

Introduction

(Killing the messenger): We read this text and immediately go to the killing of the messenger. But we need to remember the context. This man was lying and looking to capitalize on the death of the king for his own gain. In other words, he was operating like most of the people of this world. Like a political strategist who said, never waste a good crisis.

(Need): This text subversively calls us to examine ourselves, for what we truly long for in our lives?

(Text): 2 Samuel 1

Body

I. Is your hope for God more than lesser glories.

- a. David was completely innocent in Saul's Death, even at a heart level.
 - i. It isn't surprising that he mourned Jonathan. But Saul??
 - ii. Now, everyone would expect David to launch into something resembling a Taylor Swift Song.
 - iii. This goes completely against what the expectations of the world would be, certainly what this opportunistic Amalekite thought.
 - iv. He truly mourned and lamented the death of Jonathan and Saul.
 - v. Additionally, he led his people to lament. This was true God centered leadership.
- b. The Jews in exile hearing this is called to long for God in the waiting.
 - i. This was not a call to launch a rebellion, but to wait for the Lord to bring about his return.
 - ii. As they wait, reveal the character of God through their waiting.
 - iii. In other words, it is a call to make God the weightiest glory in our hearts and in our life.
- c. Our pursuit of lesser glories
 - i. This is the time of year when we are often thinking, planning, setting goals, reading about diets.
 - ii. College students are planning graduation plans, seniors are making plans. Some of you may be planning for retirement.
 - iii. Either consciously or unconsciously you are most likely asking yourself, what do I want in life.
 - iv. For the Christian, the answer is God, above all.
 1. Now, in our culture it is easy to say. Yep, that's right, but what do you really want.
 2. But that is the right and the ultimately most deeply satisfying answer.
 - v. Illustration: In my own life I have been thinking a lot about spiritual disciplines, rules of life, and that sort of thing. We can all agree that these are good goals, but my heart is easily turned to take these good things and remove them even from God.
 - vi. **Anything less than a heart set on God will lead to false rest, false hopes, and division of our souls.** The fruit will not be the fruit of the Spirit, but of the flesh which will bring restlessness, even when things begin to fall into place for us.
 - vii. Even though outwardly things maybe falling in place, we have gotten the promotion, the boss who made our life miserable was fired or demoted, the in-law who has always belittled us and made us feel small gets shamed, rather than being able to respond with love, respond with secret little dances of triumph. It may feel good in the moment, but there is not lasting peace, or joy in it. The bitterness and hurt is not dealt with, our identities do not feel more secure. But, every bit as fragile.

II. In David we see a vision for a truly different king who leads a different kingdom.

- a. There is a stark contrast between the behaviors and outcomes of David and Saul.
- b. Saul was never secure, always anxious, always fearful, never at rest.
- c. One set free when our hearts are resting in God and longing for his kingdom.
 - i. David certainly felt a rollercoaster of emotions, but here we see, a secure person with a healthy inner life, one that takes no rejoicing in evil, even when it benefits him.
 - ii. When our ultimate hope and enjoyment is God, it frees us to enjoy his blessings, without shame.
- d. The greatest good is filling the world with the aroma of Christ.
 - i. The world says, getting what we want is the best reward.
 - ii. But the Bible teaches us, that filling the world with the aroma of Christ is by far the greatest good.
- e. David was faithful to seek God when it was both hard and easy.
- f. Longing for a king that is good.

III. Longing for the Kingdom of God in Our Lives.

- a. Is Christ your King? Is your allegiance and your hopes, found in his kingdom and his rule?
 - i. This a question that is both fearful, but also tender.
 - ii. Fearful because it is weighty. But tender because the King brings you into his Kingdom through his accomplishments, his grace. You submit yourself before his kingdom is rule, but, experience love and grace.
- b. Pray not just for outcomes, but for your heart in the outcomes.
- c. Daily Examine
 - i. Give God Glory for the fruit that has been evidenced in you life.
 - 1. Michael Emlet, "Saint, Sufferer and Sinner."
 - ii. Confess, receive forgiveness, and ask the Holy Spirit for help.
- d. Communion, Examine and receive the grace of a new kingdom.