

The life of David is now taking another turn, this time for the better, but for how long will it last?

The two preceding chapters contain God's promise to David that he will, not only, have successors [male children to rule after him] but also that the kingdom he is forging [albeit with God's help] will be established for his offspring. That would be the nation of Israel also called the 'kingdom of David'.

Chapter 8 gives a list of some of David's battle honours. The battles are skipped over yet recall the deaths of many thousands in those battles and, please note, the only casualties recorded are those of David's foes. This doesn't mean that there were no Israeli casualties, just that they were not recorded here – an early form of propaganda?

David's treatment of captives, both men and animals, may cause some raised eyebrows. The hamstringing of hundreds of horses, effectively crippling them [8:4] and the slaying of two thirds of the Moabite prisoners [8:2] for example.

I ask if, during these events, David ever cast a thought back to his Great Grandmother – Naomi, the Moabite.

Perhaps, now a time of peace had come and David was secure in his palace, he reflected upon the darker side of his journey.

Maybe, now that God has given Israel a time of peace, His servant David feels the need to extend some of the grace that God has so generously given him to others. A peace offering?

Read 2 Samuel 9:1-13

I hope I am not alone in finding many of the aspects of the story of David troublesome. He was a flawed character, just as we too have all fallen short of God's grace [Ro. 3:23].

1. Mistakes are made by all. Some make big mistakes. Some mistakes seem small but have big consequences [remember Uzzah 6:7]. Is there such a thing as a 'little mistake'? Or, a 'little sin'? Discuss

2. Why did David seek out Mephibosheth? See 1 Samuel 20:14-15. What does this teach about the importance of keeping our word? Mephibosheth had been a small child when he was injured and became lame in both feet [4:4]. It may be the reason that he survived when his relations did not. How would you feel sharing David's table every day if you were he?
3. There is a lot of talk about slavery currently. Ziba [9:2] is called 'a servant of Saul' [who was both dead and David's enemy] would that make Ziba a slave? [Read verses 9-11] How was slavery understood during those times? Are we aware of modern day slavery and its effects?
4. David as king was a powerful man who could give and take life. Almost the first words David said to him was 'Don't be afraid'. What would you have been thinking and feeling as David? How does David's treatment of Mephibosheth demonstrate the character of God? See Ephesians 2:1-18. How has He shown you grace?
5. David restores/gives to Mephibosheth all that had once been given by Saul to Jonathan. Would we spend our own resources to elevate someone else? How does being generous with what we have, the skills, the time etc. change our hearts to be like Jesus?
6. Being both lame and a member of Saul's household marginalised Mephibosheth in various ways. Who would you say are the most marginalised in our society and Bexhill? When have you shown mercy or grace to someone else? Who is in need of your mercy at this present moment?

Prayer Points

Pray for those who are housebound in the church and are unable to attend the services in person. Give thanks for those who are able to run Zoom and provide the opportunity for people to participate in some measure.

In a highly fragile Afghanistan, BMS workers and BMS-supported projects have been bringing holistic care to remote communities. Please pray for the £100,000 we need to continue this work.

Sermon Notes



BIBLE STUDY

June 25th 2023

The Life of David:

A Heart that looks outwards 2 Samuel 9:1-13

David is an extraordinary person in the Bible. He was a skilled musician, he was a formidable warrior who won a legendary battle against a great champion, he attracted the greatest soldiers of his day to serve under him. He was a poet, writing Psalms that expressed the deep longing of the human heart for God. His words were so personal and powerful that thousands of years later, they remain. As much as all the things listed earlier are impressive to other human beings, God was far more interested in David's heart. A close study of the life of David will open our eyes to both how much God cares about the condition of our hearts and the foreshadow of Jesus who truly redeems our hearts. The world spends a lot of time pressing us to focus on exterior issues but God looks on the inside.

If you would like to join a Connect Group, please contact the church office 01424 730001