-9. Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you out of the hand of Saul. 8 And I gave you your master's house and your master's wives into your arms and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah. And if this were too little, I would add to you as much more. 9 Why have you despised the word of the Lord, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and have taken his wife to be your wife and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. (2 Samuel 12:7-9, ESV)

Nathan follows with the message relayed to him from God. **How does God begin?** He reminds David of His goodness to David through the years. God made him king over Israel even though he was the least in his family. He delivered him from Saul multiple times. God gave David Saul's house and his wives and harem. Taking the wives symbolizes the taking of the throne. And then to top it off God says He would add much more.

Then God hits hard "Why have you despised the word of the Lord...?"

**When we sin we are despising the word of the Lord. We are in effect saying I know best Lord, not You.**

The Lord lays out David's sin in no uncertain terms. He struck down Uriah with the sword, He has taken Bathsheba to be his wife. He is a murderer and adulterer. This was not an "indiscretion".

**Do you see your sin in no uncertain terms? There is no justification of sin.**

**When we confess our sin to God we need to be brutally honest with God.**

2 Samuel 12:10. Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.' (2 Samuel 12:10, ESV)

God lays out the first of 4 consequences of David's sin. The sword shall never depart from your house. There will be internal strife among his family. As we follow the life of David we will see this played out.

**In our culture there is a sense that when you say "I'm sorry" not only is forgiveness expected but there should be no consequences. Where do you see this played out?**

**God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins but the consequences of our sin will follow us.** We somehow think that the consequences of sin should disappear. Not true.

2 Samuel 12:11a. Thus says the Lord, 'Behold, I will raise up evil against you out of your own house. (2 Samuel 12:11, ESV). This second consequence is fulfilled in his son Absalom.

2 Samuel 12:11b-12. And I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun. 12 For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel and before the sun.' " (2 Samuel 12:11-12, ESV). David's sin with Bathsheba was done secret but this third consequence will be done out in the open before all Israel. Again fulfilled in his son Absalom.

2 Samuel 12:13a David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord." (2 Samuel 12:13, ESV)

There is nothing else to be said. To delve deeper into David's thought process we will look at Ps 51 and 32

Ps 51. Note the title: To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba. ([Psalm 51:title](#), ESV). This was probably added later but the message is appropriate for all seeking forgiveness.

Ps 51:1. Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy  
blot out my transgressions. (Psalm 51:1, ESV)

Our first reaction to sin is trying to hide it, but eventually we are confronted with our utter hopelessness

When you totally recognize your sin for what it is, what is David's reaction and what should be ours?

What is Mercy?

According to the Psalm where does mercy emanate?

How does God's steadfast love encourage us, sustain us and give us hope?

What does the word abundant mean to you?

When David pleads to "blot out my transgressions" what other scripture comes to mind? (Ps. 103:12, Jeremiah 31:34, Isaiah 43:25, Hebrews 10:14-18)

If God forgets our sins should we also forget sins against us?

If God is omniscient how can He forget our sins?

God chooses not to remember our sins. In our human relationships when someone sins against us should we forget it? Can we forget it? Can we choose not to dwell on sins against us?

Ps 51:2. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin! (Psalm 51:2, ESV)

Who does the washing?

How is that accomplished now?

This fact of our faith, that Jesus through his blood shed on the cross, washes our sins away is the fact that separates Christianity from all other religions.. Every other way to God (which really is no way) emphasizes what we have to do to earn our way to heaven. In Islam you have 5 pillars that you have to do and then eternal life is only if God wills, Buddhists must follow his teachings, Hindus believe that through multiple reincarnations you rise to a God like state

Ps 51:3. For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is ever before me. (Psalm 51:3, ESV)

The primary step in forgiveness is knowing your sin. Not knowing about your sin, owning it, seeing it at work in your life and thoughts and actions and desires. It is ever before you.

Is your sin ever before you?

Ps 51:4. Against you, you only, have I sinned  
and done what is evil in your sight,  
so that you may be justified in your words  
and blameless in your judgment. (Psalm 51:4, ESV)

Does David mean that he didn't sin against Uriah or Bathsheba also?

What does he mean?

David's primary sin is against God. All sin is an affront to God's righteousness. David knows that he has sinned against others but the most important person that he has sinned against is God. David can seek forgiveness from others later. His sin is a sin against a Holy God.

Do we recognize that our sin is against God primarily?

The last part of this verse is to acknowledge that God judgment against sin is blameless. He has every right to punish as He has ordained and that is why David is grasping, pleading for God's mercy.

Ps 51:5. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,  
and in sin did my mother conceive me. (Psalm 51:5, ESV)

David recognizes that he is a sinner born into sin. Sin has corrupted every part of him from conception.

Do we see our sin endemic in our bodies. We are helpless against it. It is only by the Grace of God through His mercy that we can be redeemed from this bondage. (Romans 7:14-25)

Ps 51:6 Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,

and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart. (Psalm 51:6, ESV)

**What does God delight in?** That we truly know our innermost heart. We all know we lie to ourselves. We think we are doing something from good intentions but when we really examine our motives we have deceived ourselves. But God delights in hearts that are true. **But where do we attain true hearts?** David tells us in the next phrase. God teaches us in our secret heart. There is a pattern developing. **Who has mercy?** God. **Who blots out my transgressions?** God. **Who washes and cleanses?** God. **To whom have we sinned against?** God. **Who teaches us wisdom in our hearts?** God. It's all God. And as we continue we will see more that God does.

Ps 51:7. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. ([Psalm 51:7](#), ESV)

**Who purges?** God. **And what happens after the purging?** We are clean  
**Who washes?** Again and always it is God. And when he washes we are as white as snow.

Ps 51:8. Let me hear joy and gladness;  
let the bones that you have broken rejoice. (Psalm 51:8, ESV)

**When David asks to hear Joy and gladness what is the implication?** The implication is that when he was wallowing in sin he couldn't experience real joy and gladness.  
**Who broke his bones?** God did. God broke his bones during his time of sin so that they can now rejoice.

Ps 51:9. Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my iniquities. (Psalm 51:9, ESV)

When David asks that God hides his face from David's sins he is asking that God would choose not to see them anymore. **What does God look at instead of our sins?** He repeats his request from vs 1 to blot out his iniquities.

Ps 51:10-12. 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.  
11 Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.  
12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and uphold me with a willing spirit. (Psalm 51:10–12, ESV)

Once again, **who is creating the clean heart?** God. **Who is renewing the right spirit within me?** God. These are things we just cannot do on our own. David understands this personally. He has seen the depths of his sin and is wholly dependent on God to make his heart clean. As are we. Though he utterly deserves it, he asks God not to cast him away from God's presence and to not take the Holy Spirit from me. **What about us? Do we long to be in the presence of God? Who might David be thinking about when he asks God not to take away the Holy Spirit?** David has lost his joy. His spirit is just going through the motions. Once again he realizes that joy in life comes from God. **We all have been there at one time or another where we are just going through the motions, there is no joy, there is no purpose or reason. We are the walking dead. If we ask, God will restore the joy and give you a willing spirit.**

Ps 51:13. Then I will teach transgressors your ways,  
and sinners will return to you. (Psalm 51:13, ESV)

When we fall, the all knowing, all wise, all powerful God will use the lessons we have learned to teach, instruct and encourage others. Because David sent through this fall with Bathsheba, he can then teach us how to repent from great sin and look at the result - "Sinners will return to you." Nothing is wasted in God's economy **Has God taken you through an brought you out the other side of a sin failure? Have you shared that with someone else?**

Ps 51:14-15. 14 Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God,  
O God of my salvation,

and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.  
15 O •Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth will declare your praise. (Psalm 51:14–15, ESV)

The result of forgiveness is praise to the God who forgives. Whether by words or song or actions. We who have experienced the forgiveness of God should be instruments of praise.  
Have you praised God for what He has done in your life? Do others know what He has done. If not then tell people your story

Ps 51:16-17. 16 For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it;  
you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.  
17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. (Psalm 51:16–17, ESV)

What does God not want? What might be a sacrifice in our age that we may try to give God?  
What is the appropriate sacrifice to God. What is a broken and contrite heart? What is the opposite of a broken and contrite heart?

Ps 51:18-19. 18 Do good to •Zion in your good pleasure;  
build up the walls of Jerusalem;  
19 then will you delight in right sacrifices,  
in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings;  
then bulls will be offered on your altar. (Psalm 51:18–19, ESV)

David ends with a petition for the country. A country that he is king of and has failed miserably in his reign. He is asking for God to do what David cannot. Then the country can worship the Lord in right sacrifices.  
As kings of our own households, do we ask God to restore righteousness in our homes especially when we have failed?

Ps 32:1-2. 1 Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,  
whose sin is covered.  
2 Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity,  
and in whose spirit there is no deceit. (Psalm 32:1–2, ESV)

“Blessed” — happy. We all seek happiness. It is a universal truth. It is enshrined in the preamble to the Declaration of Independence. So how do we attain this state of being? According to these verses, the surety that our sins are forgiven, the knowledge that our sin is covered, the assurance that the Lord has nothing against us and a spirit who has no deceit, a heart that is truthful, pure, at peace will be happy.  
Have you sought happiness in sin? Did you find the happiness just out of your grasp or the happiness was fleeting?  
Sin is the ultimate happiness killer. Whether you seek happiness in sin or you seek happiness in a good thing, you will never find what you seek.

John Piper and “Desiring God”. There is a common belief that true worship requires self denial and a suppression of our own desires for happiness. In other words, “You can’t follow God and be happy”. But the truth is: when we treasure God in Jesus Christ above all else then our joy and happiness is found in the only thing, God, which will not **disappoint** and is worth of our worship.

Ps 32:3-4. 3 For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away  
through my groaning all day long.  
4 For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;  
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah (Psalm 32:3–4, ESV)  
As we continue in life with unrepentant sin in our hearts, it affects our souls. How does David describe this change? Did David’s bones literally waste away? Was the Lord’s hand really pushing heavily on David? So is there anything we can take away from these verses?  
Unrepentant sin (David kept silent) can cause detrimental physical changes.

Have you ever felt the heaviness of sin on your life?

Ps 32:5. I acknowledged my sin to you,  
and I did not cover my iniquity;  
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,"  
and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah (Psalm 32:5, ESV)

The turning point, repentance, acknowledging our sin, confession of transgressions **To whom? Remember it is against God primarily whom we sin against when we sin. And what is the result of confession and repentance?**

Never forget 1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from **all** unrighteousness." Learn from David. Don't spiral down in your sin, wake up, confess and be forgiven.

Ps 32:6-7. 6 Therefore let everyone who is godly  
offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found;  
surely in the rush of great waters,  
they shall not reach him.  
7 You are a hiding place for me;  
you preserve me from trouble;  
you surround me with shouts of deliverance. Selah (Psalm 32:6-7, ESV)

**When you seek refuge in God what are the benefits?** 1 You find God. You find Him though He was always right there. 2. We are hidden in God, **What does that mean to you, to be hidden in God?** 3. We are preserved from trouble. **Have you ever repented and then your life was better?** 4. We are surrounded with shouts of deliverance. **Remember that this is poetry, what does this bring to mind?**

Ps 32:8-11. 8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;  
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.  
9 Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding,  
which must be curbed with bit and bridle,  
or it will not stay near you.  
10 Many are the sorrows of the wicked,  
but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the Lord.  
11 Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O righteous,  
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart! (Psalm 32:8-11, ESV)

David ends like he does in Ps 51. He seeks to teach others from the experience he has had. He implores that you learn from what he learned and to not be like a horse or mule that can't understand. We are to seek understanding of ourselves and our need for repentance and the subsequent forgiveness. **The results of which are? Vs 10 and 11.** Gods love, gladness, joy, righteousness, an upright heart.  
**Don't be a mule. Learn from your experience and the experience of others. Share with others what God has taught you in your life.**

Back to 2 Samuel. We left David with him confessing "I have sinned against the Lord."  
2 Samuel 12:13b-15. And Nathan said to David, "The Lord also has put away your sin; you shall not die.  
14 Nevertheless, because by this deed you have utterly scorned the Lord, the child who is born to you shall die." 15 Then Nathan went to his house. (2 Samuel 12:13-15, ESV)

**What is the penalty for murder and adultery?** David does not have to pay the legal requirements of the law. The legal sentence is death. The Lord commutes that sentence "Nevertheless". A fancy of way of saying "but". In addition to the consequences that Nathan had listed in verses 10-12, The child shall die.  
**Our sins will impact others through no fault of their own.**  
**Have you ever been impacted by the sin of another? Has your sin ever impacted others?**

The section ends with the matter of fact sentence: Then Nathan went to his house. **Why did the author end this section this way?** Notice it doesn't say Nathan, with a heavy heart or any other description. The writer minimizes the role of Nathan. By simply saying Nathan went home, we, the readers are left contemplating David's state of mind. We are focused on David not Nathan, which is what we should be doing.

2 Samuel 12:15b. And the Lord afflicted the child that Uriah's wife bore to David, and he became sick. (2 Samuel 12:15, ESV)

"The Lord afflicted the child". Without looking at the context how do this phrase sound? How does the context change things?

Notice how the author describes Bathsheba - Uriah's wife. Even though David has married her. Why do you think that is?

The child becomes sick (from the Lord). Question: is all sickness from the Lord?

With a sovereign, omnipotent, all knowing, ever present God: all things are from Him. Maybe not directly but He ordains it and has purpose in all things. Romans 8:28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28, ESV)

Isaiah 55:8-9 8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord.

9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. (Isaiah 55:8-9, ESV)

2 Samuel 12:16-17. 16 David therefore sought God on behalf of the child. And David fasted and went in and lay all night on the ground. 17 And the elders of his house stood beside him, to raise him from the ground, but he would not, nor did he eat food with them. (2 Samuel 12:16-17, ESV)

Even though David know's what God's plan is for this child, David pleads to God on behalf of the child. Is this appropriate? David not only prays with his mind, spirit and heart, he also prays with his body by fasting and sleeping on the ground.

We are to bring all our cares to the Lord. He delights in our prayers for when we pray we are honoring God above all else. He inhabits the prayers of His people.

We are creatures of body and spirit. What we do in the body affects our spirit and visa versa. David prayed with both his mind spirit and body. Have you ever seen that at work in your life?

David is single minded in his petition to the Lord. He would not let elders change his mind. We are so distracted by our fast paced lives. Do you ever yearn to be single minded in your devotion to the Lord? What is preventing you?

Single mindedness is not just doing one thing. (Like praying all day). It is doing your life with one purpose behind it all - God's Glory. 1 Corinthians 10:31. "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it for the glory of God. Matt 5:16. "In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

2 Samuel 12:18-23. 18 On the seventh day the child died. And the servants of David were afraid to tell him that the child was dead, for they said, "Behold, while the child was yet alive, we spoke to him, and he did not listen to us. How then can we say to him the child is dead? He may do himself some harm." 19 But when David saw that his servants were whispering together, David understood that the child was dead. And David said to his servants, "Is the child dead?" They said, "He is dead." 20 Then David arose from the earth and washed and anointed himself and changed his clothes. And he went into the house of the Lord and worshiped. He then went to his own house. And when he asked, they set food before him, and he ate. 21 Then his servants said to him, "What is this thing that you have done? You fasted and wept for the child while he was alive; but when the child died, you arose and ate food." 22 He said, "While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept, for I said, 'Who knows whether the Lord will be gracious to me, that the child may live?' 23 But now he is dead. Why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he will not return to me." (2 Samuel 12:18-23, ESV)

On the 7th day the child dies. Is there any significance in the number 7 here? The servants are afraid to tell David. Is this a reasonable fear? But David notices the hushed conversations and understands that the child had died. He asks and they tell him the truth. Look at David response. He gets up off the ground, washes, changes his clothes then went to "church" and worshipped. After that he goes home and asks for food and eats. A complete turn around. How can this be? Why the change? Fortunately we get the answer from David's own mouth, David fasted and wept in hopes that the Lord would be gracious and let the child live. But when he died David knew that the Lord's decision was final. Fasting and weeping would not bring him back again.

David gives a concrete example of knowing and living out the providence of God in the loss of a loved one. We beseech, plead and pray for our concerns but when the die is cast we are to know in our inmost being that God is doing what is right and good and we walk in that. That is not to say that we don't grieve our loss but there is no anger toward the God who holds all things together. We don't shake our fists or question God's methods. Instead by faith we trust that God is good and it is for the best.

What do you think of the last sentence? "I shall go to him, but he will not return to me."

2 Samuel 12:24-25. 24 Then David comforted his wife, Bathsheba, and went in to her and lay with her, and she bore a son, and he called his name Solomon. And the Lord loved him 25 and sent a message by Nathan the prophet. So he called his name Jedidiah, because of the Lord. (2 Samuel 12:24-25, ESV)

I call this section "God's redemption at work"

David comforts his wife Bathsheba. (Possibly with the thought from the last sentence in vs 23). Notice now she is David's wife (not Uriah's as in vs 15b). It is as if the death of the child (after 7 days) atones for David's adultery.

There are consequences to our sins that once experienced, allow us to move forward in life. Have you seen this to be true in your life?

Bathsheba has a son and calls his name Solomon. This is why God is God and not us. Would you have ever chosen the next King after David to have come from this fiasco of a relationship? God's ways are so much higher than ours. We cannot fathom the depths of His wisdom and understanding.

David names his son Solomon and immediately in the next sentence we see "And the Lord loved him". Solomon is the only person in the OT of which it is said that the Lord (Yahweh) loved him.

The Lord loves those He chooses. Romans 8:33. Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Ephesians 1:4. For he chose us in him before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. 2 Thess 2:13. "But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters loved by the Lord, because God chose you as first fruits..." John 15:16. "You did not choose me, but I chose you...." Colossians 3:12. "Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved...." 1 Thessalonians 1:4. "For we know brother and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you..."

The Lord sends a message to David by way of Nathan that Solomon should be called Jedidiah. (Beloved of Yahweh).

We also will be given a new name by God. Revelation 2:17b. "To the one who conquers (overcomes), I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it."

2 Samuel 12:26-31. 26 Now Joab fought against Rabbah of the Ammonites and took the royal city. 27 And Joab sent messengers to David and said, "I have fought against Rabbah; moreover, I have taken the city of waters. 28 Now then gather the rest of the people together and encamp against the city and take it, lest I take the city and it be called by my name." 29 So David gathered all the people together and went to Rabbah and fought against it and took it. 30 And he took the crown of their king from his head. The weight of it was a talent of gold, and in it was a precious stone, and it was placed on David's head. And he brought out the spoil of the city, a very great amount. 31 And he brought out the people who were in it and set them to labor with saws and iron picks and iron axes and made them toil at the brick kilns. And thus he did to all the cities of the Ammonites. Then David and all the people returned to Jerusalem. (2 Samuel 12:26-31, ESV)

The author returns to the war. They are still fighting the Ammonites at Rabbah. But now things are getting close to the end. Joab sends messengers to David that he has captured the water supply. Without water the end is near. Joab's reason for calling for David to come is stated: "lest I take the city and it be called by my name."

Joab knew that the glory should go to David. We should know that the Glory in our lives should go to God. The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.

So David takes the city, the crown from the king's head, and all the spoil from the city. David sets the people to labor as slaves. Then David and all the people return to Jerusalem. This takes us full circle. This whole episode in David's life started in Jerusalem when he didn't go off to war and ends when He returns from war to Jerusalem.

2 Samuel 13:1. Now Absalom, David's son, had a beautiful sister, whose name was Tamar. And after a time Amnon, David's son, loved her. (2 Samuel 13:1, ESV)

Cast of Characters: Absalom - David's third son, born to Maacah, daughter of king Talmud of Geshur, Absalom was known for his good looks. There is a second born son to David Chileab, also known as Daniel 1 Chr. 3:2 but he seems to have died at some point.

Tamar - Sister to Absalom, beautiful, a virgin.

Amnon - David's oldest son, apparent heir to the throne, he loves Tamar, *Is this love, or lust?*

2 Samuel 13:2. And Amnon was so tormented that he made himself ill because of his sister Tamar, for she was a virgin, and it seemed impossible to Amnon to do anything to her. (2 Samuel 13:2, ESV)

Back to the Love Lust question: From the narrative 2 reasons to fall on the side of Lust.

1. Amnon tormented himself to the point of illness. Lust is self centered, it does not consider the other.
2. Amnon desired to do something to her". Again, this reeks of sexual lust, it is his wants and desires

*What is the difference between love and lust?*

*In relationships with the fairer sex we must be brutally honest with ourselves. Love seeks the best for the other, Lust fulfills our own wants and needs.*

2 Samuel 13:3-5 3 But Amnon had a friend, whose name was Jonadab, the son of Shimeah, David's brother. And Jonadab was a very crafty man. 4 And he said to him, "O son of the king, why are you so haggard morning after morning? Will you not tell me?" Amnon said to him, "I love Tamar, my brother Absalom's sister." 5 Jonadab said to him, "Lie down on your bed and pretend to be ill. And when your father comes to see you, say to him, 'Let my sister Tamar come and give me bread to eat, and prepare the food in my sight, that I may see it and eat it from her hand.' " (2 Samuel 13:3-5, ESV)

The scheme: Amnon has a friend

*Choose your friends wisely. You will be influenced by those you hang out with.*

new character: Jonadab. Son of David's brother Shimeah (the third born of Jesse). This makes Amnon and Jonadab cousins. Jonadab is described as crafty. Not a good adjective to be associated with. Crafty implies not being honest and upright, devious.

Jonadab notices that Amnon is routinely out of sorts. He asks why and Amnon tells him of his love (lust) for Tamar his half sister. Jonadab quickly concocts a scheme. He tells Amnon to feign sickness and when David his father comes tell him you would like Tamar to feed you and prepare the meal in front of you. *Does this scheming remind you of a previous plan of David's that ended disastrously? What should Amnon have done in this situation?*

*Scheming and subterfuge will always eventually end badly. Live by the truth.*

2 Samuel 13:6-7 6 So Amnon lay down and pretended to be ill. And when the king came to see him, Amnon said to the king, "Please let my sister Tamar come and make a couple of cakes in my sight, that I may eat from her hand."

7 Then David sent home to Tamar, saying, "Go to your brother Amnon's house and prepare food for him." (2 Samuel 13:6-7, ESV)

So Amnon feigns sickness and lies to the King his father and David sends word for Tamar to visit Amnon and make food for him.

You would have hoped that David's sons would learn good lessons from David's life. Lessons like trusting the Lord, Or Praising God with song and instruments. But instead they learned the bad lessons from David. Lying, deceiving, coveting.

*We must remember that we will teach our children more about life from our actions than from our words.*

2 Samuel 13:8-11. 8 So Tamar went to her brother Amnon's house, where he was lying down. And she took dough and kneaded it and made cakes in his sight and baked the cakes. 9 And she took the pan and emptied it out before him, but he refused to eat. And Amnon said, "Send out everyone from me." So everyone went out from him. 10 Then Amnon said to Tamar, "Bring the food into the chamber, that I may eat from your hand." And Tamar took the cakes she had made and brought them into the chamber to Amnon her brother. 11 But

when she brought them near him to eat, he took hold of her and said to her, "Come, lie with me, my sister." (2 Samuel 13:8–11, ESV)

What are your thoughts about Amnon's plan and execution? As you consider this plan, what is it most assuredly doing in the mind of Amnon? This plan is fueling the fantasy in his mind. It builds as he watches the preparation and boils over when she empties the cakes out before him. This is when he sends everyone out of the room and beckons Tamar into his chamber to feed him. And then he completes the fantasy by expressing his true desire (lust) for her.

Is sexual fantasy a problem for men in general? Why do men struggle with sexual fantasy more than women? How are we to deal with disordered sexual thoughts? I used the word disordered because God has given us the ordered fulfillment of sexual desire. One man, one woman, in the covenant of marriage (representing the mystery of Christ with the church) for life. That is ordered sexuality. Disordered runs the gamut from pornography, to prostitution, to serial one night stands, to homosexuality, to pedophilia, to the now popular polyamory. The sexual fantasy begins in the mind but then can grow as it did with Amnon, to fruition. So how do we deal with disordered sexual desire as men?

Sexual fantasies and disordered desires are best dealt with early and with a healthy dose of reality, critical inspection, and running the other way. (Flee sexual immorality. 1 Corinthians 6:18)

2 Samuel 13:12–14. 12 She answered him, "No, my brother, do not violate me, for such a thing is not done in Israel; do not do this outrageous thing. 13 As for me, where could I carry my shame? And as for you, you would be as one of the outrageous fools in Israel. Now therefore, please speak to the king, for he will not withhold me from you." 14 But he would not listen to her, and being stronger than she, he violated her and lay with her. (2 Samuel 13:12–14, ESV)

Tamar's response: 1. She appeals to known morality. Incest and rape are written in the law. Gen 34:7. Jacob's sons when their sister, Dinah, was raped and violated by Shechem. "Such a thing must not be done". Lev 18:9. "You shall not uncover the nakedness of your sister, your father's daughter or your mother's daughter, whether brought up in the family or in another home.

2. She appeals to their reputation and shame. For Tamar she would carry the shame of the encounter. For Amnon, he would be considered a fool.

3. Finally she proposes a questionable way forward, done in desperation, she pleads for Amnon to speak to the King David for permission to marry her. This is questionable in that the law would forbid it. So Tamar is grasping at straws. The key take away is that in Amnon's lustful fantasy, he won't listen to any reason.

When we slip from reality to fantasy we transform from wise to foolish. Can you think of a recent issue that is an example of this truth?

Amnon violates his half sister because he was stronger.

Strength does not correlate with righteousness. In our post modern society righteousness is fluid. You determine your own righteousness. The only thing that matters is power. But as Christians we are to just do the right thing, the results are none of our business (T.S. Eliot paraphrased)

Did Amnon know in his mind the consequences that would result from his actions? If he did why did he go through with it? His passions overruled his knowledge. CS Lewis has a short essay called "Men without Chests". In it he puts forth the argument that our minds are natural man, logical, reasonable. Our stomachs are our passions, our desires, our urges. And our chests are the seat of virtue, morals, discernment. These morals and virtues do not come from us. They are God given and they are meant to rule between the mind and the stomach. A thought that does not conform to righteousness is to be banished. A desire that is not ordered by virtue and morality must be controlled and tamed. Lewis shows, that in our modern culture, we are producing men without chests. We are cultivating men who are slaves to any questionable thought or disordered passion. Men of GCT. Build up your chests!!

2 Samuel 13:15. 15–19 Then Amnon hated her with very great hatred, so that the hatred with which he hated her was greater than the love with which he had loved her. And Amnon said to her, "Get up! Go!" 16 But she said to him, "No, my brother, for this wrong in sending me away is greater than the other that you did to me." But he would not listen to her. 17 He called the young man who served him and said, "Put this woman out of my presence and bolt the door after her." 18 Now she was wearing a long robe with sleeves, for thus were the virgin daughters of the king dressed. So his servant put her out and bolted the door after her. 19 And Tamar

put ashes on her head and tore the long robe that she wore. And she laid her hand on her head and went away, crying aloud as she went. (2 Samuel 13:15–19, ESV)

Look at what the Bible says, "Amnon hated her with very great hatred, so that the hatred with which he hated her was greater than the love with which he had loved her."

What a change. This boggles the mind, or does it? When the reality of what he had just done hit Amnon, it hit hard. The fantasy fell completely apart. He was forced to rape his half sister to satisfy his lust. And now the reality sets in and he is forced to deal with it. He deals with it by making it worse. He forcefully sends Tamar away. The Law required Amnon to marry Tamar after defiling her Deut 22:28-29

When our lives fall apart due to our own sin and wrong thinking we often make it worse in trying to hide it or ignore it.

What would have been a better response by Amnon?

We need to take a minute and talk about "love". In English we have one word for love. We love pizza, our spouse, God, the Wolfpack all with the same word. Yet what we mean is different. The Greeks on the other hand had 4 words for love. Storge - affection, Phileo - friendship, Eros - romantic desire, and finally the greatest love Agape. (Agape is seeking the best for the other person, It is self sacrificing. It is God's love to us expressed in the death of Jesus for us. In times gone by it was translated Charity because it gave.) When the Bible says that Amnon loved Tamar it was a dysfunctional type of Eros love, not the love that God proclaims to us in Ephesians that husbands should love their wives as Christ loved the Church and gave himself up for her. Is this the love that we have for our spouses?

"He called for the young man who served him and said, "Put this woman out of my presence and bolt the door after her." Amnon thinks that by bolting the door after her, he is somehow separating himself from the sin he had just committed.

Tamar leaves crying, puts ashes on her head, tears her robe. Anybody with eyes can see she is in distress.

2 Samuel 13:20-22. 20 And her brother Absalom said to her, "Has Amnon your brother been with you? Now hold your peace, my sister. He is your brother; do not take this to heart." So Tamar lived, a desolate woman, in her brother Absalom's house. 21 When King David heard of all these things, he was very angry. 22 But Absalom spoke to Amnon neither good nor bad, for Absalom hated Amnon, because he had violated his sister Tamar. (2 Samuel 13:20–22, ESV)

Absalom sees Tamar and immediately recognizes what has happened. Notice the gentle way he phrases the rape. "Has Amnon your brother been with you?" Absalom takes her to his own house and she lives a life of desolation. Single and without children.

David hears about all of these things. What is his reaction? What did he do about it? In a Dead Sea Scroll Greek OT it adds: "But he would not punish his son Amnon, because he loved him, since he was his first born.

Sin without consequences or punishment is a license for more sin. And because this was not dealt with by David the rest of the story unfolds. We must deal with sin in the lives of our children or it will lead to further sin.

Absalom keeps his hatred hidden deep in his heart. He spoke neither good nor bad to Amnon. What happens to a heart that keeps hatred concealed and fermenting?

Deep seeded hatred will eventually find a way to the surface and it won't be pretty. It will hurt the one carrying the hatred.

2 Samuel 13:23-29. 23 After two full years Absalom had sheepshearers at Baal-hazor, which is near Ephraim, and Absalom invited all the king's sons. 24 And Absalom came to the king and said, "Behold, your servant has sheepshearers. Please let the king and his servants go with your servant." 25 But the king said to Absalom, "No, my son, let us not all go, lest we be burdensome to you." He pressed him, but he would not go but gave him his blessing. 26 Then Absalom said, "If not, please let my brother Amnon go with us." And the king said to him, "Why should he go with you?" 27 But Absalom pressed him until he let Amnon and all the king's sons go with him. 28 Then Absalom commanded his servants, "Mark when Amnon's heart is merry with wine, and when I say to you, 'Strike Amnon,' then kill him. Do not fear; have I not commanded you? Be courageous and be valiant." 29 So the servants of Absalom did to Amnon as Absalom had commanded. Then all the king's sons arose, and each mounted his mule and fled. (2 Samuel 13:23–29, ESV)

Absalom's hatred of Amnon has percolated for two full years. The hatred has given birth to revenge and murder. Absalom hatches a plot to kill Amnon. He invites everyone to celebrate the shearing of his sheep. He asks David but he begs off. **Knowing what Absalom is planing what might be his reason to ask David specifically?** He then asks that Amnon be allowed to go. Without Amnon his plan fails. Absalom charges his servants to kill Amnon when he says the word. He encourages them not to fear, be courageous and valiant. **Why? What do you think about Absalom not doing the deed himself? What other motive probably had in killing Amnon?**

I am sorry but the last phrase just makes me smile "and each mounted his mule and fled." The mental picture is funny to me.

2 Samuel 13:30-33. 30 While they were on the way, news came to David, "Absalom has struck down all the king's sons, and not one of them is left." 31 Then the king arose and tore his garments and lay on the earth. And all his servants who were standing by tore their garments. 32 But Jonadab the son of Shimeah, David's brother, said, "Let not my lord suppose that they have killed all the young men, the king's sons, for Amnon alone is dead. For by the command of Absalom this has been determined from the day he violated his sister Tamar. 33 Now therefore let not my lord the king so take it to heart as to suppose that all the king's sons are dead, for Amnon alone is dead." (2 Samuel 13:30-33, ESV)

News comes to David...**Who brought the news? What were their motives? Were they eyewitnesses?**  
**Be very careful how you consume your news. Everyone has an agenda and truth is scarce commodity.**

The news David gets is overstated and only partly true. And the king reacts predictably to what he has heard. But Jonadab, remember him? He was the crafty counselor that came up with the scheme for Amnon to get Tamar. Jonadab sets the record straight. Only Amnon is dead for his defilement of Absalom's sister Tamar. **What are your thoughts on Jonadab? If he knew what was going down why didn't he tell the King? Why didn't David at least rebuke him for keeping that information?**  
**Keep as far away from Jonadabs in your life.**

Before we continue: **What led to Absalom killing his brother? How could this have prevented? Who was responsible for not dealing with this. What could, should David has done? Why didn't he?**

2 Samuel 13:34-39. 34 But Absalom fled. And the young man who kept the watch lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, many people were coming from the road behind him by the side of the mountain. 35 And Jonadab said to the king, "Behold, the king's sons have come; as your servant said, so it has come about." 36 And as soon as he had finished speaking, behold, the king's sons came and lifted up their voice and wept. And the king also and all his servants wept very bitterly. 37 But Absalom fled and went to Talmai the son of Ammihud, king of Geshur. And David mourned for his son day after day. 38 So Absalom fled and went to Geshur, and was there three years. 39 And the spirit of the king longed to go out to Absalom, because he was comforted about Amnon, since he was dead. (2 Samuel 13:34-39, ESV)

The men return and it is just as Jonadab had said. Absalom flees to Talmai, to his grandfather, his mother's father east of the Jordan River at Geshur. He stays there 3 years. During that time. David is "comforted", he is at peace with the death of Amnon but his spirit longs to see Absalom. **How do you feel about this longing to reunite with the murderer of your first born? Did David feel Amnon's death was justified? Does David recognize that this is what Nathan prophesied in judgement of David's sin with Bathsheba? Do we long to reunite with family members who have distanced themselves?**

2 Samuel 14:1-3. 14 Now Joab the son of Zeruiah knew that the king's heart went out to Absalom. 2 And Joab sent to Tekoa and brought from there a wise woman and said to her, "Pretend to be a mourner and put on mourning garments. Do not anoint yourself with oil, but behave like a woman who has been mourning many days for the dead. 3 Go to the king and speak thus to him." So Joab put the words in her mouth. (2 Samuel 14:1-3, ESV)

Joab, with all his faults, and he had many, knew his uncle David well. He knows that David longs for Absalom. So Joab hatches a plan. **In our study of First and Second Samuel how have the plans that are hatched by different individuals faired? Can we take anything away from that?**  
**Plans and schemes without Godly counsel (prayer, Biblical wisdom,) rarely end up well.**

So Joab enlists a woman from Tekoa. Tekoa is situated just south of Bethlehem on the edge of a wilderness. The prophet Amos is a sheep herder from Tekoa. **Why might Joab have chosen this woman?** Joab gives her a story to tell David and as we look at the story we will see connections to another recent story told to David.

2 Samuel 14:4-11. 4 When the woman of Tekoa came to the king, she fell on her face to the ground and paid homage and said, "Save me, O king." 5 And the king said to her, "What is your trouble?" She answered, "Alas, I am a widow; my husband is dead. 6 And your servant had two sons, and they quarreled with one another in the field. There was no one to separate them, and one struck the other and killed him. 7 And now the whole clan has risen against your servant, and they say, 'Give up the man who struck his brother, that we may put him to death for the life of his brother whom he killed.' And so they would destroy the heir also. Thus they would quench my coal that is left and leave to my husband neither name nor remnant on the face of the earth."

8 Then the king said to the woman, "Go to your house, and I will give orders concerning you." 9 And the woman of Tekoa said to the king, "On me be the guilt, my lord the king, and on my father's house; let the king and his throne be guiltless." 10 The king said, "If anyone says anything to you, bring him to me, and he shall never touch you again." 11 Then she said, "Please let the king invoke the Lord your God, that the avenger of blood kill no more, and my son be not destroyed." He said, "As the Lord lives, not one hair of your son shall fall to the ground." (2 Samuel 14:4-11, ESV)

Her story: She immediately identifies herself as a widow. **Why?** The nation of Israel was especially tasked with caring for widows and orphans.. Ex. 22:22-24. 22 You shall not mistreat any widow or fatherless child. 23 If you do mistreat them, and they cry out to me, I will surely hear their cry, 24 and my wrath will burn, and I will kill you with the sword, and your wives shall become widows and your children fatherless. This captures David's attention and draws him to her aid. **What happened between her two sons? What does the extended family want to do in this situation? Are they just in this demand? What is the widows plea to King David? What is her basis for being gracious to the surviving brother?**

**What is David's response? The woman requests that David invoke the Lord in this matter vs 11. Why? David replies "As the Lord lives"**

2 Samuel 14:12-17. 12 Then the woman said, "Please let your servant speak a word to my lord the king." He said, "Speak." 13 And the woman said, "Why then have you planned such a thing against the people of God? For in giving this decision the king convicts himself, inasmuch as the king does not bring his banished one home again. 14 We must all die; we are like water spilled on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again. But God will not take away life, and he devises means so that the banished one will not remain an outcast. 15 Now I have come to say this to my lord the king because the people have made me afraid, and your servant thought, 'I will speak to the king; it may be that the king will perform the request of his servant. 16 For the king will hear and deliver his servant from the hand of the man who would destroy me and my son together from the heritage of God.' 17 And your servant thought, 'The word of my lord the king will set me at rest,' for my lord the king is like the angel of God to discern good and evil. The Lord your God be with you!" (2 Samuel 14:12-17, ESV)

The woman now lays bare why she came with this request. In vs 13 she reminds the king that he has convicted himself when he invoked the oath.

2 Samuel 14:18-20. 18 Then the king answered the woman, "Do not hide from me anything I ask you." And the woman said, "Let my lord the king speak." 19 The king said, "Is the hand of Joab with you in all this?" The woman answered and said, "As surely as you live, my lord the king, one cannot turn to the right hand or to the left from anything that my lord the king has said. It was your servant Joab who commanded me; it was he who put all these words in the mouth of your servant. 20 In order to change the course of things your servant Joab did this. But my lord has wisdom like the wisdom of the angel of God to know all things that are on the earth." (2 Samuel 14:18-20, ESV)

David wants to know if Joab was behind it all. She, in a flowery response, comes out with the truth that it was Joab who commanded her in order that David would change his mind about Absalom. Notice she ends with an over the top compliment. She lied to the king. She was trying to save herself here

2 Samuel 14:21-24. 21 Then the king said to Joab, "Behold now, I grant this; go, bring back the young man Absalom." 22 And Joab fell on his face to the ground and paid homage and blessed the king. And Joab said, "Today your servant knows that I have found favor in your sight, my lord the king, in that the king has granted the request of his servant." 23 So Joab arose and went to Geshur and brought Absalom to Jerusalem. 24 And the king said, "Let him dwell apart in his own house; he is not to come into my presence." So Absalom lived apart in his own house and did not come into the king's presence. (2 Samuel 14:21-24, ESV)

The King relents and requests that Joab goes and brings back Absalom from exile. **Why? What was David's motivation?** See 13:39. Yet even though David "longed" for Absalom, he does not let him enter into his presence. **What is going on in David's mind and heart? What is so special about "his presence?"**

2 Samuel 14:25-27. 25 Now in all Israel there was no one so much to be praised for his handsome appearance as Absalom. From the sole of his foot to the crown of his head there was no blemish in him. 26 And when he cut the hair of his head (for at the end of every year he used to cut it; when it was heavy on him, he cut it), he weighed the hair of his head, two hundred shekels by the king's weight. 27 There were born to Absalom three sons, and one daughter whose name was Tamar. She was a beautiful woman. (2 Samuel 14:25-27, ESV)

Absalom is known for his good looks, his unblemished appearance and his hair. **What do you surmise about Absalom from this description of him? What do you want to be known by? What do you want on your tombstone?**

Just to tie up this paragraph, it says that he had three sons yet in 2 Samuel 18:18 it says that he had no sons at that point. Apparently they died young. Notice what he names his only daughter and how she is described.

2 Samuel 14:28-33. 28 So Absalom lived two full years in Jerusalem, without coming into the king's presence. 29 Then Absalom sent for Joab, to send him to the king, but Joab would not come to him. And he sent a second time, but Joab would not come. 30 Then he said to his servants, "See, Joab's field is next to mine, and he has barley there; go and set it on fire." So Absalom's servants set the field on fire. 31 Then Joab arose and went to Absalom at his house and said to him, "Why have your servants set my field on fire?" 32 Absalom answered Joab, "Behold, I sent word to you, 'Come here, that I may send you to the king, to ask, "Why have I come from Geshur? It would be better for me to be there still." Now therefore let me go into the presence of the king, and if there is guilt in me, let him put me to death.' " 33 Then Joab went to the king and told him, and he summoned Absalom. So he came to the king and bowed himself on his face to the ground before the king, and the king kissed Absalom. (2 Samuel 14:28-33, ESV)

**What do we learn about Absalom from these verses? Self centered?, Narcissistic? Must get his own way?, Speaks in hyperbole?, Poser? Two Face? Hypocrite? Do you think that David is seeing through Absalom?**

So All is well at the Palace. — Not at all

2 Samuel 15:1-6. 15 After this Absalom got himself a chariot and horses, and fifty men to run before him. 2 And Absalom used to rise early and stand beside the way of the gate. And when any man had a dispute to come before the king for judgment, Absalom would call to him and say, "From what city are you?" And when he said, "Your servant is of such and such a tribe in Israel," 3 Absalom would say to him, "See, your claims are good and right, but there is no man designated by the king to hear you." 4 Then Absalom would say, "Oh that I were judge in the land! Then every man with a dispute or cause might come to me, and I would give him justice." 5 And whenever a man came near to pay homage to him, he would put out his hand and take hold of him and kiss him. 6 Thus Absalom did to all of Israel who came to the king for judgment. So Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel.

Absalom gets a chariot and 50 men to run before him. **What is this?** See 1 Kings 1:5 5 "Now Adonijah the son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, "I will be king." And he prepared for himself chariots and horsemen, and fifty men to run before him." So this seems to be a thing for those seeking power and influence.

Absalom also positions himself by the gate of Jerusalem. **Why?** The gate of the city is where the elders met and business was arranged and deals were made. See Ruth 4:1. 4 "Now Boaz had gone up to the gate and

sat down there. And behold, the redeemer, of whom Boaz had spoken, came by. So Boaz said, "Turn aside, friend; sit down here." And he turned aside and sat down."

What can we learn about Absalom from his interactions with the people at the gate? Smoozer? Manipulator? Persuasive orator? Planner?

What did Absalom accomplish from his scheming? He won the hearts of the men of Israel.

Did David not know what was going on?

Absalom exhibits terrible qualities in a future king but can you find any good qualities?

Absalom knows what he wants (the kingship as he is now the next in line) and though he is on the path to usurp the kingdom from his father, he has great interpersonal skills. If his heart was true and noble he had the makings of a good king. Has anyone read Carnegie's "How to win friends and influence people"? You can use the skills contained in the book to manipulate people for your gain or if you are seeking to know and help others the skills will work for this goal also. It all depends on your motivation

It is not necessarily what you do, more importantly it is what is your heart when you do it!

2 Samuel 15:7-12. 7 And at the end of four years Absalom said to the king, "Please let me go and pay my vow, which I have vowed to the Lord, in Hebron. 8 For your servant vowed a vow while I lived at Geshur in Aram, saying, 'If the Lord will indeed bring me back to Jerusalem, then I will offer worship to the Lord.' " 9 The king said to him, "Go in peace." So he arose and went to Hebron. 10 But Absalom sent secret messengers throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, "As soon as you hear the sound of the trumpet, then say, 'Absalom is king at Hebron!'" 11 With Absalom went two hundred men from Jerusalem who were invited guests, and they went in their innocence and knew nothing. 12 And while Absalom was offering the sacrifices, he sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David's counselor, from his city Giloh. And the conspiracy grew strong, and the people with Absalom kept increasing.

Absalom begins his take over of the throne. vs 7-8. Notice how he uses religion and worship to mislead David while at the same time recruiting men to himself. What a duplicitous, narcissistic, backstabbing son!

How does Absalom get to this situation?

Absalom has a 3 pronged strategy

1. He sends secret messages throughout the kingdom in order to let the people outside of Jerusalem what is happening. (Remember there is no internet or mass communication.
2. He brings 200 men with him who have no idea what is going on. Why? To get them out of Jerusalem and they can be no help to David.
3. He recruits Ahithophel the Gilonite who is David's counselor. Ahithophel lends legitimacy to Absalom.

Who is Ahithophel and why would he betray his king?

We know that Ahithophel was the King's counselor. This is corroborated by 1 Chronicles 27:33. "Ahithophel was the King's counselor and Hushai the Archite was the King's friend."

In 2 Samuel 23:34 we learn something else about Ahithophel. He has a son. This verse is part of a list of David's 30 mighty men. "Eliam, the son of Ahithophel." So Ahithophel has a son who is considered one of David's mighty men. It is a great honor for Ahithophel and cements his role as advisor to the king.

But we must ask the question: who was Eliam?

2 Samuel 11:3 And David sent and inquired about the woman. Is this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?

So Bathsheba is the granddaughter of Ahithophel. And it doesn't take a rocket scientist to see how David, in Ahithophel's mind, destroyed he granddaughter's life. And when the opportunity presents itself, he betrayed David who he at one time honored.

Our sins affect lives all around us and the consequences will follow us for years after.

Back to Absalom's conspiracy. Though it is wrong on all sorts of levels, he has shown planning and thought into how he could carry out the take over of the Kingdom.

We can learn from David's triumphs as to what to emulate. And we can learn from David's failings what not to do. But there are also things we can learn from the enemy's planning. Life is to be planned with a heart that listens to the Lord.

2 Samuel 15:13-23. 13 And a messenger came to David, saying, "The hearts of the men of Israel have gone after Absalom." 14 Then David said to all his servants who were with him at Jerusalem, "Arise, and let us flee, or else there will be no escape for us from Absalom. Go quickly, lest he overtake us quickly and bring down ruin on us and strike the city with the edge of the sword." 15 And the king's servants said to the king,

“Behold, your servants are ready to do whatever my lord the king decides.” 16 So the king went out, and all his household after him. And the king left ten concubines to keep the house. 17 And the king went out, and all the people after him. And they halted at the last house.

18 And all his servants passed by him, and all the Cherethites, and all the Pelethites, and all the six hundred Gittites who had followed him from Gath, passed on before the king. 19 Then the king said to Ittai the Gittite, “Why do you also go with us? Go back and stay with the king, for you are a foreigner and also an exile from your home. 20 You came only yesterday, and shall I today make you wander about with us, since I go I know not where? Go back and take your brothers with you, and may the Lord show steadfast love and faithfulness to you.” 21 But Ittai answered the king, “As the Lord lives, and as my lord the king lives, wherever my lord the king shall be, whether for death or for life, there also will your servant be.” 22 And David said to Ittai, “Go then, pass on.” So Ittai the Gittite passed on with all his men and all the little ones who were with him. 23 And all the land wept aloud as all the people passed by, and the king crossed the brook Kidron, and all the people passed on toward the wilderness.

David hears the news of Absalom’s uprising. In order to protect the inhabitants of Jerusalem, he makes the call to flee the city.

David’s motivation to leave is based on his call as king to protect those under him. We are kings of our homes. We are not to make decisions that would put our family in danger. We always put our families above ourselves.

He is leaving the confines of a city to where? Why might David seek refuge in the wilderness? Do you have a place where you go to converse with God, a place where you have met with him before? So king David leaves with all his servants and his household. Who do you think would be considered his household? Why would he leave with them? David leads them out and he halts at the last house and everyone passes by him. It reminds me of a military parade where the troops pass past the commanding officer or a captain being the last to leave a sinking ship. Who does David leave behind? Remember this as it will play out later. So everyone passed by David. Who are the Cherethites and Pelethites? They were mentioned earlier in this book. They are David’s personal body guard and led by Benaiah one of David’s mighty men. His deeds are listed in 2 Samuel 23:20-23. Then the 600 Gittites who had followed David from Gath. In 1 Samuel David flees Saul and the Bible mentions 600 men who were with him. Then he ends up living in Gath (with the Philistine enemy) with 600 men. Some of these Gittites were with him then. They have shown loyalty to David for 20 plus years. David asks their leader Ittai if they are sure they still want to follow David. What does David mean when he says that “You came only yesterday?” What do you think is David’s intention when he finishes the sentence with: “and shall I today make you wander about with us, since I go I know not where?” Ittai answers with complete devotion. This commitment is a reflection of what our commitment to the Lord should look like. Where ever Jesus takes me, as long as He is there, whether there be life or death, there I will gladly be. I love the end of verse 22 - ...and all the little ones who were with him”. Those Gittites had been fruitful during their time with David. David then brings up the rear and they make their way to the wilderness.

2 Samuel 15:24-29. 24 And Abiathar came up, and behold, Zadok came also with all the Levites, bearing the ark of the covenant of God. And they set down the ark of God until the people had all passed out of the city. 25 Then the king said to Zadok, “Carry the ark of God back into the city. If I find favor in the eyes of the Lord, he will bring me back and let me see both it and his dwelling place. 26 But if he says, ‘I have no pleasure in you,’ behold, here I am, let him do to me what seems good to him.” 27 The king also said to Zadok the priest, “Are you not a seer? Go back to the city in peace, with your two sons, Ahimaaz your son, and Jonathan the son of Abiathar. 28 See, I will wait at the fords of the wilderness until word comes from you to inform me.” 29 So Zadok and Abiathar carried the ark of God back to Jerusalem, and they remained there. (2 Samuel 15:24-29, ESV)

So Abiathar and Zadok, the two priests. 2 Samuel 20:25. “And Sheba was secretary; and Zadok and Abiathar were priests”” They also were the ones who brought the ark up to Jerusalem the right way. They bring the ark of the covenant out of Jerusalem to follow David. What does David ask them to do? Why does he want the ark back in Jerusalem? David does not know the future but he recognizes that God is sovereign in this trouble. “Let Him do to me what seems good to Him. Not matter what happens David wants the ark in its dwelling place. What could David have done with the ark if he were so inclined?

We can not predict the future, what God holds in store for our lives. But we are called to carry on, soldier on, doing the right thing at all times.

For what reason does David ask Abiathar and Zadok to return to the city? Who will be the messengers of what goes on in the city?

2 Samuel 15:30-37. 30 But David went up the ascent of the Mount of Olives, weeping as he went, barefoot and with his head covered. And all the people who were with him covered their heads, and they went up, weeping as they went.)

So David and all with him crossed the Kidron Brook, east of the city and started ascending the Mount of Olives. Quick detour for a reminder of the Biblical history of the Mount of Olives.

1. This is the first time it is mentioned in the Bible and it is associated with weeping
2. In 1 Kings 11:7 David's son Solomon builds a "high place" to worship the foreign gods Chemosh and Molek on a hill east of Jerusalem.
3. In Ezekiel 11:23, Ezekiel sees the glory of the Lord depart from Jerusalem and rest "above the mountain east of it."
4. Jesus visited the Mount many times. Luke: 21:37. "And every day he was teaching in the temple, but at night he went out and lodged on the mount called Olivet." Also Luke 22:39. "And he came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him.
5. Luke 19:29-30. The triumphal entry began on the east side of the Mount in Bethany. This is where Jesus wept as he looked across the valley to Jerusalem.
6. A couple days later Jesus teaches the disciples there in what is known as the Olivet discourse. He speaks on the end times, his second coming, the destruction of Jerusalem and includes the parables of the 5 wise virgins, the wise and faithful servant and the servant who uses his resources wisely.
7. Jesus was also there on the night he was betrayed at the Garden of Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives. After praying, the mob came and arrested him.
8. After the resurrection during the last time he met with his disciples, Luke 24:50-52 "And He led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. While he blessed them he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy". And from Acts 1:12 "Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away."
9. And finally in Acts 1:10-11 "And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven." And not only will Jesus return in the same way, according to Zechariah 14:4 He will return to the same place. "On that day his feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives that lies before Jerusalem on the east and the Mount of Olives shall be split in two from east to west by a very wide valley, so that one half of the Mount shall move northward and the other half southward."

So the very location where David wept and mourned in defeat, and where Jesus was betrayed and rejected will be the place where Jesus returns in triumph over all his enemies. Our God is a Redemptive God

Back to the narrative. Notice ascends the Mount of Olives, "weeping, barefoot, head covered". Now look at how the people went up. "Covered their heads, weeping as they went". Since David was in the back maybe they didn't see his lack of footwear. The take away is obvious:

As leaders in our homes, families and workplace we set the example. And when we do, they will follow, if we have earned their respect. Who in your life have you emulated because of their influence or example to you? Are you opening yourself up to those younger who could learn from you example whether good or bad?

2 Samuel 15:30-37. 30 But David went up the ascent of the Mount of Olives, weeping as he went, barefoot and with his head covered. And all the people who were with him covered their heads, and they went up, weeping as they went. 31 And it was told David, "Ahithophel is among the conspirators with Absalom." And David said, "O Lord, please turn the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness."

32 While David was coming to the summit, where God was worshiped, behold, Hushai the Archite came to meet him with his coat torn and dirt on his head. 33 David said to him, "If you go on with me, you will be a burden to me. 34 But if you return to the city and say to Absalom, 'I will be your servant, O king; as I have been your father's servant in time past, so now I will be your servant,' then you will defeat for me the counsel of Ahithophel. 35 Are not Zadok and Abiathar the priests with you there? So whatever you hear from the king's house, tell it to Zadok and Abiathar the priests. 36 Behold, their two sons are with them there, Ahimaaz, Zadok's son, and Jonathan, Abiathar's son, and by them you shall send to me everything you hear." 37 So Hushai, David's friend, came into the city, just as Absalom was entering Jerusalem. (2 Samuel 15:30-37, ESV)

Just a short reminder; David in his escape from Absalom has needed help from the Cherethites, Pelethites, Ittai the Gittite, Abiathar and Zadok the priests, their sons and now Hushai. We need friends, loyal friends who will stick by us when everything hits the fan and the bottom fall out. We are not created to be alone. This men's group is important. Cultivate these relationships. We need each other.

Vs 31-32. David is told that Ahithophel is among the conspirators. David knows that Ahithophel is a wise counselor. In fact in 2 Samuel 16:23 it says: "Now in those days the counsel that Ahithophel gave was as if one consulted the word of God; so was all the counsel of Ahithophel esteemed both by David and by Absalom. ". David pleads with the Lord to "turn the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness"

This is reminiscent of Nehemiah's prayer as he is speaking to the King about Jerusalem. Neh 2:4 "The king said to me, "What are you requesting?" So I prayed to the God of heaven. And I said to the king..."

David's, like Nehemiah's, is a short prayer of necessity.

Prayer can be short and to the point and available at all times. It is like breathing. There are times when it is intentional, deliberate as when you pray with others. And at other times it comes in the midst of a busy day and you communicate with God effortlessly and easily as breathing.

David moves up the mount of Olives to the summit. Notice how it is described: "Where God was worshiped,". This adds credence to why Jesus spent so much time there. Are there places that have significance and meaning to you or your culture solely due to the history associated with the place?

Examples? David meets Hushai the Archite who has torn his coat with dirt on his head. A sign of mourning. Who is Hushai? Well he is an Archite whatever that is. The Archites are a sub clan within the main tribe of Benjamin. Also at the end of this passage Hushai is described as David's friend. This is reinforced in 1 Chronicles 27:33 "Ahithophel was the king's counselor, and Hushai the Archite was the king's friend. David asks Hushai if he will stay in Jerusalem and serve and advise Absalom with the purpose of defeating the counsel of Ahithophel. David had already sent Zadok and Abiathar the priests back and their sons will act as messengers to inform David as to what is going on in Absalom's inner circle.

A good friend is more important than a wise counselor. Cultivate your friends well.

God is sovereign, He may answer your prayers immediately as he did here with David or it may not be answered for years or even in your lifetime. Are you so assured of God's sovereignty that whether prayers are answered now or in ways you don't expect, that you are still steadfast in your faith and trust?

2 Samuel 16:1-4. 16 When David had passed a little beyond the summit, Ziba the servant of Mephibosheth met him, with a couple of donkeys saddled, bearing two hundred loaves of bread, a hundred bunches of raisins, a hundred of summer fruits, and a skin of wine. 2 And the king said to Ziba, "Why have you brought these?" Ziba answered, "The donkeys are for the king's household to ride on, the bread and summer fruit for the young men to eat, and the wine for those who faint in the wilderness to drink." 3 And the king said, "And where is your master's son?" Ziba said to the king, "Behold, he remains in Jerusalem, for he said, 'Today the house of Israel will give me back the kingdom of my father.' " 4 Then the king said to Ziba, "Behold, all that belonged to Mephibosheth is now yours." And Ziba said, "I pay homage; let me ever find favor in your sight, my lord the king." (2 Samuel 16:1-4, ESV)

David passes just beyond the summit and heading down the back side of the mount of Olives when he meets Ziba. Quick reminder: Who is Ziba? In 2 Samuel 9:1-4 we are introduced to Ziba. David is searching for someone left from the house of Saul that he may show kindness to. Ziba is one of Saul's servants and David asks him if there is anyone left. Ziba mentions Mephibosheth, a son of Jonathan who is crippled in both feet.

David gives Mephibosheth land and commissions Ziba and his sons to till the land and bring in the produce to feed Mephibosheth's household but Mephibosheth always ate at the king's table. This Ziba meets David and his entourage with donkeys, bread, fruit, and wine in order to sustain them for their journey. When David asks about Mephibosheth, Ziba replies, "Behold, he remains in Jerusalem, for he waits, "Today the house of Israel will give me back the kingdom of my father." With that betrayal of David's kindness to Mephibosheth, David gives all that was his to Ziba. (Provided that David retains the kingdom.)

This is a great example of doing what we can do with the resources that God provides for His glory. Ziba is a servant who saw a need and could fulfill that need. Do you recognize your gifts and abilities and are willing to share them when the opportunity arises?

People are complicated and motives are hard to fathom. By the time we come to the end of this narrative we will be unsure of the motives of Ziba and Mephibosheth. Lesson: Don't take every situation at face value. Discernment may take time. Withhold judgment until you are informed. Have you ever passed judgment without knowing the facts? How did it turn out?

2 Samuel 15:5-8. 5 When King David came to Bahurim, there came out a man of the family of the house of Saul, whose name was Shimei, the son of Gera, and as he came he cursed continually. 6 And he threw stones at David and at all the servants of King David, and all the people and all the mighty men were on his right hand and on his left. 7 And Shimei said as he cursed, "Get out, get out, you man of blood, you worthless man! 8 The Lord has avenged on you all the blood of the house of Saul, in whose place you have reigned, and the Lord has given the kingdom into the hand of your son Absalom. See, your evil is on you, for you are a man of blood."

Bahurim a village between the mount of Olives and the Jordan river. It is mentioned previously when Michal (Saul's daughter) is returned to David and her husband follows her weeping till he gets to Bahurim when Joab tells him to turn back. It is in the land of Benjamin and is therefore associated with Saul.

Shimei - There are other Shimei's mentioned in the bible but this is the first mention of this one. How is Shimei first described? "A man of the family of the house of Saul". What is his attitude towards David? Is this reasonable? According to Shimei, what is the reason for the Lord giving the kingdom into the hand of Absalom? It is for the blood of Saul, he blames David for Saul's death. Yet what really happened during the battle with the Philistines? In all the battles between Saul and David who was the aggressor? How many times did David spare Saul's life? Knowing that the facts don't really support Shimei's hatred to David, how do you think he got to this point?

Have you ever let your feelings, your hatred cloud your judgement? How do you change?

Check your heart, your preconceived opinions, and your biases and ask God to show you reality and to see things as God sees them.

2 Samuel 16:9-14 Then Abishai the son of Zeruiah said to the king, "Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? Let me go over and take off his head." 10 But the king said, "What have I to do with you, you sons of Zeruiah? If he is cursing because the Lord has said to him, 'Curse David,' who then shall say, 'Why have you done so?' " 11 And David said to Abishai and to all his servants, "Behold, my own son seeks my life; how much more now may this Benjaminite! Leave him alone, and let him curse, for the Lord has told him to. 12 It may be that the Lord will look on the wrong done to me, and that the Lord will repay me with good for his cursing today." 13 So David and his men went on the road, while Shimei went along on the hillside opposite him and cursed as he went and threw stones at him and flung dust. 14 And the king, and all the people who were with him, arrived weary at the Jordan. And there he refreshed himself.

Abishai the brother of Joab offers to kill Shimei. What is David's response? What does he mean by this phrase? David uses this phrase two other times in the book of second Samuel. Each time it is considered a derogatory comment. Why would David talk to one of his military leaders in such a way? This is the man who will have your back in the heat of battle why cut him down? Though the statement is harsh, David is making a point. Joab and Abishai see things in military terms, you handle it with a sword. But David, he sees things as a king under the sovereignty of God. "If he is cursing because the Lord has said to him, "Curse David" who then shall say, "Why have you done so?" We don't know if God told Shimei to speak thus to David. What do you think is going through David's mind as he is absorbing these insults? David is looking at the whole situation, Absalom's seeking to kill David, God's hand in Shimei's insults, God's judgement for David's past sin. He considers it all and sees the justice in it. David does not retaliate in the hopes that maybe

“God will repay me good for his cursing today.” David and those with him continue on in silence until they reach the Jordan.

David sees the big picture and walks on in the knowledge that God is sovereign. And that is enough. When life falls apart, rest in the knowledge that God has this. And then move forward. There will be a time of rest and refreshment ahead.

We have not seen the last of Shimei or Ziba

2 Samuel; 16:15-23. 15 Now Absalom and all the people, the men of Israel, came to Jerusalem, and Ahithophel with him. 16 And when Hushai the Archite, David’s friend, came to Absalom, Hushai said to Absalom, “Long live the king! Long live the king!” 17 And Absalom said to Hushai, “Is this your loyalty to your friend? Why did you not go with your friend?” 18 And Hushai said to Absalom, “No, for whom the Lord and this people and all the men of Israel have chosen, his I will be, and with him I will remain. 19 And again, whom should I serve? Should it not be his son? As I have served your father, so I will serve you.” 20 Then Absalom said to Ahithophel, “Give your counsel. What shall we do?” 21 Ahithophel said to Absalom, “Go in to your father’s concubines, whom he has left to keep the house, and all Israel will hear that you have made yourself a stench to your father, and the hands of all who are with you will be strengthened.” 22 So they pitched a tent for Absalom on the roof. And Absalom went in to his father’s concubines in the sight of all Israel. 23 Now in those days the counsel that Ahithophel gave was as if one consulted the word of God; so was all the counsel of Ahithophel esteemed, both by David and by Absalom.

We now follow Absalom. He comes to Jerusalem and immediately encounters Hushai the Archite, David’s friend. 3 times in the first 3 verses of this paragraph Hushai is described as David’s friend. Hushai greets Absalom with “Long live the King” and he repeats it. **Why did he repeat it? Is Absalom buying his change of allegiance? Hushai gives two reasons for his change. What is Hushai’s first reason?** Hushai invokes the Lord as his foremost reason for following Absalom followed by the democratic will of the people. There is a lesson in Hushai’s deception.

Just because someone invokes God, or Jesus, or the Lord, does not mean that the message of he is truly from the Lord. There is a scary verse in Matthew 7:21-23. “Not everyone who says to me “Lord Lord will enter the kingdom of heaven but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, Lord, Lord did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name and do many mighty works in your name? And then will I declare to them, “I never knew you: depart from me you workers of lawlessness”

Hushai also invokes the will of the people. He invokes democracy. **Coming from a democratic culture we can fall for this fallacy. Just because the will of the majority rules doesn’t make it right** God’s Kingdom is not a democracy. He rules with all authority and might. We need to always seek His Kingdom and not the will of the people.

Hushai’s second reason appeals to human reasoning. “Shouldn’t I serve the son as I have served the father?” Hushai is just flowing with the winds of the day and making the best situation for himself in the midst of this turmoil. From a human point of view it makes all the sense in the world.

**As a Christian we should never “go along to get along”. We do not live by the changing tides of culture. We live by the revealed word of the Lord. Can you think of any cultural issues that would be easy to succumb to if we didn’t have God’s Word as guidance?**

2 Samuel 16:20-23. 20 Then Absalom said to Ahithophel, “Give your counsel. What shall we do?” 21 Ahithophel said to Absalom, “Go in to your father’s concubines, whom he has left to keep the house, and all Israel will hear that you have made yourself a stench to your father, and the hands of all who are with you will be strengthened.” 22 So they pitched a tent for Absalom on the roof. And Absalom went in to his father’s concubines in the sight of all Israel. 23 Now in those days the counsel that Ahithophel gave was as if one consulted the word of God; so was all the counsel of Ahithophel esteemed, both by David and by Absalom. (2 Samuel 16:20–23, ESV)

Absalom asks Ahithophel for counsel. **What is Ahithophel’s response?** In our culture this seems over the top. But notice how this is a direct fulfillment of Nathan’s prophecy. 2 Samuel 12:11-12. “Thus says the Lord, Behold, I will raise up evil against you out of your own house. And I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun. For you did it secretly, but

I will do this thing before all Israel and before the sun.” Ahithophel says that this act will make you a stench to Absalom’s father, David. You Think?!

Notice the author’s commentary on the advice of Ahithophel. “Esteemed”, “as if one consulted the word of God”. Ahithophel is extremely gifted in counsel but remember his motivation. He is getting revenge on David for his treatment of his grand daughter Bathsheba.

No matter how gifted you are in your skills and abilities, it is your motivation that matters the more than the gift. Revenge never is a good motivation.

2 Samuel 17: 1-4. 17 Moreover, Ahithophel said to Absalom, “Let me choose twelve thousand men, and I will arise and pursue David tonight. 2 I will come upon him while he is weary and discouraged and throw him into a panic, and all the people who are with him will flee. I will strike down only the king, 3 and I will bring all the people back to you as a bride comes home to her husband. You seek the life of only one man, and all the people will be at peace.” 4 And the advice seemed right in the eyes of Absalom and all the elders of Israel. (2 Samuel 17:1-4, ESV)

Ahithophel continues his advice. What does he suggest? How does he describe David at this time? Is it an apt description? What do you think about the advice of Ahithophel? Is it good and sound?

David is in despair and discouraged. We just read about that in the last chapter. He was weeping as he ascended the mountain of Olives. There is every reason to believe that if Absalom follows that advice it would have worked out well. But David has his friend in the same palace, Hushai.

2 Samuel 17:5-14. 5 Then Absalom said, “Call Hushai the Archite also, and let us hear what he has to say.” 6 And when Hushai came to Absalom, Absalom said to him, “Thus has Ahithophel spoken; shall we do as he says? If not, you speak.” 7 Then Hushai said to Absalom, “This time the counsel that Ahithophel has given is not good.” 8 Hushai said, “You know that your father and his men are mighty men, and that they are enraged, like a bear robbed of her cubs in the field. Besides, your father is expert in war; he will not spend the night with the people. 9 Behold, even now he has hidden himself in one of the pits or in some other place. And as soon as some of the people fall at the first attack, whoever hears it will say, ‘There has been a slaughter among the people who follow Absalom.’ 10 Then even the valiant man, whose heart is like the heart of a lion, will utterly melt with fear, for all Israel knows that your father is a mighty man, and that those who are with him are valiant men. 11 But my counsel is that all Israel be gathered to you, from Dan to Beersheba, as the sand by the sea for multitude, and that you go to battle in person. 12 So we shall come upon him in some place where he is to be found, and we shall light upon him as the dew falls on the ground, and of him and all the men with him not one will be left. 13 If he withdraws into a city, then all Israel will bring ropes to that city, and we shall drag it into the valley, until not even a pebble is to be found there.” 14 And Absalom and all the men of Israel said, “The counsel of Hushai the Archite is better than the counsel of Ahithophel.” For the Lord had ordained to defeat the good counsel of Ahithophel, so that the Lord might bring harm upon Absalom. (2 Samuel 17:5-14, ESV)

Absalom gets the advice from Ahithophel but then wants to confer with Hushai to confirm that attacking immediately is the right thing to do. Does Hushai agree with Ahithophel? Does Hushai beat around the bush with his opinion of Ahithophel’s assessment?

Anatomy of Hushai’s rebuttal:

1 Hushai immediately offers a different take on the situation. He doesn’t nuance this and say that Ahithophel has some good thoughts but.... No Hushai immediately goes 180 on Ahithophel. If he had given Ahithophel some credit what might have been the result? Absalom may have combined the advice and come up with some hybrid solution. Hushai did not want that.

2. Hushai does not agree that David and his men are “weary and discouraged” (even though they are). He paints a picture of “mighty men” who are “enraged.” He is painting a picture of a younger David, a David of the stories told around the campfires.

3. Hushai reminds Absalom that David is an “expert in war” and will hide in pits and caves - hence a guerrilla war in which David excels.

4. Hushai looks to the battle and suggests that fighting David will result in casualties and even “valiant men” will melt with fear. Why? Because of David’s reputation as a mighty man surrounded by valiant men.

5. Hushai puts forth an alternate plan. Just disagreeing with Ahithophel’s suggestions is not enough, Hushai has to have another way forward. He suggests that they wait and gather everyone to Absalom and attack him

when Absalom has superior numbers “as the dew fall on the ground”. He also suggests that Absalom lead his army as opposes to Ahithophel leading as he proposed. And then the victory will be complete.

What is the reaction to Hushai’s plan? Vs 14. What was the reason that Absalom and all the men of Israel sided with Hushai? What was the adjective used for the counsel of Ahithophel?

If the Lord ordains a plan then it will not fail. He, the Lord, has His reasons for all things.

David, even though he knows God is sovereign, continues to move forward, He makes plans, He get information, He protects his people, He just doesn’t give up and sit on his bum. God works out His plans in our obedience as best we know how.

2 Samuel 17:15-20. 15 Then Hushai said to Zadok and Abiathar the priests, “Thus and so did Ahithophel counsel Absalom and the elders of Israel, and thus and so have I counseled. 16 Now therefore send quickly and tell David, ‘Do not stay tonight at the fords of the wilderness, but by all means pass over, lest the king and all the people who are with him be swallowed up.’ ” 17 Now Jonathan and Ahimaaz were waiting at En-rogel. A female servant was to go and tell them, and they were to go and tell King David, for they were not to be seen entering the city. 18 But a young man saw them and told Absalom. So both of them went away quickly and came to the house of a man at Bahurim, who had a well in his courtyard. And they went down into it. 19 And the woman took and spread a covering over the well’s mouth and scattered grain on it, and nothing was known of it. 20 When Absalom’s servants came to the woman at the house, they said, “Where are Ahimaaz and Jonathan?” And the woman said to them, “They have gone over the brook of water.” And when they had sought and could not find them, they returned to Jerusalem. (2 Samuel 17:15–20, ESV)

Vs 15: David had recruited Zadok and Abiathar, the priests, to act as spies to let him know what was going on in the palace. (2 Samuel 15:24-29). Their sons, Jonathan and Ahimaaz were to act as couriers of the information. Hushai, David’s friend, tells Zadok and Abiathar what took place in the palace, how Ahithophel wanted to attack immediately and how he convinced them to wait. What was the advice that Hushai sends to David? The priests tell a servant girl to take the news to Jonathan and Ahimaaz who were waiting at En-rogel. En-rogel is a waypoint along the Kidron brook going south from Jerusalem on the way to Bethlehem. Jonathan and Ahimaaz were waiting there as they did not want to be seen going in and out of the city. But Jonathan and Ahimaaz have been seen and it is told to Absalom. They came to a house in Bahurim. Who else is from Bahurim? (Shimei, it was in the tribe of Benjamin). Why might these sons of the priests go to this town?

Make friends in all areas of your life. You never know when and where you may need them.

The woman hides them in a well and tells the servants of Absalom that they have gone. Reminiscent of someone else?

2 Samuel 17:21-23. 21 After they had gone, the men came up out of the well, and went and told King David. They said to David, “Arise, and go quickly over the water, for thus and so has Ahithophel counseled against you.” 22 Then David arose, and all the people who were with him, and they crossed the Jordan. By daybreak not one was left who had not crossed the Jordan.

23 When Ahithophel saw that his counsel was not followed, he saddled his donkey and went off home to his own city. He set his house in order and hanged himself, and he died and was buried in the tomb of his father. (2 Samuel 17:21–23, ESV)

Ahimaaz and Johathan do their job. They tell David to flee across the Jordon. Everyone crosses.

Ahithophel on the other hand does something unexpected. Why would he kill himself? The narrative is straight forward, concise and without color commentary. Why would the author relate the death this way?

Ahithophel has lost his way (he has placed his ladder against the wrong tree), his hope (he knows the outcome of not following his advice) his reason to be, his purpose (he is not the kings advisor anymore). When we loose our way, our hope, and our purpose, we die. Cultivate your way, solidify your hope, and know for certain your eternal purpose..

What is your way? What was one of the words used to identify the early church? (Acts 9:2, Acts 22:4). When you loose your way what is going on?

What is our hope? How confident are you in your hope? What is it that insures your confidence?

What is your purpose? How is your work and purpose tied together? When men retire they often fade quickly. Their purpose was their work and when that is taken away they slowly die. How can we prevent that happening to us?

What ultimately led to Ahithophel taking his own life?

Don't let hatred and unforgiveness destroy your life. Left to simmer in your heart, it will.

2 Samuel 17:24-29. 24 Then David came to Mahanaim. And Absalom crossed the Jordan with all the men of Israel. 25 Now Absalom had set Amasa over the army instead of Joab. Amasa was the son of a man named Ithra the Ishmaelite, who had married Abigail the daughter of Nahash, sister of Zeruiah, Joab's mother. 26 And Israel and Absalom encamped in the land of Gilead.

27 When David came to Mahanaim, Shobi the son of Nahash from Rabbah of the Ammonites, and Machir the son of Ammiel from Lo-debar, and Barzillai the Gileadite from Rogelim, 28 brought beds, basins, and earthen vessels, wheat, barley, flour, parched grain, beans and lentils, 29 honey and curds and sheep and cheese from the herd, for David and the people with him to eat, for they said, "The people are hungry and weary and thirsty in the wilderness." (2 Samuel 17:24-29, ESV)

David camps in Mahanaim, Mahanaim: means double camp, first mentioned when Jacob is leaving Laban and going to meet Esau. He meets angels when he camps and therefore names the place Double Camp because he and the angels camped there. It is also the place where Abner set up Mephibosheth as the king of Israel.

Absalom crosses the Jordan with "all" the men of Israel. He is following Hushai's advice. Ahithophel has Amasa over the Army. Amasa is David's nephew like Joab is but from different mothers. (Both sisters of David, daughters of Jesse). Absalom and his army camp in the land of Gilead. Gilead is a land loyal to Saul and hates David. Therefore they are operating on the middle eastern philosophy of "the enemy of my enemy is my friend."

David in Mahanaim is supported by many men of the area. So even though he is in the territory of Saul, he has many who are offering aid. Specifically, Machir, and Brazilian.

Make friends where ever you are. You never know when you will need their aid.

2 Samuel 18:1-8. 1 Then David mustered the men who were with him and set over them commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds. 2 And David sent out the army, one third under the command of Joab, one third under the command of Abishai the son of Zeruiah, Joab's brother, and one third under the command of Ittai the Gittite. And the king said to the men, "I myself will also go out with you." 3 But the men said, "You shall not go out. For if we flee, they will not care about us. If half of us die, they will not care about us. But you are worth ten thousand of us. Therefore it is better that you send us help from the city." 4 The king said to them, "Whatever seems best to you I will do." So the king stood at the side of the gate, while all the army marched out by hundreds and by thousands. 5 And the king ordered Joab and Abishai and Ittai, "Deal gently for my sake with the young man Absalom." And all the people heard when the king gave orders to all the commanders about Absalom. (2 Samuel 18:1-5, ESV)

Vs 1. David delegates. He may be the commander in chief but he sets others over cohorts of thousands and hundreds

We have mentioned this principle before in the life of David but it bears repeating. Delegation is key for: developing those under your care, relieving your work load, and achieving better results. Who can you delegate to in order to accomplish one of the mentioned reasons for delegation?

Vs 2. David diversifies. David doesn't put all his eggs in one basket. This is especially true with investments Diversify your talents, your gifts, and your investments. What have learned in life to diversity?

Vs 3-4 David defers. David desires to enter the fight. But his men are correct in recognizing the importance of David and that he must be protected at all costs. David wisely defers to their wishes.

A wise leader will at times defer to those under him. He understands that he does not hold the completeness of wise counsel. Whom do you defer to?

Vs 5. David stands by the gate and orders the three commanders to "Deal gently for my sake with the young man Absalom". And the kicker is that all the people heard what he said. Just a verse before David shows great wisdom. Now he undermines his commanders and their mission. I believe, and please correct me but this is a form of rules of engagement. What are the ramifications of what David just said to Joab, Abishai, and Ittai? What is going on in David's mind? Is handcuffing the military a wise course of action?

It is a difficult place to be when your heart is in conflict with what needs to be done. What possibly could David have done differently?

2 Samuel 18:6-8. 6 So the army went out into the field against Israel, and the battle was fought in the forest of Ephraim. 7 And the men of Israel were defeated there by the servants of David, and the loss there was great on that day, twenty thousand men. 8 The battle spread over the face of all the country, and the forest devoured more people that day than the sword. (2 Samuel 18:6–8, ESV)

Even with the command not to harm Absalom, the king's armies soundly defeated Absalom's. Ahithophel saw this inevitable outcome. 20,000 men die.

**What do you make of the phrase “and the forest devoured more people that day than the sword”?**

The forest lends itself to the guerrilla warfare that David and his men are used to.

2 Samuel 18:9-15. 9 And Absalom happened to meet the servants of David. Absalom was riding on his mule, and the mule went under the thick branches of a great oak, and his head caught fast in the oak, and he was suspended between heaven and earth, while the mule that was under him went on. 10 And a certain man saw it and told Joab, “Behold, I saw Absalom hanging in an oak.” 11 Joab said to the man who told him, “What, you saw him! Why then did you not strike him there to the ground? I would have been glad to give you ten pieces of silver and a belt.” 12 But the man said to Joab, “Even if I felt in my hand the weight of a thousand pieces of silver, I would not reach out my hand against the king's son, for in our hearing the king commanded ‘you and Abishai and Ittai, ‘For my sake protect the young man Absalom.’ 13 On the other hand, if I had dealt treacherously against his life (and there is nothing hidden from the king), then you yourself would have stood aloof.” 14 Joab said, “I will not waste time like this with you.” And he took three javelins in his hand and thrust them into the heart of Absalom while he was still alive in the oak. 15 And ten young men, Joab's armor-bearers, surrounded Absalom and struck him and killed him. (2 Samuel 18:9–15, ESV)

“Absalom happened”?

We must always remember that when things “happen”, it is not chance or blind luck. It is ordained by God for a purpose. Whether good or bad God has a reason for all things.

Absalom's mule rides under an oak tree and Absalom's hair is caught in the branches and he is left hanging “between heaven and earth”. Knowing what we know about Absalom the lesson is obvious. Remember from 2 Samuel 14:25-26. “Now in all Israel there was no one so much to be praised for his handsome appearance as Absalom. From the sole of his foot to the crown of his head there was no blemish in him. And when he cut the hair of his head (for at the end of every year he used to cut it; when it was heavy on him, he cut it), he weighed the hair of his head, two hundred shekels by the king's weight. 5 lbs.

There are so many lessons here. Proverbs 16:18. Pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall. In many aspects of his life Absalom thought highly of himself and especially as it pertained to his looks and his hair. And that was his downfall. If there is one lesson we learn from the life of David it is not what is on the outside that counts. It is the heart.

**How do we in our culture succumb to this trap?**

Ecclesiastes 1:14. “I have seen everything that is done under the sun, and behold, all is vanity and a striving after the wind”. Absalom spent his life plotting and scheming to get what he wanted. He was good at it but what did it get him? Death. If we spend our life “under the sun”, only seeing life in the physical then our life is “vanity of vanities, all is vanity”. But if we live above the sun then our labor is not in vain. Ps 127:1. “Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.”

**Have you ever looked back at something that you spent a great deal of time on and realized it was all vanity? What could you have done differently so that it was “gold, silver, and precious stones and not wood, hay and stubble?**

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 “Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal”. All of us in this study are wasting away. Some of us more than others. We can't do much about our physical decline but we can put ourselves in a position to be “renewed day by day. And we can commit to fix our eyes on what is unseen. Look beyond those momentary troubles to see that eternal glory that far outweighs them all.

**What draws your eyes away from the unseen? Truthfully the seen, the physical world is enticing and it is not bad. How do we live in the world and not be of it?**

Absalom's mule runs off from under him. This is very symbolic. The mule was Absalom's kingly transport. By losing the mule it shows that he has lost his kingly throne.

Absalom is seen hanging by his hair, helpless. The man tells Joab. **What was Joab's reaction? According to Joab what should the man have done? Joab was so convinced that killing Absalom was the right course of action that he offered him money and a belt. (That must have been some belt).** Actually belts are symbolic in the OT. Remember Jonathan gave his belt to David as an expression of his love and friendship and his covenant with David. **Why reason does the man give Joab for not killing Absalom? How do we know this man really meant what he said? This unnamed soldier is caught between what he knows is the King's orders and that of his commander who thinks differently. Does the soldier think that Joab would have his back?** This soldier reminds us that we must always obey the highest authority. For us it is the expressed written word of God. No matter what the culture says, what the authorities say, what our friends say, we obey the world of the Lord. **Have you ever been caught between a rock and a hard place where you are torn between what you know is right and what you are told to do?** The good news is that even if you failed that test, you learned from it. I have always learned more from my mistakes than from a multitude of right decisions. That does not mean you should make mistakes so that you learn but it does mean that from the lessons learned you make less mistakes and you mature in your walk with the Lord.

Joab goes to the place where Absalom hangs from the oak tree. He takes three spears and 10 of his armor bearers. He thrusts the three spears into Absalom and then the ten armor bearers finished him off.

**Joab directly disobeys David. Why do you think he so intentionally disobeyed his King? Why did he put three spears into Absalom and then had the young men finish him off?**

Joab is a very confusing figure in the life of David. The bible doesn't come out and say why he did what he did but I have two thoughts:

1. Joab is a one dimensional man. He sees things from only one perspective - war. He is good at it but it will be his downfall. All of us have gifts and talents but don't let them rule everything in your life. Wisdom, discernment, judgment, all are from the Lord (if we ask James 1:5) and should be exercised in our life.
2. Joab is obeying a higher calling than David. The call of Justice. Joab sees this as black and white. And for a person in his position it serves him well

2 Samuel 18:16-18. 16 Then Joab blew the trumpet, and the troops came back from pursuing Israel, for Joab restrained them. 17 And they took Absalom and threw him into a great pit in the forest and raised over him a very great heap of stones. And all Israel fled every one to his own home. 18 Now Absalom in his lifetime had taken and set up for himself the pillar that is in the King's Valley, for he said, "I have no son to keep my name in remembrance." He called the pillar after his own name, and it is called Absalom's monument to this day. (2 Samuel 18:16-18, ESV)

By blowing the trumpet Joab announces the end of the battle. Joab wisely brings the troops back from pursuing their brother Israelites. This is a civil war and for the good of the country the bloodshed should stop. Again, Joab is a great commander.

They "threw" Absalom into a great pit. **Does this represent an honorable burial?** They raised over the body a very great heap of stones. **Can you think of a time in Israel's history where they buried a man in a similar way? (Achan) Was his burial honorable? What might be the significance of a heap of stones as compared to a tomb?**

**A tomb represents eternal rest and security. A pile of rocks over you implies your weight of sin is ever pressing down on you. There is no rest, no peace.**

Everyone flees to their own home. **What do you think is going through the minds of those who have followed Absalom and now see the folly of it all? Have you ever been down a path and then seen the folly of your actions? What did you do? How did you handle it?**

Absalom had set up a pillar in the King's Valley as a remembrance to the following generations. The text mentions that he had no sons (earlier in 2 Sam 14:27 it says he had three sons, either they all died or he erected the monument before they were born.).

This section reminds us that we all seek significance. We all have an innate desire to make a difference in this world and that we will be remembered. For the non Christian it implies making a name for yourself such that no one will forget (think Achilles, in the movie Troy) or Absalom and his monument (though we don't know where it is now). For Christians we will have eternal commendations from our Heavenly Father (Rev 22:12. Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end" **Do you feel secure in the**

knowledge that by following Jesus faithfully and not showy that you will lay up treasures in heaven for eternity. (Matt 6:20)

2 Samuel 18:19-23. 19 Then Ahimaaz the son of Zadok said, "Let me run and carry news to the king that the Lord has delivered him from the hand of his enemies." 20 And Joab said to him, "You are not to carry news today. You may carry news another day, but today you shall carry no news, because the king's son is dead." 21 Then Joab said to the Cushite, "Go, tell the king what you have seen." The Cushite bowed before Joab, and ran. 22 Then Ahimaaz the son of Zadok said again to Joab, "Come what may, let me also run after the Cushite." And Joab said, "Why will you run, my son, seeing that you will have no reward for the news?" 23 "Come what may," he said, "I will run." So he said to him, "Run." Then Ahimaaz ran by the way of the plain, and outran the Cushite. (2 Samuel 18:19-23, ESV)

Absalom is dead but who will tell the king and by what means. Ahimaaz, whom we have seen earlier a youth with youthful exuberance wants to take the message to the king. Why do you think he is this fired up about taking the message? How does he represent the message that he wants to deliver? What is Joab's response? How does Joab represent the message? What is Joab's fear? (1 Samuel 1:16) How does Joab show kindness to Ahimaaz in his interaction?

One event (a battle victory) but two different ways of looking at it. The youthful Ahimaaz sees the glory in the battle victory. Joab sees the death of the king's son. He takes into consideration what the hearer will take out of the news. Both are true but David will not relish the victory he will hear only the death of his son.

A couple of observations: Every story, whether a news story or personal story has many sides to it. Don't necessarily buy what the journalists are putting down. There is always more to the story

Secondly, There is wisdom when you consider how the hearer of your story will interpret your message.

Joab shows great wisdom when he counsels Ahimaaz not to go for he knows that whatever Ahimaaz says, all David will hear is that Absalom is dead. Know your audience. What ever you are communicating know where your audience is at so that they will take away what you intend. This is applicable to all of life.

Joab turns to an unnamed Cushite. He tells him to take the message to David, And the Cushite dutifully obeys. But Ahimaaz presses the point. He asks Joab again to take the news to David. What is Joab's response? What might his reward be? Ahimaaz responds by saying "Come what may, I will run:". What is Joab's one word response? Why does he relent?

There are times when we have given our counsel to the younger generation that we have to step back and let them make their own choices. Joab relents with the knowledge that Ahimaaz will learn a lesson in this episode. A lesson that will last and carry more weight than if he had forbade him outright. Again Joab is demonstrating extraordinary wisdom.

Finally notice that Ahimaaz leaves second but outran the Cushite. Might this explain his desire to take the message?

2 Samuel 18:24-30. 24 Now David was sitting between the two gates, and the watchman went up to the roof of the gate by the wall, and when he lifted up his eyes and looked, he saw a man running alone. 25 The watchman called out and told the king. And the king said, "If he is alone, there is news in his mouth." And he drew nearer and nearer. 26 The watchman saw another man running. And the watchman called to the gate and said, "See, another man running alone!" The king said, "He also brings news." 27 The watchman said, "I think the running of the first is like the running of Ahimaaz the son of Zadok." And the king said, "He is a good man and comes with good news."

28 Then Ahimaaz cried out to the king, "All is well." And he bowed before the king with his face to the earth and said, "Blessed be the Lord your God, who has delivered up the men who raised their hand against my lord the king." 29 And the king said, "Is it well with the young man Absalom?" Ahimaaz answered, "When Joab sent the king's servant, your servant, I saw a great commotion, but I do not know what it was." 30 And the king said, "Turn aside and stand here." So he turned aside and stood still. (2 Samuel 18:24-30, ESV)

Vs 24-27. Anticipation. David, a man of action, waits for news. It's killing him not to be in the midst of the battle but he wisely accepted the counsel of his commanders and stayed. But he waits between the gates. No one can pass him by without him hearing any news. The watchman sees the first runner and David anticipates news. Then another runner is seen and the king also anticipates news. Finally the watchman identifies the first runner as Ahimaaz. And the king in hopeful anticipation, knowing Ahimaaz is a good man, makes the assumption that his news must be good also

Do you ever sit and wait and want and hope for some outcome of something that you have no control over. Hoping against hope that the result will be as you wish? We have to differentiate between “hope” in this situation and “hope” as we experience in Jesus Christ. The former is a wishful hope. The latter is a confident expectation because it is secured by Jesus and what he has done on the cross. We need to understand that many word we use have multiple meanings. Hope, but also love. We love our wife and we love lasagne, and a young teenage boy whispers into the ear of his girlfriend that he loves her. All of these usages of love have different meanings

We hope for favorable outcomes all the time but know that they not come true. We don't live in Disney World. Life is full of disappointments, dashed hopes and unfulfilled dreams.

Ahimaaz cries out to the king “All is well. Blessed be the Lord your God, who has delivered up the men who raised their hand against my lord the king.” This is good news. This is what Ahimaaz wanted to tell. **But what is David's response?** David immediately asks “is it well with the young man Absalom?” I think here the light bulb went off in Ahimaaz's mind. He realizes that Absalom is all that David cares about. He thinks back to Joab's reluctance to let him carry the news. In the blink of an eye Ahimaaz sees a way out. He feigns ignorance. “There was a big commotion. I'm not sure what it was about.” The king knows there is another runner coming. He commands Ahimaaz to stand aside. **It is never too late to learn a lesson. God is always teaching. We should put ourselves in the posture of listening and learning.**

2 Samuel 18:31-33. 31 And behold, the Cushite came, and the Cushite said, “Good news for my lord the king! For the Lord has delivered you this day from the hand of all who rose up against you.” 32 The king said to the Cushite, “Is it well with the young man Absalom?” And the Cushite answered, “May the enemies of my lord the king and all who rise up against you for evil be like that young man.” 33 And the king was deeply moved and went up to the chamber over the gate and wept. And as he went, he said, “O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would I had died instead of you, O Absalom, my son, my son!”

The unnamed Cushite enters and delivers a similar message as Ahimaaz. David replies with the exact same question as he asked of Ahimaaz. “Is it well with the young man Absalom?” The Cushite, not knowing the backstory and David's disposition, answers with what he thinks is a welcome answer.

The King is visibly moved. He goes up to a chamber over the gate and weeps and as he goes he utters, “O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would I had died instead of you, O Absalom, my son, my son!” What anguish of heart. What depth of grief. Besides repeating the his name and his sonship the only other words he utters is wish that he had died in place of Absalom.

**Have you ever been in such grief, such anguish that you wish you had died in place of the one you are grieving for? Before we look at the ramifications and the appropriateness of his grief, let's look at grief alone. What is the purpose of grief and deep sorrow? Is it natural and expected? How do we handle grief as a comforter?**

**Grief is a direct result of the Fall. Sin insures that we will experience grief for the wages of sin is death and we will see death in loved ones. If you haven't experienced it yet you will. So is it natural, yes because of sin but no, in that it was not that way from the beginning. The purpose of grief and sorrow is to lead us to repentance and to God. When a loved one dies, it is a reminder that we too will die and we need to reconcile ourselves with God. Not by doing more good works but by receiving the gift of God, the death, resurrection and atonement of Jesus Christ as ours.**

2 Samuel 19:1-8. 19 It was told Joab, “Behold, the king is weeping and mourning for Absalom.” 2 So the victory that day was turned into mourning for all the people, for the people heard that day, “The king is grieving for his son.” 3 And the people stole into the city that day as people steal in who are ashamed when they flee in battle. 4 The king covered his face, and the king cried with a loud voice, “O my son Absalom, O Absalom, my son, my son!” 5 Then Joab came into the house to the king and said, “You have today covered with shame the faces of all your servants, who have this day saved your life and the lives of your sons and your daughters and the lives of your wives and your concubines, 6 because you love those who hate you and hate those who love you. For you have made it clear today that commanders and servants are nothing to you, for today I know that if Absalom were alive and all of us were dead today, then you would be pleased. 7 Now therefore arise, go out and speak kindly to your servants, for I swear by the Lord, if you do not go, not a man will stay with you this night, and this will be worse for you than all the evil that has come upon you from your youth until now.” 8 Then the king arose and took his seat in the gate. And the people were all told, “Behold, the king is sitting in the gate.” And all the people came before the king.

Vs 1-2. Joab hears that King David is weeping and mourning for Absalom. What should have been a time of rejoicing has turned into a time of mourning.

The leader sets the tone for the followers. This is true for David and his kingdom but just as true for us in our homes and workplaces.

Vs 3. How did the people enter the city? They stole into the city as one ashamed as it they had fled the battle. How should they have entered? There should have been rejoicing

Anatomy of a rebuke:

Vs 4-7. The king is wailing with a loud voice, Everyone hears, They are ashamed like they have done something terribly wrong. And Joab comes into the house, presents himself to the king and lets him have it with both barrels.

What has David done? He has covered with shame all of his servants

What is the small thing his servants did? They saved his life, and the lives of his sons and daughters and the lives of his wives and concubines

Why has he done this? Because he loves those who hate him and hate those who love him. His priorities are 180 degrees backwards

What is the message that David's has conveyed? That David's commanders and servants are nothing to you

What is the logical conclusion of the matter? That if Absalom were alive and all of David's commanders and servants were dead then David would be pleased

What is Joab's advice, nay command, for David to do? Arise, go out, and speak kindly to his servants.

Implication is to thank them for their loyalty and bravery and sticking with him in this dark hour.

What will be the consequences if David does not follow Joab's advice? Not a man will stay with you this night, and this will be worse for you than all the evil that has come upon you from your youth until now.

Joab rebuked David previously when he sent a woman from Tekoa to David with a story about her sons whom one had killed the other. What was Joab trying to accomplish in that instance? This rebuke is different. It is immediate. It has to be immediate. It has to be direct. It has to win the day or the consequences are catastrophic.

1. Joab first identifies what David has done. (Brought shame on his servants). When we are rebuking a loved one, son daughter, coworker, we need to first show them what they have done. This is an honor shame culture and shaming someone is obviously wrong. You may need to identify why what they have done is wrong and needs correcting.
2. Joab identifies why the people affected by David's action don't deserve it. (They had saved his life and the lives of his family) When someone needs a rebuke they don't see the consequences of their actions. Show it to them. Those affected don't deserve the repercussions of your actions.
3. Joab gets to the heart of the matter. David's priorities are backward. He loves those who hate him and hates those who love him. The heart is always where the problem is. (That is why Jesus creates in us a new heart) Often when we are confronting someone the heart problem is selfishness. They only see themselves they don't see others. This is true of David in this case.
4. Joab wakes David up to the message he is conveying. When someone is out of line and needs correction show them what the message is that they are propagating.
5. Joab shows David how his path will end up. It won't be good. Show the person being rebuked where their path is leading to.
6. Finally Joab tells David what needs to happen. Explain the path forward. Don't leave someone alone in your rebuke. Show them the path forward

David responds correctly. He goes out to the gate to meet with his people and apparently thank them for their loyalty.

2 Samuel 19:9-15. Now Israel had fled every man to his own home. 9 And all the people were arguing throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, "The king delivered us from the hand of our enemies and saved us from the hand of the Philistines, and now he has fled out of the land from Absalom. 10 But Absalom, whom we anointed over us, is dead in battle. Now therefore why do you say nothing about bringing the king back?" 11 And King David sent this message to Zadok and Abiathar the priests: "Say to the elders of Judah, 'Why should you be the last to bring the king back to his house, when the word of all Israel has come to the king? 12 You are my brothers; you are my bone and my flesh. Why then should you be the last to bring back the king?' 13 And say to Amasa, 'Are you not my bone and my flesh? God do so to me and more also, if you are not commander of my army from now on in place of Joab.' " 14 And he swayed the heart of all the men of Judah as one man, so that they sent word to the king, "Return, both you and all your servants." 15 So the king came back to the Jordan, and Judah came to Gilgal to meet the king and to bring the king over the Jordan. (2 Samuel 19:8-15, ESV)

Vs 9-10. The people of Israel (quick aside: There are times when the term Israel is meant to be the whole of the land and all the 12 tribes. But as the history of the country progresses it takes on a meaning of the 10 northern tribes as opposed to Judah (the largest) and Benjamin from the south. In this instance the meaning is the 10 tribes to the north) are questioning one another and their leaders. David, our king who delivered us from our enemies has fled Absalom but now Absalom is dead and nobody is calling for David to be brought back. There is turmoil in the land, nobody knows what should be done. This is uncharted waters. But the reason this is placed here is that Israel, the 10 northern tribes, are having this discussion before anyone else.

Vs 11-15. David takes matters into his own hands and sends a message to Zadok and Abiathar, the priests who are still in Jerusalem, David's eyes and ears and now his mouth in the capital. David through the priests shames Judah into being the first to welcome the King back to Jerusalem. **How do you think the other tribes will react to Judah taking the lead?**

David then delivers what I think is a bombshell announcement. He replaced Joab with Amasa. Now remember Joab is the son of David's sister Zeruiah and Amasa is the son of David's sister Abigail. So Amasa is also David's nephew and Joab and Amasa are cousins. Now Amasa had sided with Absalom. So by replacing Joab with Amasa he wins over many who might have been for Absalom. **How do you think Joab will react to this? How would you react?**

So the men of Judah rally to David and meet him at the Jordan River to escort him and his entourage across.

2 Samuel 19. 16 And Shimei the son of Gera, the Benjaminite, from Bahurim, hurried to come down with the men of Judah to meet King David. 17 And with him were a thousand men from Benjamin. And Ziba the servant of the house of Saul, with his fifteen sons and his twenty servants, rushed down to the Jordan before the king, 18 and they crossed the ford to bring over the king's household and to do his pleasure. And Shimei the son of Gera fell down before the king, as he was about to cross the Jordan, 19 and said to the king, "Let not my lord hold me guilty or remember how your servant did wrong on the day my lord the king left Jerusalem. Do not let the king take it to heart. 20 For your servant knows that I have sinned. Therefore, behold, I have come this day, the first of all the house of Joseph to come down to meet my lord the king." 21 Abishai the son of Zeruiah answered, "Shall not Shimei be put to death for this, because he cursed the Lord's anointed?" 22 But David said, "What have I to do with you, you sons of Zeruiah, that you should this day be as an adversary to me? Shall anyone be put to death in Israel this day? For do I not know that I am this day king over Israel?" 23 And the king said to Shimei, "You shall not die." And the king gave him his oath.

David shows mercy,

David crosses the Jordan and whom should he meet first but Shimei. Remember him? The one who cursed David and threw stones at him and whom Abishai wanted to dispatch. Not only Shimei but with him were 1000 men from Benjamin

Just as this is happening, Ziba, the servant from the house of Saul who had brought supplies and donkeys for those fleeing Jerusalem shows up and they cross over to bring the king over the waters.

Back to Shimei. **What is the first thing he does? (He falls down before the king) Where does he do this? (Before he crossed the river, so Shimei made the effort to cross the Jordan first) Is Shimei repentant?**

**Only God knows our hearts for true repentance but your actions say a lot about what is going on in your heart. If you need forgiveness from someone yes verbalize it, but especially demonstrate it.**

Shimei then verbalizes his repentance. He asks for mercy. He admits to doing wrong, He admits to sinning and finally he puts his actions of being the first to meet the king on his return as a demonstration of his

repentance. What would be your answer to his request for mercy? Abishai has his thoughts on the matter. What does he recommend? What is David's response to Abishai? What is David's general disposition as regards to the civil war that was just finished? Do you agree with David? Even though Shimei deserves death David is merciful. Can you think of a time where you showed mercy when the other didn't deserve it? On the converse, has there been a time when you didn't show mercy and you should have?

This is the last we will see of Shimei in this study so I think we should quickly follow his story to the end. As David is on his death bed he gives instructions to Solomon about handling some of the mess David had left for him. In 1 Kings 2:8-9 David says, "And there is also with you Shimei the son of Gera, the Benjaminite from Bahurim who cursed me with a grievous curse on the day when I went to Mahanaim. But when he came down to meet me at the Jordan, I swore to him by the Lord saying, 'I will not put you to death with the sword.'" Now therefore do not hold him guiltless, for you are a wise man. You will know what you ought to do to him, and you shall bring his gray head down with blood to Sheol"

After David dies, Solomon has an audience with Shimei (1 Kings 2:36-38) And tells him that he is to build a house in Jerusalem and he is to stay there in Jerusalem for the rest of his life. "For on the day you go out and cross the brook Kidron, know for certain that you shall die, your blood will be on your own head." Shimei agrees. But in the very next verse and following "But it happened at the end of three years.....". Shimei leaves, Solomon finds out, He has another audience with Shimei and has him killed.

What does this story tell us of mercy? What is the purpose of mercy? (Roman's 2:4) "Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?"

We are shown mercy to lead us to repentance. Repentance should be the result. We extend mercy to hopefully lead the person to repentance In this case Shimei's repentance was superficial

2 Samuel 19:24-30. 24 And Mephibosheth the son of Saul came down to meet the king. He had neither taken care of his feet nor trimmed his beard nor washed his clothes, from the day the king departed until the day he came back in safety. 25 And when he came to Jerusalem to meet the king, the king said to him, "Why did you not go with me, Mephibosheth?" 26 He answered, "My lord, O king, my servant deceived me, for your servant said to him, 'I will saddle a donkey for myself, that I may ride on it and go with the king.' For your servant is lame. 27 He has slandered your servant to my lord the king. But my lord the king is like the angel of God; do therefore what seems good to you. 28 For all my father's house were but men doomed to death before my lord the king, but you set your servant among those who eat at your table. What further right have I, then, to cry to the king?" 29 And the king said to him, "Why speak any more of your affairs? I have decided: you and Ziba shall divide the land." 30 And Mephibosheth said to the king, "Oh, let him take it all, since my lord the king has come safely home." (2 Samuel 19:24-30, ESV)

Who was Mephibosheth? Here he is identified as a "son of Saul", but when he is first introduced he is said to be the "son of Jonathan". So which is it? How do you reconcile this? How is Mephibosheth described? King David asks Mephibosheth why he didn't go with him when he departed Jerusalem? What is Mephibosheth's response? Do you believe him? Mephibosheth appeals to David, who is like an angel of God, to do what seems good. Mephibosheth appeals to David's mercy as he had extended it to him before.. David decides to split the land between Mephibosheth and Ziba, who you remember is standing nearby. What is Mephibosheth's response? Does this add credence to his telling of the events? Is there another situation that reminds you of a difficult decision that has to be made and a similar suggestion is made to split the worth and the response determines who is true?

2 Samuel 19:31-40. 31 Now Barzillai the Gileadite had come down from Rogelim, and he went on with the king to the Jordan, to escort him over the Jordan. 32 Barzillai was a very aged man, eighty years old. He had provided the king with food while he stayed at Mahanaim, for he was a very wealthy man. 33 And the king said to Barzillai, "Come over with me, and I will provide for you with me in Jerusalem." 34 But Barzillai said to the king, "How many years have I still to live, that I should go up with the king to Jerusalem? 35 I am this day eighty years old. Can I discern what is pleasant and what is not? Can your servant taste what he eats or what he drinks? Can I still listen to the voice of singing men and singing women? Why then should your servant be an added burden to my lord the king? 36 Your servant will go a little way over the Jordan with the king. Why should the king repay me with such a reward? 37 Please let your servant return, that I may die in my own city near the grave of my father and my mother. But here is your servant Chimham. Let him go over with my lord the king, and do for him whatever seems good to you." 38 And the king answered, "Chimham shall go over with me, and I will do for him whatever seems good to you, and all that you desire of me I will do for you." 39 Then all the people went over the Jordan, and the king went over. And the king kissed Barzillai and blessed

him, and he returned to his own home. 40 The king went on to Gilgal, and Chimham went on with him. All the people of Judah, and also half the people of Israel, brought the king on his way. (2 Samuel 19:31–40, ESV)

Barzillai had helped David while he was in Mahanaim.. He was a Gileadite, meaning he was from the land that the Gad, Asher, and the half tribe of Manasseh occupied. **How is Barzillai described? What did King David offer Barzillai for his help in the rebellion? What was his response? What was his reason for not accepting David's offer? Is this reasonable? For us older men, does age change our wants, needs and desires? What does Barzillai propose as a compromise? Who do you think Chimham is in relation to Barzillai?**

And so David finally gets to cross the Jordan only to find others on the other side.

2 Samuel 19:41–43. 41 Then all the men of Israel came to the king and said to the king, “Why have our brothers the men of Judah stolen you away and brought the king and his household over the Jordan, and all David's men with him?” 42 All the men of Judah answered the men of Israel, “Because the king is our close relative. Why then are you angry over this matter? Have we eaten at all at the king's expense? Or has he given us any gift?” 43 And the men of Israel answered the men of Judah, “We have ten shares in the king, and in David also we have more than you. Why then did you despise us? Were we not the first to speak of bringing back our king?” But the words of the men of Judah were fiercer than the words of the men of Israel. (2 Samuel 19:41–43, ESV)

The whole entourage has now passed over the Jordan and they are met by the men of Israel. The men of Israel are indignant that The men of Judah had escorted the King across the Jordan. The men of Judah respond by saying that basically they are blood brother, all from the same tribe. The men of Israel come back with “well we have a 10 share part of David” referring to the 10 tribes of Israel to Judah's one or 2 depending on how you count them. This turns into a shouting match and spirals out of control with the men of Judah shouting louder than the men of Israel.

**Have you ever been with a bunch of men when the passions run high and the words start flying? What was the result?**

**In a crowd when the shouting starts, nothing good will result. In fact the situation usually deteriorates. Which takes us to chapter 20**

2 Samuel 20:1-2 20 Now there happened to be there a worthless man, whose name was Sheba, the son of Bichri, a Benjaminite. And he blew the trumpet and said, “We have no portion in David, and we have no inheritance in the son of Jesse; every man to his tents, O Israel!”

2 So all the men of Israel withdrew from David and followed Sheba the son of Bichri. But the men of Judah followed their king steadfastly from the Jordan to Jerusalem. (2 Samuel 20:1–2, ESV)

The commotion of the last three verses of chapter 19 lead straight to the split we see in chapter 20. At a time when there should be healing, there is division

Notice the adjective for the man Sheba: worthless. **What do worthless men do?** In this case they cause division, rebellion and more bloodshed .

Notice also the adverb used for the actions of the men of Judah: steadfastly Steadfast men stay the course when the times are tough, when things don't turn out the way you want it. Steadfast men stay true to their word, true to their wives and families, true to their Savior. **Have you ever felt the desire to give up? To take the easy way out..**

**This section reminds us that there are two ends to the spectrum, Worthless men and Steadfast men. Seek to identify with Steadfastness.**

2 Samuel 20:3 And David came to his house at Jerusalem. And the king took the ten concubines whom he had left to care for the house and put them in a house under guard and provided for them, but did not go in to them. So they were shut up until the day of their death, living as if in widowhood. ([2 Samuel 20:3](#), ESV)

**This is a stark reminder that our actions will effect others around us. David indulged in one illicit affair and ten you women suffered the consequence's for life.**

2 Samuel 20:4-10a. 4 Then the king said to Amasa, "Call the men of Judah together to me within three days, and be here yourself." 5 So Amasa went to summon Judah, but he delayed beyond the set time that had been appointed him. 6 And David said to Abishai, "Now Sheba the son of Bichri will do us more harm than Absalom. Take your lord's servants and pursue him, lest he get himself to fortified cities and escape from us." 7 And there went out after him Joab's men and the Cherethites and the Pelethites, and all the mighty men. They went out from Jerusalem to pursue Sheba the son of Bichri. 8 When they were at the great stone that is in Gibeon, Amasa came to meet them. Now Joab was wearing a soldier's garment, and over it was a belt with a sword in its sheath fastened on his thigh, and as he went forward it fell out. 9 And Joab said to Amasa, "Is it well with you, my brother?" And Joab took Amasa by the beard with his right hand to kiss him. 10 But Amasa did not observe the sword that was in Joab's hand. So Joab struck him with it in the stomach and spilled his entrails to the ground without striking a second blow, and he died. (2 Samuel 20:4-10, ESV)

David calls Amasa to go out and rally the men of Judah. David gives Amasa 3 days to do this and to return with the men. Remember David has relieved Joab of his responsibilities as commander of the troops and given that role to his cousin Amasa, who was Absalom's commander. But Amasa delayed. **We are not given any information as to why Amasa delayed. What could have been some of the reasons? One of the reasons I don't get things done in a timely manner is procrastination. What is the most common reason to procrastinate? - You don't want to do the task or don't enjoy the task. What was Amasa doing just a couple of days before this assignment? He was leading the army of the Israelites against the men of Judah. And now he is tasked with rallying the men of Judah. Do you think this is a job he is keen on doing? Procrastination is not a sought after quality. Do what you are told to do in a timely manner and you will be better off for it.**

Vs 6. David tells Abishai, Joab's brother, to do what Amasa has not done, namely get Sheba. Abishai takes David's men and Joab's men and also the Cherethites and Pelethites and all of David's mighty men to pursue Sheba. Who should they meet on the way? Amasa. Joab steps forward, greets Amasa, and in the process Joab's sword falls out of its sheath, putting Amasa at ease as Joab was now supposedly unarmed. As Joab grabs Amasa's beard with his right hand to kiss him, he thrusts a sword concealed in his left hand into Amasa's stomach and he dies.

**This tragic story reminds us that all of this turmoil and bloodshed is because David couldn't control his lust, and he didn't discipline his sons.**

2 Samuel 20:10b-13. Then Joab and Abishai his brother pursued Sheba the son of Bichri. 11 And one of Joab's young men took his stand by Amasa and said, "Whoever favors Joab, and whoever is for David, let him follow Joab." 12 And Amasa lay wallowing in his blood in the highway. And anyone who came by, seeing him, stopped. And when the man saw that all the people stopped, he carried Amasa out of the highway into the field and threw a garment over him. 13 When he was taken out of the highway, all the people went on after Joab to pursue Sheba the son of Bichri. (2 Samuel 20:10-13, ESV)

Joab has killed Amasa and Joab and his brother and all the mighty men go off after Sheba. But one of Joab's men remains by the body and proclaims to all who pass by, "Whoever favors Joab, and whoever is for David, let him follow Joab." The text next graphically states, "And Amasa lay wallowing in his blood in the highway." What does everyone do when you are slowly passing an horrific traffic accident? You slow down and stop if possible. Guess what everyone does as they approach the body.. They stop, and gander, and wonder. This was supposed to be a sign to spur people on to follow Joab and David - a warning about what may feed all you if you don't. Instead it has turned into a spectacle and people are doing nothing. The man in charge sees that the desired effect is not happening so he covers the body and takes the body off the highway so it can't be seen and the "all the people went on after Joab to pursue Sheba the son of Bichri."

**Have you ever set off with a plan to reach a desired result? And then after a bit of time you see that the plan is not producing your expected result. What do you do? Well you can double down or maybe you misread your employees or customers and you change tactics. Who were the people who were passing by? For the most part they were Israelite soldiers whom Amasa had summoned to fight for him and David. Joab's young man misread how they would understand the body of Amasa laying on the side of the road.**

**If the road you are traveling on is not taking you to where you should be going, re-evaluate and don't be afraid to change plans.**

2 Samuel 20:14-22. 14 And Sheba passed through all the tribes of Israel to Abel of Beth-maacah, and all the Bichrites assembled and followed him in. 15 And all the men who were with Joab came and besieged him in Abel of Beth-maacah. They cast up a mound against the city, and it stood against the rampart, and they were battering the wall to throw it down. 16 Then a wise woman called from the city, "Listen! Listen! Tell Joab,

‘Come here, that I may speak to you.’ ” 17 And he came near her, and the woman said, “Are you Joab?” He answered, “I am.” Then she said to him, “Listen to the words of your servant.” And he answered, “I am listening.” 18 Then she said, “They used to say in former times, ‘Let them but ask counsel at Abel,’ and so they settled a matter. 19 I am one of those who are peaceable and faithful in Israel. You seek to destroy a city that is a mother in Israel. Why will you swallow up the heritage of the Lord?” 20 Joab answered, “Far be it from me, far be it, that I should swallow up or destroy! 21 That is not true. But a man of the hill country of Ephraim, called Sheba the son of Bichri, has lifted up his hand against King David. Give up him alone, and I will withdraw from the city.” And the woman said to Joab, “Behold, his head shall be thrown to you over the wall.” 22 Then the woman went to all the people in her wisdom. And they cut off the head of Sheba the son of Bichri and threw it out to Joab. So he blew the trumpet, and they dispersed from the city, every man to his home. And Joab returned to Jerusalem to the king. (2 Samuel 20:14–22, ESV)

So Sheba the Bichrite goes all through Israel trying to drum up support for his rebellion. He ends up in Abel of Beth Macao. (In the far north of Israel). And “all the Bichrites assembled and followed him in.” Notice that no one else is mentioned. It doesn’t seem like Sheba garnered much support.

If your cause or idea is not attracting others maybe you should look at the morality behind your cause. The presence or absence of adherents to a cause does not determine the rightness of a cause. The rightness is based on God’s law, his word. In this case Sheba was dividing The kingdom from it’s God ordained ruler. Compare this to David not taking Saul’s life when he had the opportunity.

Joab and his men besiege the city of Abel. They throw up a mound against the city wall in order to batter the wall to gain access to the city. Then a “wise” woman called out to Joab. This is the second wise woman introduced in 2 Samuel. This first was the wise woman of Tekoa whom Joab used to reconcile David with Absalom.

The Bible often paints women as wise, heroic and worthy of honor (think Rahab, Deborah, Ruth, Pricilla, Hannah, Esther, Abigail,) as opposed to a culture in the Middle East which looked down on women as secondary citizens or even property. (Think Islamic culture))

This woman then politely and respectfully makes her case ending with: “You seek to destroy a city that is a mother in Israel. Why will you swallow up the heritage of the Lord?”. Joab counters that this is not what he intends but that there is a man called Sheba son of Bichri who has declared against King David. If you can give him up I will withdraw. The woman promptly replies “Behold, his dead whale be thrown to you over the wall.. Why did the people of Abel receive Sheba and his men when they were not of that city? Hospitality is a bedrock of the culture of that day. They were obliged to take these men in after all they were also brother Israelites. When the wise woman understands the situation she realizes that Sheba has worn out his welcome.

Hospitality is commanded but it is not forever. If you are on the receiving end of hospitality don’t take advantage of your host’s generosity. If you have extended hospitality recognize that it is not infinite. Protect your life and that of your family.

Vs22. The women went to all the people “in her wisdom”. They cut off Sheba’s head and threw it over the wall. And Joab retreats.

2 Samuel 20:23-26. 23 Now Joab was in command of all the army of Israel; and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was in command of the Cherethites and the Pelethites; 24 and Adoram was in charge of the forced labor; and Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was the recorder; 25 and Sheva was secretary; and Zadok and Abiathar were priests; 26 and Ira the Jairite was also David’s priest. (2 Samuel 20:23–26, ESV)

The author lays out who is whom and what they’re doing at this stage of the history. Why would the author do this? There are no moral lessons. Why would he include this information ?

Historical data adds to the veracity of the narrative. The data can be checked by others. If it is true then the narrative itself has more credence. This is also true in the New Testament. When Luke writes his Gospel he adds factual points that can be verified by later readers to reinforce his account of the life of Jesus Christ. Luke 2:1-2. In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria.

2 Samuel 21:1. Now there was a famine in the days of David for three years, year after year. And David sought the face of the Lord. And the Lord said, “There is bloodguilt on Saul and on his house, because he put the Gibeonites to death.” (2 Samuel 21:1, ESV)

