

Series: David: Man of Passion and Destiny

Sermon: David 5 "The Shepherd King"

Scripture: 2 Samuel 2:1-4

Psalm: 103:1-5

Theme: David becomes king

Text: 2 Samuel 2:1 "Some time later, David questioned the Lord, 'Should I go to one of the towns in Judah?'" "Yes, go," the Lord told him. "Which one should I go to?" David asked. "To Hebron," the Lord replied."

Blurb: After years of running for his life from King Saul, the news finally came that Saul had died. Not only was David finally rid of his nemesis, the window opened for him to seize the throne! What did David do? He waited to be told what to do. What? Why didn't he jump at the opportunity, you know, "Seize the day!" "Faint heart never won fair lady" and all. But David had learned from his painful mistakes, that he had to turn to the Lord for guidance. So David waited for God to guide his steps. This is a lesson we all need to learn. This Sunday we'll explore how we can learn to make our decisions while "waiting on God."

Sources: *David: A Man of Passion and Destiny* by Charles R. Swindoll

Opening Song: "How Can I Keep from Singing?" - Sanctify

Welcome: Pastor David

Song set: "We Are the Free"

"Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)"

"Good, Good Father"

Kids to Kid's Church: Bob & Pat Rosenbaum

PP#1: David: Man of Passion and Destiny.

The Shepherd King

"Some time later, David questioned the Lord, 'Should I go to one of the towns in Judah?'"

"Yes, go," the Lord told him. "Which one should I go to?" David asked. "To Hebron," the Lord replied." -2 Samuel 2:1

David: Man of Passion and Destiny. The Shepherd King. 2 Samuel 2:1 "Some time later, David questioned the Lord, 'Should I go to one of the towns in Judah?'" "Yes, go," the Lord told him. "Which one should I go to?" David asked. "To HEB-ron," the Lord replied."

PP#2: *Image of Saul in battle, perhaps dead, but not too graphic.*

Saul was dead! The news finally came that Saul, who for a decade was determined to kill David, and who had kept him on the run, had died. Not only was David finally rid of his nemesis, the window opened for him to seize the throne! What did David do? He waited to be told what to do. What? Why didn't he jump at the opportunity, you know, "Seize the day!" "Faint heart never won fair lady" and all. But David had learned from his painful mistakes, that he had to turn to the Lord for guidance.

PP#3: 1 Samuel 27:1

David said to himself, "One day I will be destroyed by Saul's power. The best thing for me

to do is to escape to Philistine territory. Then Saul will give up looking for me in Israelite territory, and I will escape his power.”

You see, David had gotten himself into a mess. He got so desperate running from Saul, that he stopped asking God for guidance on what to do. In says in 1 Samuel 27:1 that “David said to *himself*....” Usually it was David’s habit to inquire before the Lord. But after that many years and near escapes, David starts listening to his own negative thoughts. And he again hides in enemy territory. In fact, he becomes allies with the Philistine king! Well, the Philistines then attack Israel, and David is in an awkward situation. Then, when David and his men leave their city, the Amalekites attack and burn it to the ground, capturing their families and all their possessions. David’s men start talking about stoning him!

PP#4: 1 Samuel 30:6-8

6 David was in deep trouble because the troops were talking about stoning him. Each of the soldiers was deeply distressed about their sons and daughters. But David found strength in the Lord his God. 7 David said to the priest Abiathar, Ahimelech’s son, “Bring the priestly vest to me.” So Abiathar brought it to David.

8 Then David asked the Lord, “Should I go after this raiding party? Will I catch them?” “Yes, go after them!” God answered. “You will definitely catch them and will succeed in the rescue!”

What a mess! David had stopped listening to God, and it went from bad to worse. At this dark hour, David goes to God. Verse 6, “But David found strength in the Lord his God.”

Why is it that it takes such bad things to happen to us, for us to turn to God? We think we can get along in our own strength and on our own. But it takes bad things to remind us how much we need God, and how we must stay connected to Him. That’s why the Bible says to rejoice in hardship, and give God thanks for problems. When we experience them, perhaps out of desperation, we remember to put our trust in God. Bad things can help us grow spiritually.

David finally calls for the priest to make inquiries to God. And then, off he goes to rescue their women, children, live stalk and possessions.

PP#5: *Image of Saul and the medium of En-dor, with Samuel’s spirit.*

Meanwhile, over in Israel, Saul faces a battle with the Philistines. He turns to a medium, a sorcerer, to conjure up Samuel’s spirit to ask for help. But all he gets is predictions of doom. Sure enough, the Philistines beat Saul on the battlefield. Saul, his sons—including David’s best friend Jonathan, and many of the Israelite army, are all killed.

When David hears the news, he is crushed and saddened. Saul may have been a constant threat, but this was still his people, his king, and his best friend.

But, on the other hand, David knew that God had anointed him to succeed Saul as king. The door was open. But David’s painful lessons were too vivid. He chose instead to wait on God for guidance.

PP#6: The Shepherd King

1. Wait upon God for your important decisions - “Pray it through!”

Psalm 37:23 “The Lord orders the steps of the godly, and delights in them.”

We learn from David's painful lessons, too...including the similar ones we've experienced! When making decisions in your life, it is important to consult God. I call this "praying it through." Bring your life issues to God in prayer and ask Him to guide you. Now, we won't get direct answers like David did. But David didn't have the Holy Spirit within him like we do, guiding us. When we ask, we will be nudged, pushed, compelled from the inside, about what God's will is. But not just the major decisions. We must be in ongoing prayer, for we have to take our daily lives to God seeking His leading. God directs the daily paths of His followers.

PP#7: 2 Samuel 2

1 Some time later, David questioned the Lord, "Should I go to one of the towns in Judah?" "Yes, go," the Lord told him. "Which one should I go to?" David asked. "To Hebron," the Lord replied. 2 So David went there, along with his two wives: Ahinoam from Jezreel and Abigail, Nabal's widow, from Carmel. 3 David also took the soldiers who were with him, each with his family, and they lived in the towns around Hebron.

David mourns for Saul, Jonathan, and the Israelites. Then, before he acts, he prays it through. Turn to 2 Samuel 2. First Samuel is all about when Saul is King. It ends with Saul's death. Second Samuel is about David as king. We now enter 2 Samuel. Chapter 2. "Some time later, David questioned the Lord, 'Should I go to one of the towns in Judah?' [Should I go back among the Israelites?] 'Yes, go,' the Lord told him. 'Which one should I go to?' David asked. 'To HEB-ron,' the Lord replied." So David went to HEB-ron. So David went there, along with his two wives...[and] the soldiers who were with him," along with their families.

PP#8: 2 Samuel

2:4 "Then the people of Judah came to Hebron and anointed David king over the house of Judah." 2:10-11 "Saul's son Ishbosheth was 40 years old when he became king over Israel, and he ruled for two years. The house of Judah, however, followed David. 11 The amount of time David ruled in Hebron over the house of Judah totaled seven and a half years. 3:1 The war between Saul's house and David's house was long and drawn out. David kept getting stronger, while Saul's house kept getting weaker.

David isn't in HEB-ron very long before the leaders of the state of Judah come and make him king. Not too surprising as David is back in his home territory, about 13 miles from Bethlehem where he grew up. The other 11 states of Israel continue to follow Saul's general for five years, and eventually they crown Saul's remaining son, Ish-bosheth king. And during this time, there is civil war among Israel. But David prospers and the northern tribes weaken. Finally, Ish-bosheth is tragically murdered by his nephews.

PP#9: The new capital: The City of Peace ("Jerusalem") [with an image of Jerusalem]

The outlaw becomes king. David is 30 when he is crowned king in HEB-ron, and 37 when crowned king over all Israel. His first political move is to establish peace among the nation by selecting national capital. He astutely chooses an obscure town right along the boarder between Judah and the rest, named Jebus. He renames it "City of Peace," or in Hebrew, *Jeru-salem*.

David the shepherd becomes the shepherd of a nation. He is remembered as the greatest king Israel ever had. And the prophets are full of references to the promised Messiah coming out of King David's lineage. David is born in Bethlehem, and Jesus is born in Bethlehem. David as a boy is a shepherd on the hills around Bethlehem, and when Jesus is born, the angels tell the shepherds on the hills around Bethlehem to come and worship the new born King. That King will reign on David's throne forever.

PP#10: The Shepherd King

1. Wait upon God for your important decisions - "Pray it through!"

2. Commit to lead well your own family

1 Timothy 3:4-5 "He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children in line, for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church?"

David, the greatest king Israel ever had, is pretty important. But today we hear God's word for us through some of his biggest failures.

David is an adrenaline junky. He never does anything half way. And so, although he honors God in many parts of his life, he lives in the extreme in his romantic life. He has a fondness for women! And so, even though God's law prohibits it, David follows the culture of his day in the surrounding nations, and takes on many wives and concubines.

But this then becomes where David faced struggles. David, so capable to lead a nation, cannot lead his own family. His children bicker and feud. The oldest rapes his half-sister. David does nothing. Another son leads a coup against David. David meekly goes into exile. David is so busy with his role, with his job, with his career, that he cannot lead his own family.

It's tempting to be so impressed with David: one of those super-people who seem to be able to do so much, and be so awesome. But don't compare yourself to David. He had his own struggles. What you can do is hear from God's word the lament of David's failures. You probably aren't a towering military hero, a famous king, or a figure that will go down in history.

But you can commit to lead well your own family. You can choose to not let your job, your role, your career, consume you. Create healthy boundaries. David was popular in public, but hated at home. What a tragic situation. How much better is it, says God's word, to manage your own household well. Make that your priority.

And it is never too late to start. You can do it before you have kids: establish home patterns and values that create a Christian home. You can do it when your kids are adults: create time for them, listen to them, encourage them, support them, invest in them, share with them from your own faith experiences and understandings of God. You can do that with your grandkids, nieces, nephews. Make managing your own home—your family—a priority!

PP#11: *Image of the Ark of the Covenant on the oxen cart with Uzzah touching it.*

David had a heart after God's own heart. He loved God with his whole heart. He loved to worship God and he wanted to build the worship of God into his new nation. What great intentions, so heartfelt. So he eagerly sought out the almost-forgotten Ark of the Covenant and quickly created a procession to bring it to the new capital of Jerusalem. He has it put on an oxen cart, but when the oxen stumbled, the priest Uzzah reaches out to steady the Ark, and when he touches it, he suddenly dies. What? David is horrified! Why would God bring punishment? David wanted to bring the Ark to the capital. What's wrong with that?

Well, nothing. But heartfelt is not enough. God had specific rules for how the Ark was to be handled. There were rings on the corners of the Ark, through which poles were supposed to be slid, poles that were to be used by the priests to carry the Ark.

Seems terribly inefficient. David's way was better!

PP#12: The Shepherd King

1. Wait upon God for your important decisions - "Pray it through!"
2. Commit to lead well your own family
3. Attend to obedience - heartfelt is not enough

John 14:23 "Jesus replied, 'Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching.'"

But love for God cannot be expressed just however David wants, even if he has eagerness. We say this to our own kids, "If you love me, do what I ask!" True love, committed love for God, means obedience. Over and over again God says, if you love me, keep my commandments. You show your love by obeying. You don't really love me if you're not willing to do what I ask. You must take me for who I am, not put on me your own desires or ideas.

We are like David, and are offended at Uzzah's death for steadying the Ark. But the same lesson is for us. We cannot make God whatever we want. We cannot do for God whatever we want. When we love God, we have to conform to God's Word.

How have we forgotten the rings and poles? How have we neglected living as God desires of us? How have we made decisions about God by what *we* want to do. Even noble, heartfelt intentions are not enough. Love means we must attend to obedience.

David stops the procession. He grieves. David is not perfect, but he is sensitive to sin. So he does his research. David realizes he cannot have God on his terms. He has to take God on God's terms. He learns the proper way to carry God's Ark. And he equips the priests with the poles, and they carry the Ark into Jerusalem.

Loving God means we cannot have God on *our* terms. We must take God on God's terms. What for you are the rings and poles?

PP#13: 2 Chronicles 6:7-9

[Solomon said,] 7 "My father David wanted to build a temple for the name of the Lord, Israel's God. 8 But the Lord said to my father David: 'It is very good that you had it in your heart to build a temple for my name. Nevertheless, 9 you yourself won't build that temple. Instead, your very own son will build the temple for my name.'"

One more. David has a palace in the new capital, but he wants to build an even grander temple for God. What a great sentiment. God, however, tells him "no."

Of course, David is baffled. But God assures David, "Your heart is in the right place." This is not a punishment. God just had a different plan. God didn't want a king, whose hands had carried such weapons of war and who had killed so many people, to also build His holy temple in the City of Peace. No, God planned to have David's son Solomon build it. David, however, could begin gathering supplies, materials, monies, in preparations for "some day."

PP#14: The Shepherd King

1. Wait upon God for your important decisions - "Pray it through!"
2. Commit to lead well your own family

3. Attend to obedience - heartfelt is not enough

4. Let God do things God's way

1 Chronicles 22:5 "David thought...the Lord's temple must be great beyond compare...so I myself will prepare things for him. So David made extensive preparations before his death."

You see, not every plan *for* God is necessarily *of* God. David's heart is in the right place, but God still tells him "no." We need to let God be God. We need to let God do things God's way. Even when we have a strong desire for God, our love for God means we are careful to let God lead.

My mother told me that as a youth she had a strong passion to go be a missionary. It was something God laid upon her heart. She so wanted to serve God that way. So, when my father, who had committed to be a pastor in North Dakota, proposed to her, she was torn. How could she accept? It was her wizened and mature aunt who took her aside and asked her, "Is not serving the Lord as a pastor's wife also the life of a missionary?" Well, I grew up as a pastor's kid in North Dakota!

Notice that when your heart is in the right place, a "no" from God is not a rejection. It just requires letting God do things God's way. And sometimes God gives us that passion, not so we do it ourselves, but so that we can help and equip others to do it. Solomon credited David with making the temple possible.

My mother has always been one of the strongest supporters of missionaries I know of. She has provided piles of resources for missionaries, and she has passed on that passion to all of us kids, and anyone who knows her well.

Perhaps the "no"s that you have heard from God, have been clarifications of God's intentions, and invitations for you to stockpile resources for others. What has God laid upon your heart so that you can support and provide for others to do what God is planning?

Today we are going to be celebrating Holy Communion. Before we do, I want us, in response to this message, to assess how centered we have God in our hearts. Waiting on God in our decisions, leading our own families faithfully, loving God through obedience, accepting God's way, and supporting how we can.

To do help us examine our hearts, I'm going to ask Andrew to come up and lead us in worship, using one of the psalms that David wrote from this period of his life.

Let's examine our hearts, inviting God there, so that our worship can be heartfelt, and that our hearts may be in the right places.

Andrew?

Responsive Psalm: Psalm 103 - Andrew

Kids return to worship

Prayers: Pastor David

Holy Communion: David

Music: "Our God" Max Thompson

Closing Song: "My Lighthouse"

Benediction: Pastor David

Psalm 63

- 1 You, God, are my God,
earnestly I seek you;
I thirst for you,
my whole being longs for you,
in a dry and parched land
where there is no water.
- 2 I have seen you in the sanctuary
and beheld your power and your glory.
- 3 Because your love is better than life,
my lips will glorify you.
- 4 I will praise you as long as I live,
and in your name I will lift up my hands.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR AUGUST 7, 2016

Sermon: “Shepherd King”

Scriptures: 2 Samuel 2:1-4, 2 Samuel 9

Opening prayer

Introductions: Drawing upon 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, 13, explain something about this *agape*-love.

Background: Saul’s death. Skim 1 Samuel 27 through 2 Samuel 1.

1. This is a dark time in David’s life. He and his men are basically serving as guerilla soldiers hired by their arch enemies! Notice the first part of 1 Samuel 27:1. How does this all start? Where is David living? Who is his king? How does Saul die?

Read 2 Samuel 2:1-4

2. How does David make decisions in this passage?

3. How do you make decisions...especially major life decisions? How do you discern God’s will?

Read 2 Samuel 9

4. Consult 1 Samuel 20:14-15 (notice the word loving-kindness) and 24:21. Why does David seek out Mephibosheth?

5. The word kindness that again appears in 2 Samuel 9:1 is the Hebrew *chesed*. (It appears in the New Testament as *agape*, or love). The authors of the King James Bible created the word “loving-kindness” as a translation of this word. What does this tell you about the meaning of *chesed*?

6. *Chesed* brought a response of grace from David. Using verses 9-13, explain how David extended grace.

7. Relate an example of when you experienced grace that was prompted by loving-kindness. Or relate an example of when you experienced loving-kindness and it caused you to extend grace.

8. Use this story and draw parallels to the biblical story of salvation. (Hint: Use Mephibosheth as a symbol for us as lost people saved by God.)

9. Look at Luke 14:15-24. What parallels do you see between this image of heaven and what David did?

10. Application: What will you take away from these passages? How will you live it out?