

"Pursuing Power"

2 Samuel 15-17

Introduction: Luke 22:24-27

Outline of 2 Samuel 15-20:25

2 Samuel 15:1-12 - Pursuing power

Precept: Scripture gives us principles of power. God has the power and gives it to whomever he wills. (Daniel 4:34-35) All delegated power needs to be held accountable. As Jesus says in Luke 22, we should pursue service and let God give us power to exercise.

2 Samuel 15:13-37 - Abdicating power

Summary: Proverbs 16:33; Daniel 2:21 - God has all the authority and he gives it to whomever he wills— always fear God's authority and never wield power that is not rooted in the authority that God authorizes.

2 Samuel 16:1-14 - Friends & Enemies

Concept: All exercise of power, that is rooted in authority, is met with both strong support and strong resistance. This principle is part of life and if resistance is troubling, the leader may be the wrong person. If the leader is only comfortable with overwhelming support he is not ready to lead.

2 Samuel 16:15-23 - Ahithophel

Summary: Wise counsel is only wise when it conforms to the precepts of God's Word—it is never wrong or foolish to obey what God has told us in his Word.

2 Samuel 17 - The Lord's Counsel

Summary: A question that we sometimes ask and often don't know the answer to is, "What does God want us to do?" Part of Godly leadership is knowing how to find the answer to this question. Men, God wants us to seek him for guidance and understanding so we can lead our families; elders, so we lead the church and its families. This applies at a governing level—these were God's people.

Conclusion: Absalom sought to be king but he never sought the Lord; David did not seek to be king but God sent Samuel who anointed him to be king and David waited as God prepared the way for his service. Power is a gift that is best used by those who know the importance of serving God first.

David's exit from Jerusalem via the Mount of Olives and his prayer there, in some small way, points to the agonizing prayer of our Lord in Gethsemane. David left and went east, Jesus was taken away and went west to meet the judge and pay the price for our sin.

David's efforts to bless the household of Saul because of his relationship with Jonathan is exemplary as he receives the blessing of Ziba and endures the curses of Shimei. Ziba is blessed by David but later he asks Solomon to bring about Shimei's early death (1 Kings 2:8-9, 36-46) because of this incident. This all took place in Solomon's effort to establish the Kingdom under his authority.

When David escaped there are many moments when his life was close to death but he rested in the Lord and trusted God's plans. (Psalm 23:5)