**WEEK 10 | 2 SAMUEL 19 – 24 | END OF DAVID’S LIFE**

HOMEWORK: Read 2 Samuel 19 – 24

*(this is the final week, great job studying God’s Word!)*

In the first half of 2 Samuel 19 we see David continuing to mourn for his son Absalom and his commander Joab having to confront him. Joab realizes the army, who should be coming back in victory, is actually feeling shame as they see David still in mourning over his son, who was ultimately a traitor. (Joab should feel some guilt for disobeying David regarding killing Absalom) David wisely follows Joab’s advice and returns to his place as king to welcome those who had fought for him.

* What may have happened if David continued to pay more attention to the loss of his son than to give credit to those who helped restore his kingdom?
* Have you ever had a friend confront you with hard truth, like Joab did for David in his unhealthy grief? How did it feel to hear that truth? How did you respond?

In the second half of 2 Samuel 19 we see David forgive several people who had come out against him (or at least appeared to).

* Does David seem too forgiving? What would your attitude have been to these men?
* Do you think David had in mind his sin with Bathsheba, and how God had forgiven him, as he was forgiving these men?
* Read Matthew 5:43-45, 6:9-15, Mark 11:25. What does Jesus say about forgiveness?

In 2 Samuel 20 we see more division and fighting, including some gruesome scenes, as well as Joab continuing to kill off any perceived threats to his position.

* Why do you think David continued to let Joab get away with his murderous ways?
* God seems to use Joab in David’s life, as we just read in 2 Sam. 19. Why do you think that is?
* Read 1 Kings 2:5-6 & 28-35 to see what ultimately happens to Joab.
* How do you react when it seems bad people prosper, or get away with their evil deeds?

2 Samuel 21 is an odd and brutal story. A couple things to note: Remember, as Don Sanders taught us earlier in this study, that we need to read different genres differently. 2 Samuel is mostly narrative; here a story is told without indication of God’s approval or disapproval of the events. And for context, read Joshua 9.

* What similarities do you see from Joshua and David in these stories? Do either seek God’s guidance when it comes to the Gibeonites?
* Joshua 9:14 answers for Joshua, and while David seeks God’s answer for the reason for the famine (2 Sam. 21:1), he does not ask God how he should respond to the Gibeonites’ demand. What were the results when these leaders didn’t fully seek God? What then is the lesson for us?

The narrative is interrupted by two songs/poems, or Psalms, that don’t seem to be in chronological order. David is the author of many Psalms. 2 Samuel 22 and Psalm 18 are almost identical. Again, Don Sanders mentioned earlier in this study that we should pay attention to genre when we’re reading the Bible.

* How is narrative (most of 1 & 2 Samuel) different than poetry (2 Samuel 22, most Psalms)? How then should we read them differently?
* Do you ever wish you knew what people were thinking or feeling when reading narrative stories in the Bible? We get a great glimpse into how David was feeling from 2 Samuel 22 and Psalm 18. What stands out to you most?
* 2 Samuel 23:1-7 are referred to as David’s “last words.” What seems most important to him in these last words?

In 2 Samuel 24 we again see David sin and the disastrous consequences to those around him. Interesting to note: 2 Samuel 24:1 says the Lord “incited David,” but 1 Chronicles 21:1 says it was Satan. It is most likely that God allowed Satan to incite David, similar to God allowing Satan to inflict Job in the beginning of the book of Job.

* Does this change your view of God? Why or why not?
* Read James 1:12-15 and 1 Corinthians 10:13. What do these Scriptures teach us about temptation and our responsibility for how we respond?
* Read Exodus 30:12 for God’s direction on taking a census. Even Joab, whose character is questionable, seemed to know taking this census was wrong. Why do you think David ignored him? What was the point of David’s census?
* As we saw last week, David’s sin had terrible consequences to those around him. Do you view your sin as mostly your own problem, or see that it can impact others as well? Why is it important to take personal responsibility and repent of our sins?
* We see a repeated pattern in David’s life of worshiping God, sin, repentance, and a return to worship. How do you react when your sin is “found out”?

Despite David’s up & down life, and serious sins, he is still referred to as “a man after God’s own heart” (1 Samuel 13:14, Acts 13:22). Similarly, we see many people in Hebrews 11, like Abraham or Moses, that we can read in Scripture made many mistakes, listed in this “hall of fame of faith.”

* What does this tell us about how God ultimately views our life when we seek to follow Him?
* What does this tell us about His grace and forgiveness?
* This should give us inspiration to repent of our sin and get back up to worship and follow God again!

**\*Come prepared this week to discuss the end of David’s life and the end of our study.**