

Our Promise Keeping King – 2 Samuel

2 Samuel 4:1-12

“Redeemed from every adversity” – October 7, 2018



Introduction

There are times we look around at what's going on in the world, the nation, the church, the family, our own heart...and "*desperate times*" describes things well. Following Jesus is never a half-way project – He demands all of us; to deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Him. That means there are times when following Jesus can make us feel desperate. Jesus taught, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matt. 6:21). When following Jesus is costly; how can we do what's right when we're not sure we can't *afford* it?

Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response.

Sermon Outline

- 1) Don't be deceived, the ends don't justify the means
- 2) Do what's right because your Redeemer lives!

Read & Discuss

- 1) Read [2 Samuel 4:1-4](#) (Scene 1: *Desperate Times*)

Saul had died, but Ish-bosheth (Saul's son) had proven to be fearful and a bit to cowardly to lead the eleven tribes he was king over in the north. Now that Abner, the one who had been leading behind the scenes, had been killed Ish-bosheth was terrified. What would become of him? Saul's other son, Mephibosheth (we'll meet him again in chapter 9) was unable to take the throne because of an injury he suffered as a child. The political situation left 'all Israel...dismayed.' Who would lead? When the circumstances of life leave you feeling desperate, how do you find yourself responding?

Additional reading: Psalm 56:3, Psalm 46:1-7

- 2) Read [2 Samuel 4:5-8](#) (Scene 2: *Desperate Measures*)

There are times in life when desperate times *do* call for desperate measures. But when we feel desperate because of the costs of following Jesus, is it okay to resort to desperate measures and ignore God's commands to 'get the job done'? To the ends justify the means? Baanah and Rechab, the brothers who murdered Ish-bosheth to clear the path for David to take the kingdom assumed so. They seemed to know God had promised David the kingdom and they (wrongly) assumed that how the nation got there didn't matter to God. But God is not needy. As Luke writes in Acts 17:24–25 "The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples

made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.”

Times where what you show publicly is a good motive (*I care about them, I want to protect them, I want to provide, I care about the greater good, etc.*) when lurking in the shadows of our heart, there are *selfish* motives driving the decision-making process (*How I look, what I want, how I feel, etc.*). Do you find there are times where you dress up sinful motives with godly intentions?

Additional reading: Matthew 23:27-28, Matthew 6:1-4

3) Read [2 Samuel 4:9-12](#) (Scene 3: *Judgment*)

The assassination of Ish-bosheth was wicked (see v11), but it *did* clear the path for David to take throne and not have to wait any longer. Would he wink his eye at sin? Would he sweep the sin under the carpet and excuse it because *desperate times call for desperate measures*? Though it would have benefited him, David was more concerned about the glory of God than taking what would advantage him (at the cost of righteousness). David imperfectly models how we can afford to do what’s right: we have a Redeemer who lives! As *our* Redeemer, Christ’s life, death and resurrection purchased our salvation to set us free from sin’s guilt, condemnation, and power. What does the knowing and resting in this redemption teach you about God’s heart toward you? How do these truths give us the confidence to do what’s right, even when it’s costly?

Additional reading: Psalm 16:11, Mark 10:45

Prayer of Response

Spend time praying together in response to God’s word for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

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