



QUESTIONS

- What was the point(s) of the sermon?
- What was one (or more things) that stuck out in the message?
- In what way do David's actions point us toward God?
- How should this story impact the way we behave or react to situations as a church? as Individuals?
- What does it look like to "Be courageous? Let us fight bravely for our people and the cities of our God. May the Lord's will be done." (2 Samuel 10:12) Once again what does this mean for us as a church and a individuals?
- The final point was "Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so." What is the significance of this statement given all that was talked about on Sunday?



2 Samuel 10

INTRODUCTION

Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:18-20

That’s the thing isn’t it...that’s the purpose we have as followers of Jesus. This is the mission of the church. Help people first discover who Jesus is and then help them to follow Him. It’s a call to first proclaim the truth of who Jesus is and what He has done. To teach the gospel or good news that can be found in Jesus and how everyone can place their trust in Jesus...and then to teach them about what it means to follow Jesus. How God wants His people to think about life and how to live out the faith and trust and acceptance they have in Jesus...How the Gospel impact the way we live and think.

...and the order is important see because people do not become followers of Jesus by obeying His commandments in order to win His favor and acceptance. Acceptance of God is a free gift given to those who simply “believe” the truth about Jesus. A follower of Jesus is one who joyfully does what Jesus has commanded as a result of the transformation that has occurred in their hearts and minds that comes about through the proclamation of the gospel...the love of God shown through the sacrifice of Jesus transforms our lives from the inside out.



We have a message to proclaim...we have good news to share.

Christ's love controls us. Since we believe that Christ died for all, we also believe that we have all died to our old life. He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them.

So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now! This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!" For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:14-21

This is our message...and it is a message of hope, one that leads to joy, true joy, found in Jesus, a permanent lasting joy that nothing and no one can take from us. It is a joy that is not dependent upon temporary circumstance but upon the reality that we have been eternally accepted by the beyond description awesome creator God almighty...a joy that stems from the reality that *"nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

That is we would just believe...

The love of God displayed in the Gospel of Jesus...



Last week Jed spoke so wonderfully about the story of David and Mephibosheth. David's amazing kindness toward a young crippled boy, a story that points us directly toward the love of God shown toward us that Jesus displayed upon the cross.

and what we have here today, the story we are going read in 2 Samuel 10 is really just a continuation of last week's story, but it is also a continuation of a much grander story...the story which permeates all other stories in the Bible...The story of Jesus. A further revelation of the gospel. God's amazing love coming after us.

And it's my hope that we will see a few gospel truths that are displayed here in 2 Samuel 10. One is that as recipients of God's free and amazing grace we are called to extend grace and kindness freely to others...

“Go and announce to them that the Kingdom of Heaven is near. Heal the sick, raise the dead, cure those with leprosy, and cast out demons. Give as freely as you have received!”

Matthew 10:7-8

But secondly, that the grace of God is a gift offered, with no condition imposed, it is unconditional, freely given, we need do nothing to receive except believe in it's reality...but to reject the King's offer of grace is to incur His wrath...

These are things we will see in today's story from 2 Samuel 10...

PRAY...



BIBLE

Over the course of that last few chapters God has been dealing kindly and compassionately with David and now what we see is David dealing out the same kindness and compassion to others. David's mercy and compassion are a reaction and response to God's favorable treatment of David...and this is how all of us should respond to God's grace...we should be courageous enough to show others the same grace and mercy, even though sometimes it may lead to rejection, humiliation or hostility...such is the story we are about to study.

Some time after this, King Nahash of the Ammonites died, and his son Hanun became king. David said, "I am going to show loyalty to Hanun just as his father, Nahash, was always loyal to me." So David sent ambassadors to express sympathy to Hanun about his father's death.

But when David's ambassadors arrived in the land of Ammon, the Ammonite commanders said to Hanun, their master, "Do you really think these men are coming here to honor your father? No! David has sent them to spy out the city so they can come in and conquer it!" So Hanun seized David's ambassadors and shaved off half of each man's beard, cut off their robes at the buttocks, and sent them back to David in shame.

When David heard what had happened, he sent messengers to tell the men, "Stay at Jericho until your beards grow out, and then come back." For they felt deep shame because of their appearance.

2 Samuel 10:1-5

and as we will shortly discover, this action greatly angered David...and war broke out...a war and destruction that could have been avoided

LET'S REVIEW...



- The king of the Ammonites has died, so David decides to express a kind and friendly encouragement toward his son. So he sends his servants to express David's kindness.
- Unfortunately this kindness is not met with appreciation but with distrustful suspicion. They think David is up to something, that he has evil plans.
- So instead of accepting the kindness of David, Hanun insults his visitors and causes them great shame. And as we will soon see these actions were in fact a declaration of war against David...which leads to all the fighting, fighting caused by a rejection of David's message.

POSSIBLE MAYBE SECTION

What we saw last week in 2 Samuel 9 is David showing kindness to an Israelite, one of his own, whereas in 2 Samuel 10 it is to an Ammonite, an archenemy. As we saw last week the kindness shown to Mephibosheth is deeply appreciated, but the kindness shown toward Hanun is maliciously resented.

Also it is important to notice one other thing. In 2 Samuel 9, David is the one who is highlighted...but in 2 Samuel 10, it is David's ambassadors who take central focus.

We, you and I, are here, we exist as people and as a church to preach the Gospel, to make known the kindness and mercy of God, not only to those that are in the family of God but to those that are not yet. In the same way that David's ambassador took the message of David's kindness to Hanun, we are God's ambassadors, called to deliver and proclaim the good news of God's kindness shown to us all by what Jesus has accomplished.



In the story of Mephibosheth we see the kindness of David shown to one of his own, but in this chapter we see the kindness of David shown to one who was outside the family of Israel...and that is at the heart of the beauty of this passage...in it we find a great lesson all of us should learn about what it means to preach the gospel.

(VERSE 1...)

David said, “I am going to show loyalty to Hanun just as his father, Nahash, was always loyal to me.” So David sent ambassadors to express sympathy to Hanun about his father’s death.

2 Samuel 10:2

It’s important to note that the word used here that says “loyalty” is translated “kindness” in the NIV. It also carries the meaning “faithfulness” or “mercy”. This is what David longs to express toward Hanun. That Hanun would simply feel and accept the kindness and mercy of David in this time what was probably great pain and sadness.

The Bible teaches us to be polite and helpful to all, to honor everyone (Romans 12:10 “outdo one another”) and to be ready to act kindly toward those that we live among...and that’s what we see David doing here.

David’s actions here create such a beautiful picture that points us toward Jesus...toward God, the creator of all that is good, gentle, sympathetic and unselfish. The true hero in all of the Bible is God. He is on display on every page of this book.

God’s kindness is on display here in David’s actions toward Hanun...

and we know that God is a God of unspeakable kindness...

One of my commentaries it pointed me to Jonah 4...



This change of plans greatly upset Jonah, and he became very angry. So he complained to the Lord about it: “Didn’t I say before I left home that you would do this, Lord? That is why I ran away to Tarshish! I knew that you are a merciful and compassionate God, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. You are eager to turn back from destroying people.

Jonah 4:1-3

We need to understand that the kindness we see here from David toward Hanun is pointing toward the “infinitely greater kindness” of God.

It’s an illustration of the kindness of Jesus, the one who left the glory of heaven and came down here amongst us...that the eternal and without limits God would be born as a human, a slave...come to earth to show us the kindness of God...incredible. (Kindness to His enemies)

Also, I think something important to notice is this kindness David wants to express is in response to a kindness he has received...and this is precisely what the christian life is like. We express grace to one another because of the grace we have been given by Jesus. A life filled with love, grace, mercy and kindness results from a heart that has truly experienced the love, grace, mercy and kindness of Jesus...

David sent ambassadors to express sympathy to Hanun about his father’s death.

Notice how David is not the one to go...it’s his ambassadors. The king sends his ambassadors to deliver the message. Is this not what God does? I began this morning with Jesus’ last words, where He said “I am now sending you to do what I did while I was here on earth...I am giving my spirit and my message to you”



“The Spirit of the LORD is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, and that the time of the LORD’s favor has come.”

Luke 4:18-19

This is what Jesus left us here to do. This is the church He promised to build Himself. You, my followers, those who trust and believe in me, are going to be my ambassadors to the world. In the same way that David sends his ambassadors to pass along a message of comfort, we have a message to proclaim of how peace, joy, and everlasting life can be ours forever :-)

So we are Christ’s ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, “Come back to God!”

2 Corinthians 5:20

And also notice that the ambassadors David sent did not express negativity about going... Unlike Jonah, who complained, claiming those crazy Ninivites deserved God’s wrath, these ambassadors go willingly, with no recorded reservation.

However...

The ambassador’s and their message were not welcomed with open arms were they. Even though they had good intentions and a kind message to deliver, their efforts were thought to be evil. Their only goal was to deliver the kindness of their master... but it was not received that way, was it.

But when David’s ambassadors arrived in the land of Ammon, the Ammonite commanders said to Hanun, their master, “Do you really think



these men are coming here to honor your father? No! David has sent them to spy out the city so they can come in and conquer it!” So Hanun seized David’s ambassadors and shaved off half of each man’s beard, cut off their robes at the buttocks, and sent them back to David in shame.

2 Samuel 10:2-4

SHAME AND DECLARATION OF WAR...

- Shaving half of each man’s beard was intended to maximize the humiliation and ridicule.
- cut off their robes: The humiliating display was associated with military defeat and exile

“The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction! It is foolish to the Jews, who ask for signs from heaven. And it is foolish to the Greeks, who seek human wisdom. So when we preach that Christ was crucified, the Jews are offended and the Gentiles say it’s all nonsense.”

1 Corinthians 1:18-19, 22-23

Our message about Jesus, God’s love pursuing everyone to the cross, is not going to be accepted by everyone...doesn’t matter what we do. Our only job is to be faithful to the message, the message God has entrusted to us...I think of the words Paul spoke to a young preacher named Timothy when he wrote these words...

“Preach the word of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching.”

2 Timothy 4:2



The Bible is filled with admonitions to stay true to the original message that God has placed before us. I am quite certain that David said to his ambassadors “Here is the message I want you to deliver...this is what I want you to say and this is how you are to say it. Make sure it is understood and deliver it, with kindness, as I have asked you to.”

Well, this is what God asks us to do.

COACH TELLING ME...LEFT HANDED DRAG BUNT :-)

It's not on us how that message is taken, we are simply the messengers, sent to proclaim the message we have been given.

Think about what Jesus said to Peter in Matthew 16... “*You are blessed, Simon son of John, because my Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You did not learn this from any human being. Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means ‘rock’), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it.*” - Matthew 16:17-18

Upon this truth that you Peter have just proclaimed to me “I, JESUS” will build my church. Peter, you will carry the message but make no mistake Peter, it is not you who will build and grow MY CHURCH...We are the messengers friends, but God is the builder.

But sometimes, the message is rejected...and this is what happens here...and the messenger can find themselves...

Then we are told that after Hanun disrespected these men...

“When the people of Ammon realized how seriously they had angered David...”

David is angered because not only was His message of kindness disregarded, but those that brought the good news to Hanun were so



disrespected...and David sees this as a direct insult to himself. He regards it as an act of war...this is a representation of how God reacts when His message is rejected outright...

“Then he said to the disciples, “Anyone who accepts your message is also accepting me. And anyone who rejects you is rejecting me. And anyone who rejects me is rejecting God, who sent me.”

Luke 10:16

And thus a war breaks out...

When the people of Ammon realized how seriously they had angered David, they sent and hired 20,000 Aramean foot soldiers from the lands of Beth-rehob and Zobah, 1,000 from the king of Maacah (May-u-cuh), and 12,000 from the land of Tob. When David heard about this, he sent Joab and all his warriors to fight them. The Ammonite troops came out and drew up their battle lines at the entrance of the city gate, while the Arameans from Zobah and Rehob and the men from Tob and Maacah positioned themselves to fight in the open fields.

When Joab saw that he would have to fight on both the front and the rear, he chose some of Israel's elite troops and placed them under his personal command to fight the Arameans in the fields. He left the rest of the army under the command of his brother Abishai, who was to attack the Ammonites. “If the Arameans are too strong for me, then come over and help me,” Joab told his brother. “And if the Ammonites are too strong for you, I will come and help you. Be courageous! Let us fight bravely for our people and the cities of our God. May the Lord's will be done.”

When Joab and his troops attacked, the Arameans began to run away. And when the Ammonites saw the Arameans running, they ran from Abishai



and retreated into the city. After the battle was over, Joab returned to Jerusalem.

It's interesting to note here verse in 6 "*When the people of Ammon realized how seriously they had angered David, they sent and hired 20,000 Aramean foot soldiers from the lands of Beth-rehob and Zobah, 1,000 from the king of Maacah, and 12,000 from the land of Tob.*"

They realize "we are no match for David and his army..."

"...upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it."

Friends, we have a calling and a message that comes from God. It doesn't need altering, it doesn't need apology, it doesn't require our assistance or our ingenuity. It is perfect and has been for eternity past and will be for the rest of eternity. Just like the army of David we see here nothing and no one can stand up to the creator God almighty.

"For God is so wise and so mighty. Who has ever challenged him successfully? "Without warning, he moves the mountains, overturning them in his anger. He shakes the earth from its place, and its foundations tremble. If he commands it, the sun won't rise and the stars won't shine. He alone has spread out the heavens and marches on the waves of the sea. He made all the stars—the Bear and Orion, the Pleiades and the constellations of the southern sky. He does great things too marvelous to understand. He performs countless miracles."

Job 9:4-10



So the battle is about to begin...

“When Joab saw that he would have to fight on both the front and the rear, he chose some of Israel’s elite troops and placed them under his personal command to fight the Arameans in the fields. He left the rest of the army under the command of his brother Abishai, who was to attack the Ammonites.”

2 Samuel 10:9-10

but it’s what Joab says next that I want us to look at...

“If the Arameans are too strong for me, then come over and help me,” Joab told his brother. “And if the Ammonites are too strong for you, I will come and help you. Be courageous! Let us fight bravely for our people and the cities of our God. May the Lord’s will be done.”

2 Samuel 10:11-12

Joab says “whoever needs help, if you can offer it, then do so...we need to support one another in this battle we are in.”

Guys, we are in a battle everyday. Life is a battle, the work of the church is a battle, and we need to be there for one another...and the Bible is littered with verse after that proclaim this very message.

Share each other’s burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ. If you think you are too important to help someone, you are only fooling yourself. You are not that important.

Galatians 6:2-3

Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”

John 13:34-35



and if you read on you see that the battle is won by David and his army...

Together they will go to war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will defeat them because he is Lord of all lords and King of all kings. And his called and chosen and faithful ones will be with him."

Revelation 17:14

APPLICATION

A few lessons I think we can take from this here section of David's life...I have hinted at them already...

- We are to carry out God's commands and His message...to proclaim His truth...to live as He lived. We are to trust Him and acknowledge Him in all our ways.
- We should be prepared that at times our best intentions, our kindest actions, our loving proclamation of what is true may be met with ingratitude, contempt, or even abuse.
- The strong must help the weak...we must help one another, love on another, support one another, help one another grow closer to Jesus...we are a family.
- We should not be discouraged, for God fights for His own. We have no need to avenge ourselves for Jesus himself will plead for us. We belong to Him...we need not be discouraged

"Be courageous! Let us fight bravely for our people and the cities of our God. May the Lord's will be done."

2 Samuel 10:12



“May the Lord’s will be done...”

Joab expresses both faith in God and a resolve to fight with all his strength, firmly focused on God and His will. This is echoed in other verses...

So be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid and do not panic before them. For the Lord your God will personally go ahead of you. He will neither fail you nor abandon you.”

Deuteronomy 31:6

“Be on guard. Stand firm in the faith. Be courageous. Be strong.”

1 Corinthians 16:13

You know, the only reason, the only hope any of us in here have of even coming remotely close to living out what we have talked about to today is because of who we trust in for everything...

There was one who stood completely and perfectly firm in faith...one who was the most courageous...the strongest in the face of circumstances that would cause anyone of us to just give up on what God had called them to do...the one who brought a perfectly amazing message from the one who sent Him...

Jesus (who Himself was rejected by some)

“He walked away, about a stone’s throw, and knelt down and prayed, “Father, if you are willing, please take this cup of suffering away from me.

Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.” Then an angel from heaven appeared and strengthened him. He prayed more fervently, and he was in such agony of spirit that his sweat fell to the ground like great drops of blood.”



Luke 22:41-44

“Each time he said, “My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.” So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me. That’s why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

2 Corinthians 12:9-10

“For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.”

Philippians 4:13

and all of us have a choice before us...do I accept this message completely, humbly, with joy and thankfulness in my heart...or do I like Hanun, reject it.

ENDING

I once asked Billy Graham what his goal was when he took the pulpit. He replied, “First of all, I want the content to be accurate. I want it to be biblical, and I want it to be simple. I study to be simple.”

I pressed him. “Can’t a message be too simple?”

“When Dr. Karl Barth, the great Swiss theologian, the greatest theologian of his generation, was visiting America a couple of years ago, he was at one of our great seminaries, and a student asked him the question, ‘Dr. Barth, what is the greatest single thought that ever crossed your mind?’ And he bowed his head and puffed on his pipe, and he slowly lifted his shaggy head, and they thought some tremendous statement was coming forth, and they were all on the edge of their seats, and he said:



‘Jesus loves me, this I know,

For the Bible tells me so.’”

May I believe Him, May I trust Him, May I love Him, and may His
will be done :-)