

Book of 2 Samuel

1. 2 Samuel 1:17-27, 2:1-7 (A Personality Truly Mourning)

1) Observation: What is the name of the song in which David mourns the deaths of Saul and Jonathan, and where is it recorded in the text?

2) Interpretation: The people of Jabesh Gilead, who conducted the funerals of Saul and Jonathan, had what kind of relationship with Saul's household? (Refer to 1 Samuel 31:11-13, 1 Samuel 11, and Judges 19)

3) Application:

3.1(God Loving Us): When facing difficulties due to the Ammonite invasion, the people of Jabesh Gilead remembered the favor Saul had shown them and risked their lives to retrieve the bodies of Saul and Jonathan for a proper burial. These were the merciful acts that God had prepared for Saul and Jonathan in their tragic end. Have you ever received help from the merciful acts God has prepared in your life? How was that experience?

3.2(God Meeting Us): David commends the actions of the people of Jabesh Gilead and adopts a gesture of embracing Saul's side of the people, seeking to achieve unity and peace in Israel through God's grace. Where in your life do you need the gospel of reconciliation?

3.3(God Refinding Us): Saul was David's father-in-law, and Jonathan was a very close friend to David. Though it was a relationship of affection, David was deeply saddened. Therefore, he composed a lament to honor the lives of Saul and Jonathan and to comfort his grieving heart. This mourning process not only affected David personally but also brought the whole of Israel together to overcome the sorrow and crisis of the nation. When you experienced the death of a loved one, what mourning process did you go through? Let's share the new experiences of God's grace that you discovered through sufficient mourning.

3.4(God Inspiring US): Through reconciliation, David exhibits the qualities of a unifying king not only for Judah but for all of Israel. His journey to embrace the opposition marks the beginning of David's role as a king. What are the acts of inclusiveness and reconciliation that you need to undertake to fulfill the mission God has given you?

4) Real Life Today: What gestures of reconciliation can you initiate to foster unity within your community?

2. 2 Samuel 2:12-32, 3:20-39 (Gestures for Reconciliation)

1) Observation: Where is the region called the 'Hill of the Sword,' and what happened there?

2) Interpretation: Why did David mourn and bury Abner in Hebron, the central city of Judah?

3) Application:

3.1(God Loving Us): David faces a situation where his subordinate, Joab, takes matters into his own hands and kills Abner, who was Saul's commander and someone David had accepted as an ally. Even though they were on the same side, emotions take precedence, and it becomes a hindrance to the national unification goal and adds difficulty to David's position. However, God turns this incident into an opportunity for David to handle it well and expand his leadership throughout Israel as a king. Difficult situations we encounter may not always be negative. They can become opportunities for us to experience God's prepared abilities within us. Have you ever overcome a challenging situation to fulfill God's will?

3.2(God Meeting Us): David, who was once enemies with Abner, accepts him when he comes seeking refuge and mourns him upon his death. David's gracious and merciful heart reveals the God he encountered and the character of God that he carries. How has meeting God brought about changes in your heart? What kind of gracious and merciful heart has been born within you?

3.3(God Refinding Us): Joab's act of killing Abner to avenge the death of his brother Asahel was a politically advantageous move for David, as it weakened the opposition from the northern tribes of Israel during their ongoing war. However, David does not act rashly in this situation. He does not just get carried away by the immediate gains brought by Joab's action. Instead, he calmly prepares for the possibility of conflict among the northern tribes and creates a situation where Israel can be embraced. Have you ever gained unexpected advantages that led to excitement? How did you react at that time?

3.4(God Inspiring US): David mourns Abner and shows a reconciling attitude towards the people of the northern tribes of Israel. This helps them trust that David can understand their hearts and become a king they can rely on. Through such actions, David reconciles the northern tribes and Judah and achieves the task of unifying them into one nation. God desires to use you as an instrument of reconciliation. Where do you see yourself being used as an agent of reconciliation?

4) Real Life Today: What gesture of reconciliation can you take today as the first step?

3. 2 Samuel 5:3-12 (Overcoming Prideful Lips)

1) Observation: Where was David anointed as the king of all Israel, and how long did he rule from there?

2) Interpretation: When did the fortress of Mount Zion in Jerusalem become known as the 'City of David' until the present?

3) Application:

3.1(God Loving Us): Finally, the elders of northern Israel come to David and acknowledge him as their king. Had it not been for God guiding David to embrace those who were loyal to Saul,

there could have been continued warfare and division between the southern tribe of Judah and northern Israel. Yes, even in our personal discomfort, when we move according to God's will, we can experience the ultimate joy of victory. Have you also had such an experience?

3.2(God Meeting Us): David decides to establish Jerusalem, not Hebron, as the new capital. To achieve this, he must wage war against the Jebusites who had been living there. The Jebusites, with their stronghold, had occupied the place for a long time and were arrogant, mocking David when he approached. However, David prevails in the battle with God's presence. The world often tempts us to rely solely on what is visible and thereby lose our fear of God. Have you had an experience of relying on God's power and overcoming the arrogance of those around you? Share it.

3.3(God Refinding Us): David recognizes that all his successes, such as becoming the king of Israel, establishing the capital in Jerusalem, and winning battles, were the work of God (verse 12). When things seem to be going well, we are prone to pridefully attribute it to our efforts. We should, like David, acknowledge and remember God's grace and power in everything. What about your heart? Who is seated on the throne of your heart?

3.4(God Inspiring US): The Jebusites' arrogance led them to ridicule David, saying, "You will not come in here." However, they end up being defeated, losing the city, and facing a tragic fate. In life, we need to be cautious about our words. Especially, God punishes the proud lips (Proverbs 14:3). Is there any conduct you need to be careful of for the sake of God's work? What is it?

4) Real Life Today: When confronted with those who speak harshly and cause harm to others in the community, how should we respond with the right attitude? Discuss this within a small group.

4. 2 Samuel 6:1-23 (An Attitude Towards the Holiness of God)

1) Observation: After becoming king, where did David go to move the Ark of the Covenant?

2) Interpretation: When the Ark of the Covenant finally entered the City of David, David danced with joy, but Michal criticized him instead. Both of them displayed different perceptions of the Ark of the Covenant. What was the difference in their understanding?

3) Application:

3.1(God Loving Us): When David first moved the Ark of the Covenant, he took 30,000 soldiers with him. Did he really need such a large number of soldiers? The presence of the army represents the king's authority in ruling the nation. David wanted to showcase his power to the people when moving the Ark of the Covenant. Instead of focusing on the significance of the Ark, he fell into the wrong mindset of self-importance. The incident of Uzzah touching the Ark and dying was a consequence of the wrong hearts of everyone involved in moving the Ark, including David. As a result, David experienced a fearful and trembling heart towards God (verse 9). When was the time you approached God with a fearful and reverent heart before experiencing His presence? What triggered you to have such a mindset?

3.2(God Meeting Us): God blessed the house of Obed-Edom, where the Ark of the Covenant stayed, and David, now assured of the joy that the presence of God brings, moves the Ark to the City of David with a true worshiper's attitude. Yes, God meets us in true worship. What attitude do you need to have during worship to encounter the Lord? What gift does God give you when you adopt that attitude?

3.3(God Refinding Us): Before the Ark of God's presence, we need even greater humility. We should not boast in ourselves but delight in God alone. What heart do you need to carefully lay down to fear God?

3.4(God Inspiring US): Making Jerusalem a holy city was possible not through military might but through true worship. In what area of your life does God want to accomplish holy work through you? Where and how should you begin that work?

4) Real Life Today: If joy and excitement have been lost in the faith community you belong to, what is needed for their restoration? Let's find and practice together within a small group.

5. 2 Samuel 7:1-17 (Assurance Gained After Giving Thanks for God's Abundant Promises)

1) Observation: Where did David say the Ark of the Covenant was while he was living in the cedar palace?

2) Interpretation: Why did David show so much gratitude for the cedar wood, which was of great value, used to build his palace?

3) Application:

3.1(God Loving Us): David expresses a thankful heart to God because he realized that all the events until now were the result of God's grace. Take a moment to reflect on your life. Do you recognize God's providence and leading in your life until now? Share in your small group the gratitude you have towards God for His guidance and grace.

3.2(God Meeting Us): God reminds David of how He chose him from being a shepherd and led him through all difficulties to become the king of Israel. God assures David that He is still with him. When you meet God, what kind of presence of God do you want to experience in the "here and now"? What faith do you desire to have in God's presence "here and now" in your current situation or circumstances?

3.3(God Refinding Us): The Lord promises to settle Israel in one place and watch over them through that place. This promise is a declaration that the holy God will be with His people and care for them forever, "here and now." Where in your life is the "holy" place where God is present? What mindset do you need to prepare in your inner self to experience the presence of the Holy One in that place?

3.4(God Inspiring US): The phrase, "Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever," (verse 16) is also a command that tells David what he should do as the king of Israel. It is the mission given to David to establish Israel as God's holy nation. How are you preserving your identity as God's people in your life? How does your identity become clearer as you fulfill the mission given to you by God?

4) Real Life Today: What must you do to expand the kingdom of God in the community you belong to (home, workplace, school, social gatherings, neighbors, and local community)?

6. 2 Samuel 9:5-13 (Obstacles and Grace)

1) Observation: What is the name of the last known descendant of Saul mentioned in the text?

2) Interpretation: Why did David show such gratitude for the cedar palace that he built with it?

3) Application:

3.1(God Loving Us): God left behind Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan, and Michal, Saul's granddaughter, among Saul's descendants, even though most of Saul's family had been almost wiped out. What do you think David wanted to achieve by doing this? Have you ever encountered the family of someone who has caused you difficulty and distress? How did you treat them in that situation?

3.2(God Meeting Us): Mephibosheth expresses a heart of great thankfulness, saying that he is like a "dead dog" that David, the king, has taken. Indeed, Mephibosheth was in a desperate situation, with his family and wealth lost, and his legs crippled, relying on the kindness of others for his survival. Unexpectedly, God redeemed him from this loss, disability, and pain through David, showing him grace. God's grace comes in ways we never expect. Were there any unexpected events when God rescued you? In what ways did God restore and redeem you?

3.3(God Refinding Us): David recovers Saul's property for Mephibosheth's household, takes care of him, and invites him to eat at his own table. The king's table is a place only for those who have absolute trust and favor from the king, almost like family. Through David's acts of kindness toward Saul's descendants, he gains a more peaceful heart and can pursue good deeds and policies. When we receive and welcome someone who might be considered an enemy, do you think there will be any emotional turmoil in your heart? Will it be a positive or negative response in your heart?

3.4(God Inspiring US): Through this act, David shows a gracious attitude of trust towards Saul's people, symbolizing God's goodness. As a result, people are able to unite more under the benevolent God. What good deeds does God want to accomplish through you today?

4) Real Life Today: Who in your community is experiencing severe loss or suffering from physical disabilities? Reach out to them today and share God's love with them.

7. 2 Samuel 10:1-19 (God's Justice and Righteousness)

1) Observation: In what area did David defeat the army of Syria after crossing the Jordan?

2) Interpretation: David mentions that there was a past act of kindness shown to him by the father of Ammon's king, Nahash. What was this act of kindness?

3) Application:

3.1(God Loving Us): During the time when David was being pursued by King Saul, he showed kindness to foreign people who had helped him, even if they were considered enemies. Through this, he sought to establish the justice and righteousness of God's kingdom. Have there been times when someone caused you discomfort, but you also needed to show kindness to them? How did you act in such situations?

3.2(God Meeting Us): David sent condolences to the people who helped him in the death of Nahash, but the Ammonite ambassadors he sent were insulted, and they treated them as spies of the enemy. Although David was hurt by this incident, how did God establish his kingdom? When we work for righteousness and face insults or difficulties, God never forgets our efforts. Have you faced insults or difficulties while working for God's righteousness? How did God come to help you in those moments?

3.3(God Refinding Us): After leaving the ambassadors in Jericho, David allowed them to enter Jerusalem. He was cautious and careful in his actions because he was afraid of acting based on emotions and causing further issues. Working for God's purposes requires us to have a posture and training in controlling our emotions. When you encounter confusing or frustrating situations while doing God's work, how do you handle your emotions?

3.4(God Inspiring US): David now has a legitimate reason to defeat the foreign enemies troubling Israel, and the entire army is united to carry out this mission. What wisdom do you need to have to enable many people to work together with you in fulfilling God's work that has been entrusted to you?

4) Real Life Today: How is your current community situation with other communities in the world? What can you do to improve it and fulfill God's will?

8. 2 Samuel 11:1-17, 11:27, 12:1-15 (The Grave Sin of Spiritual Complacency)

1) Observation: Uriah the Hittite, where do we taste death on the battlefield?

2) Interpretation: Bathsheba specified that David's adultery incident occurred after she had finished cleansing herself from her "uncleanness" (verse 4). What ritual prescribed by the law is she referring to?

3) Application:

3.1(God Loving Us): As king, David sent the army to war but stayed back and indulged in laziness. This attitude of neglecting his calling and mission led him to forget God's presence and commit sin. Spiritual laziness disrupts the order of life and breaks one's spiritual relationship with God. Have you experienced a downfall due to neglecting your spiritual life? What happened?

3.2(God Meeting Us): In contrast to David, Uriah fulfills his calling and fights to the death. David, who killed him, initially feels no guilt in his conscience, but eventually, he is shamed before God. "Guilt of conscience" is God moving in the heart of a fallen human to recognize sin through the Holy Spirit. Have you confessed sins before the Lord with a guilty conscience?

3.3(God Refinding Us): To cover up his adultery with Bathsheba, David sends Uriah to a deep part of the battlefield and has him killed, committing the sin of murder. Sin begets more sin and leads to a more harrowing reality. What unrepented sin is still in your heart? Repent and experience the grace of forgiveness to avoid committing greater sins.

3.4(God Inspiring US): Despite committing heinous crimes, Israel's great king David repents with tears and finds forgiveness and restoration in God. God hates sin but loves sinners, and He calls you with His love. How will you respond to God's calling with such an attitude?

4) Real Life Today: Have you caused difficulties in the community due to your mistakes? Repent before the Lord.

9. 2 Samuel 13:13-32 (The Fatal Consequences of Sin)

1) Observation: How long did Absalom wait before killing Amnon, who had raped his sister Tamar?

2) Interpretation: What does the act of 'tearing clothes' signify in Israel?

3) Application:

3.1(God Loving Us): After seeing David's sin, God reproached him through the prophet Nathan and warned him of the great calamities that would befall his household as a consequence of his sin. ("You took Uriah the Hittite's wife to be your wife and had him killed with the sword of the Ammonites. Now, the sword will never depart from your house because you despised me and took Uriah's wife as your own." 12:10) Why do you think God warns us in advance about the consequences of sin?

3.2(God Meeting Us): As a result of his adultery and murder, David witnesses the agony of his children engaging in violence and murder against one another. A soul that has sinned will inevitably experience tremendous suffering and guilt, and the consequences of sin will manifest in various tragedies. Have you experienced a time of groaning due to sin? What was the difficulty you faced then?

3.3(God Refinding Us): God's justice does not overlook filthy sins. Even though he was the king of Israel, David could not escape severe punishment (the tragedy of his children) for the sins he committed. Have you ever thought that 'I' would be an exception when it comes to the consequences of sin? What leads to such thinking, and what are the results of such thinking? What attitude should we adopt regarding such thoughts?

3.4(God Inspiring US): David is a prominent figure in the societal context of Israel. The actions of prominent figures have significant ripple effects on those who observe them. What position do you hold in your society? What kind of positive influence do you think God desires to exert through you in the society you belong to?

4) Real Life Today: Now, in your small group, quietly repent of each 'I' and pray together so that the community of faith can stand healthily before God.

10. 2 Samuel 15:13-16, 15:23-30, 18:9-17, 18:33 (The Greatest Pain in Life-The Rebellion and Death of a Son)

1) Observation: Where did David flee to escape from Absalom, and in what kind of terrain did he find refuge?

2) Interpretation: Why did David choose not to take the ark of the covenant with him but leave it in the city?

3) Application:

3.1(God Loving Us): David says that if God shows him favor, He will bring him back to where the ark of the covenant is, but if not, then God has rejected him, and he should not return to the ark of the covenant. This shows that all future events will proceed according to God's will, and David is determined to follow that will. Have you ever sought to discern God's will in the face of an uncertain future? What was the situation, and what was the grace of God that you hoped for at that time?

3.2(God Meeting Us): As a consequence of his adultery with Bathsheba and the sin of murder, David experiences the turmoil of an utter chaos where everything is turned upside down in the nation. Of course, through this experience, David becomes a more repentant person. Have you ever felt that you received discipline from God for your sin? What did God desire from you at that time?

3.3(God Refinding Us): David had his kingdom taken away and went through hardship due to Absalom. He experienced this not at the hands of a stranger but at the hands of his own son. Through this, David learned the utmost importance of managing his household well while governing and ruling a nation. How about you? Is your home at peace? How are the relationships between family members? No matter how busy and important other matters may be, what is the most urgent thing you need to do for your family right now?

3.4(God Inspiring US): Despite all these difficulties, David had to take up his call as the king of Israel once again. What is the divine task that you need to continue to fulfill amidst the many challenges of life?

4) Real Life Today: In leading a community, leaders must be exemplary in moral matters. Take this opportunity to reflect on your own morality and engage in self-examination.

11. 2 Samuel 24:1-4, 8-25 (Being Holy Before God and People)

1) Observation: When David conducted a census of the people amid his troubled heart, how many fighting men did he find in Israel and Judah?

2) Interpretation: Why was the "census" an action disliked by God?

3) Application:

3.1(God Loving Us): It was God Himself who prompted David to conduct the census. God wanted to know if David was seeking worldly methods and wisdom in the midst of a confusing situation or if he was relying solely on God. Have there been moments in your life when God tested your faith?

3.2(God Meeting Us): When David faced the consequences of conducting the census and the punishment afflicted the people, God showed mercy by stopping the plague. Although human wrongdoing can be significant, God's mercy is even greater, displaying a love that transcends justice. Have you experienced God's love and mercy when you have done wrong? What was that experience like?

3.3(God Refinding Us): David repents before God. He built an altar on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite, seeking to atone for his improper act of relying on his own strength (the census) more than God's guidance in governing the kingdom. Through this act, David proclaims that worship in Israel is reserved for the one true God alone, and that the king of Israel should be a servant obedient to God's will. Is there anything in your life that hinders God's sovereignty? What do you need to let go of and repent from to put God first?

3.4(God Inspiring US): David goes up to the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite and buys the land to build an altar there. He rejects Araunah's offer to give him the land for free and pays the full price, building an altar of repentance with sincerity before God. David wants to stop burdening and hurting the people who are suffering from the plague caused by his wrongdoings. Worship offered to God should be holy and without blemish. "Holiness" is not only in the relationship with God but also in the attitude of the saints towards others, being free from negligence and shame. What is something you need to address in your relationships with others to be more pleasing in God's eyes?

4) Real Life Today: Are there any wounds among the members of your community? What is the first step you need to take to address and heal those wounds? How can everyone worship together in true spiritual and genuineness?