



Sermon Study Guide

The Kingmaker: A King Who Fails
2 Samuel 9:1-12:25 – Sunday, July 10, 13
**Study questions are in italics*

Introduction

- Culturally, we are losing the battle for sexual purity. People are embracing pornography daily and putting off marriage (but not sex) until later in life. Therefore, the biblical message about holiness is increasingly foreign to the modern man's ears. *How do you think the church is doing in the battle for sexual purity?*
- 2 Samuel is the story of two kings. The first king, Saul, was the king the people deserved. The second king, David, was better than they deserved. But David was a fallen, sinful human being. He failed God and his nation. By tracing this fall, we learn how much God cares about holiness in general and sexual purity in particular.

David Tended to His Kingdom (2 Sam 9-10)

- David is at the pinnacle of his reign. In chapter 9 he extends kindness to Jonathan's son and Saul's grandson, Mephibosheth. This is both an act of generosity to the son of David's dear friend, Jonathan. But it is also an act of great wisdom. David's family replaced the house of Saul. Some Israelites resented David's rise. David's olive branch to Saul's house is a way for David to protect his kingdom from the inside.
- In chapter 10 David goes out to battle. This time he defeats the mercenary army hired by the Ammonites to attack Israel. David is God's servant, and he is granted victory, once again, in battle. David protected his kingdom from the outside.
- In these chapters we see that David attended carefully to his responsibilities as king. He protected his kingdom from the inside and the outside. *What are some of your responsibilities on a daily basis? Are you faithful to these responsibilities? Do you dutifully tend to them? Do your daily responsibilities every crowd out other important goals?*

David Neglected His Heart (2 Sam 11)

- In Hebrews 3:12-13, we are warned to take care of our hearts. If we fail to tend to our hearts (holiness, faithfulness, etc.) we may fall away from the living God. At the peak of his reign, David failed to tend to his heart. Let's look at three ways:
 - First, David knocked on temptation's door (2 Sam 11:1-2). *Instead of being in Jerusalem, where should David have been? What should David have done the moment he noticed Bathsheba? In what sense was David knocking on temptation's door? What are some specific ways that you strive to flee temptation?*
 - Second, David fed his desire (2 Sam 11:3-5). Instead of running away from Bathsheba, David sent for her. *How is David different from Joseph (Gen 39)? According to Matthew 5:27-30, what message does Jesus have for*

David? Why do so many people today assume that if something feels right, then it must be appropriate?

- Third, David covered up his sin (2 Sam 11:6-27). *What do we know about Uriah the Hittite? Why did David seek to have Uriah killed? Why didn't David confess his sin to Uriah? How do we cover up our sin? Members of a church are here to help you fight sin. How are you pursuing relationships in the church that will help you fight sin in your life? How do you need to grow in this area?*

David Faced God's Discipline (2 Sam 12:1-25)

- *If you were judge and jury, what would you have done to David? God did not leave David alone. He disciplined David. God raised up a new prophet, Nathan, to speak into David's life. Let's look at what the prophet Nathan showed David.*
 - First, Nathan showed David his sin (2 Sam 12:1-7). *After hearing Nathan's parable, why wasn't it obvious to David that he had sinned? Nathan confronted David with a simple but cutting statement: "You are the man!" Describe the first time you understood that you had sinned against God. How has your view of your own sin changed as you've grown as a Christian?*
 - Second, Nathan showed David that he had sinned against God (2 Sam 12:9-10). *How does Nathan get to David's heart? When we sin, we are often bothered because we lacked self-control or because we hurt another person. At the core, what should bother us about our sin? (Hint: read David's prayer in response to Nathan's rebuke, Psalm 51).*
 - Third, Nathan showed David God's judgment (2 Sam 12:8-15). Nathan told David that because of his sin there would be violence in his home (vv. 10-11). Nathan promised David that his son born to Bathsheba would die (v. 14). *What do you think about God's judgment against David? Does God seem too severe, too lenient, just right? Explain. God has always disciplined his children. Read Hebrews 12:3-11. Describe God's discipline against Israel. Summarize God's discipline against David. In light of this, how do you expect God might discipline you? We don't have the benefit of knowing when the trials in our lives are the result of God's discipline versus the result of simply living in a fallen world. And yet, in one sense, it doesn't matter. Every trial we endure is an opportunity to depend upon our God of all comfort.*

Conclusion

- *How did David respond to Nathan's rebuke? (Look at 2 Sam 12:13). David took responsibility. He confessed that he had sinned against the LORD. How did Nathan respond to David's confession? Think about your own struggles. How can David's response challenge you?*
- *David sinned terribly, and he faced terrible consequences as a result. But he also experienced the Lord's grace. How have you experienced God's grace in your life? What counsel would you give a brother or sister having hard time understanding the forgiveness of God in Christ?*