

## CENTERED

Transitions: Saul's End, David's Reign

2 Samuel 1 – 5

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July 13/14, 2019

## MESSAGE NOTES

### Saul's Failure (1 Samuel 13:14, Acts 13:22)

*But now your kingdom will not endure; the Lord has sought out a man after His own heart and appointed him ruler of His people, because you have not kept the Lord's command.* — 1 Samuel 13:14

*After removing Saul, He made David their king. God testified concerning him: "I have found David son of Jesse, a man after My own heart; he will do everything I want him to do."* — Acts 13:22

#### Saul's failure:

- Saul was centered on himself.
- Saul was impatient. He didn't wait on God.
- Saul was more concerned about people's opinions than God's opinion.
- Saul didn't trust in the Presence of God. That's why he ran from Goliath.
- Saul never repented.

### David's Lament (2 Samuel 1)

Take special notice of 5 things about David at this juncture of change.

1. David reacted with mercy even toward his enemy.

*Do not gloat when your enemy falls; when they stumble, do not let your heart rejoice.* — Proverbs 24:17

*Do not say, "I'll do to them as they have done to me; I'll pay them back for what they did."* — Proverbs 24:29

2. David never glossed over the pain of loss.

*In the wake of whatever has gone wrong or whatever wrong has been done, commentators gossip, reporters interview, editors pontificate, Pharisees moralize; then psychological analyses are conducted, political reforms initiated, and academic studies funded. But no one seems to know how to appropriately lament.* — Eugene Peterson, *Leap over a Wall*

3. David looked to the Lord for new direction.

David "inquired of the Lord" ...

- When confronting the Philistines in the wilderness (1 Samuel 23:2).
- When he felt small against his enemy (1 Samuel 23:4).
- When attacked by the Amalekites (1 Samuel 30:8)
- When Saul died and David needed direction (2 Samuel 2:1).
- When crowned King (2 Samuel 5:19).
- When attacked again by the Philistines (2 Samuel 5:23).

4. David courageously faced the challenges brought on by change.

*For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.*

— 2 Corinthians 10:3 – 5

5. David knew exactly who was in charge (God) and why leadership was granted (for the sake of the people).

*He chose David His servant and took him from the sheep pens; from tending the sheep He brought him to be the shepherd of His people Jacob, of Israel His inheritance. And David shepherded them with integrity of heart; with skillful hands he led them. — Psalm 78:70 – 72*

*From the spiritual giants of the Bible, I learn this crucial lesson about relating to God: Whatever you do, don't ignore Him."*  
— Philip Yancy, *Reaching For The Invisible God*

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Take some time to recall the overall events of 2 Samuel 1 – 5.
- How would you describe Saul at the end of his reign?
- What sort of character qualities disqualified Saul from leadership?
- When David heard the news of Saul's death, he responded with genuine grief. What's this say about David's character?
- What had David endured at the hand of Saul and how might he have easily reacted to hearing of Saul's death?
- Who else was killed along with Saul and how would this have impacted David personally?
- After a time of lament, David seeks God for new direction. In your own life, are you facing any transitions? In what ways might God be opening up some new doors through those transitions?
- Losing his friend Jonathan must have been incredibly hard on David. How have you seen God sustain you through some transition of loss in your experience?
- The text makes it clear that David was empowered by God for the battles he fought. What are some challenges you're facing right now? How are you managing those? What do you think God might be teaching you as He carries you through those?