

## **“MANHOOD: Strength & Humility” 2 Samuel 1:1 - 2:11**

**Wednesday 1/8/19 – Jeff Lyle**

**Very few people in the Bible captivate us as powerfully as David. His story is one of an underdog who became an overcomer. His stunning heart for God is not so large that we are kept ignorant of his raw passions and public failures. In the end, David's story offers us much about what it means to be a man of faith. Our culture is confused about the issue of masculinity. The Church does not seem to always offer clarity about being male and living as a son of God. This season in David's life offers us a platform for growth in seeing both masculine strength and humility as part of what it means to be a man who follows Jesus. May God impact our hearts and minds to reframe what we believe masculinity truly is. It is not toxic to be fully, unashamedly male. It is nothing to apologize for. What every man needs is a touch from God that imparts him the identity which God has reserved for him.**

### **I. The Sensitivity Of His Saddened Heart (1:1-12)**

#### **A. A season of great conflict (1)-**

**“After the death of Saul, when David had returned from striking down the Amalekites, David remained two days in Ziklag.”**

The death of Saul occurred in a terribly humiliating fashion on a battlefield. Mortally wounded, Saul begged for his armor-bearer to kill him so that the enemy did not abuse him in his wounded state. When the armor-bearer refused to kill his king, Saul committed suicide by falling on his own sword. Additionally, Jonathan, Saul's son and David's best friend, was killed in this same battle. The first king of Israel came to the end of his miserable life in such an inglorious fashion. Jonathan died in honor.

**B. A scene of bad news (2-10) - “And David said to him, “How did it go? Tell me.” And he answered, “The people fled from the battle, and also many of the people have fallen and are dead, and Saul and his son Jonathan are also dead.” 5 Then David said to the young man who told him, “How do you know that Saul and his son Jonathan are dead?”**

The news of the death of Jonathan and Saul reached him by the mouth of a stranger. It is hard for us to anticipate how this news would have found David. Since he was a very young man, his life had been lived out in the context of Saul's desire to kill him. David had been conditioned to live on the run from his enemy. Now, he learns that his enemy could chase him no more. On top of that massive element was the heartbreaking news of his best friend's death. Clearly, God had changed everything for David in a

single day. David now had an open door to receive a new chapter in his life from God.

**C. A sorrow of great weight (11-12) - “Then David took hold of his clothes and tore them, and so did all the men who were with him. 12 And they mourned and wept and fasted until evening for Saul and for Jonathan his son and for the people of the Lord and for the house of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword.”**

Rather than celebrate the death of Saul, David entered into the normal practice of mourning the death of a king. He also called all of his men to operate in the principle of honor towards Saul. Weeping for Jonathan was no difficult task. Weeping for Saul may have been harder for David. Yet, in complete consistency with his noble heart, David poured forth honor upon the one who had dishonored him. How we treat our enemies is a deep revelation of the contents of our hearts. What was unjustly withheld from David by Saul, David released toward Saul even though he did not deserve it. This is a display of strength and humility rarely seen in people. David was a spectacular cut above average.

## **II. The Intensity Of His Loyal Heart (1:13-16)**

### **A. David's indignation(13)-**

**“And David said to the young man who told him, “Where do you come from?” And he answered, “I am the son of a sojourner, an Amalekite.”**

In the midst of processing his grief over the shocking news of Saul and Jonathan's deaths, David began to go back over in his mind the testimony of the man who brought the news to him. Had that stranger told him that he was the one who physically killed Saul? Who was this man and why did he feel empowered to end the life of the king of Israel? David arose from his grief to begin the process of investigating the man's story. Something was not sitting well with David concerning what had happened.

**B. David's indictment (14) - “David said to him, “How is it you were not afraid to put out your hand to destroy the Lord's anointed?”**

We must remember that for more than a decade, David had refused to take the life of Saul. In what must have been an excruciating commitment to honor the insane king, David never lifted his hand to bring injury or vengeance to the one who had sought to kill him. Now, this stranger from among the Amalekites tells David that he put the wounded king out of his misery. Though the man's story was totally fabricated (read 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel chapter 31 for the true account of events),

David was operating according to what the man said about Saul's death. The Amalekite's blood must have run cold when he realized David's displeasure about what the man said that he had done to Saul.

**C. David's integrity (15-16) - "Then David called one of the young men and said, "Go, execute him." And he struck him down so that he died. 16 And David said to him, "Your blood be on your head, for your own mouth has testified against you, saying, 'I have killed the Lord's anointed.'"**

Remaining consistent with his internal values, David acted in justice. Anyone who presumed to kill the king would make himself worthy of punishment. Without any debate, David ordered the Amalekite's execution (verse 15) and formalized the charges as he did so (16). David understood that component of God's heart which expresses itself in holy justice. The Amalekite paid the highest price due to his lie in which he confessed to the killing of Saul. While honor prevented David from lifting up his hand against Saul, that same sense of honor motivated David to lift up his hand against this stranger who presumably had killed Saul.

### **III. The Depth Of His Surrendered Heart (1:17-27)**

**A. David was free from bitterness (17-18)-**

**"And David lamented with this lamentation over Saul and Jonathan his son, and he said it should be taught to the people of Judah..."**

It is so common for us to take private (or even public!) delight when we discover the ruin of our enemies. David was not a common man. He was not content to honor Saul privately in his heart, so David wrote a song in his honor and called the nation to sing it. In the Kingdom, we are taught that love covers a multitude of sins. David could have responded in self-promotion, but instead he chose to honor all that he could about the slain king. In doing so, David proved that the giant of bitterness had not conquered him.

**B. David operated in grace (19-25) - "You daughters of Israel, weep over Saul, who clothed you luxuriously in scarlet, who put ornaments of gold on your apparel. 25 "How the mighty have fallen in the midst of the battle!"**

Again, David focused on any good, honorable thing that emerged from Saul's leadership. Instead of magnifying the disgraceful way that Saul died, David reframes the entire scene in one of Saul's valiant fighting on the battlefield on behalf of his nation. David called him mighty, not murderous. Living in grace will result in us seeing any good in others that we are able to see. Apart from grace, we tend to give ourselves to fixating on the wrong, the sinful, the negative

components of others. When we do so, we forget the very grace through which God deals with us. Those who know the level of grace they have been given from God will be quick to extend that same level of grace to others.

- C. David retained his willingness to love (26-27) - "I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan; very pleasant have you been to me; your love to me was extraordinary, surpassing the love of women."

In spite of his living like a hunted animal for over a decade, David did not lose his ability to love. David had lost so much because of Saul's evil treatment of him, but David still retained the virtue of lavishing love upon others. He was able to weep over Saul and able to express his deep, abiding love for Jonathan. David was a *feeler* who had survived his tender heart being assaulted over a long period of time. It is a great work of God when we lean so deeply upon the goodness of God that even the harshest mistreatment from others does not rob us of our ability to offer our love.

#### IV. The Humility Of His Strengthened Heart (2:1-11) -

Now free from opposition for the first time, David seeks God's will for his future:

**A. He requested permission of God (1-3)-**

"After this David inquired of the Lord, "Shall I go up into any of the cities of Judah?" And the Lord said to him, "Go up." David said, "To which shall I go up?" And he said, "To Hebron." 2 So David went up."

Now what was David to do? He knew that he was the appointed next king of Israel, but he had learned not to presume anything as he set his life to remain one that sought and obeyed the guidance of God. David requested wisdom from the Lord to know if it was now the time for him to seek the throne of Israel. There was zero entitlement in David. He wanted to keep the anointing of the Spirit that rushed upon him on the day Samuel informed that he would one day become king. He asks God is that day had now arrived. Then he asked the lord for the specific city to which he should go to begin his reign. God answered David by instructing him to go to Hebron to begin to rule as Israel's king. David obeyed without question.

**B. He received promotion from God (4a) - "And the men of Judah came, and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah."**

Though not all Israel initially welcomed David, Judah did. For the first time since his anointing by Samuel, David was being recognized as God's choice as the king of Israel. David's response was not one of demanding his rights to rule over the entire nation, but humbly releasing his cause into

God's hands. He was grateful to God, even though recognition from man had not yet come.

**C. He rewarded the servants of God (4b-7) - "David sent messengers to the men of Jabesh-gilead and said to them, "May you be blessed by the Lord, because you showed this loyalty to Saul your lord and buried him. 6 Now may the Lord show steadfast love and faithfulness to you. And I will do good to you because you have done this thing."**

David honored those who honored Saul. The men of Jabesh-gilead had risked their own safety to retrieve the bodies of Saul and Jonathan from the Amalekites. He called on God to reward their honor and valiant duty. He then promised to personally bless them for honoring their fallen king.

**D. HerefrainedfrompresuminguponGod(8-11)-  
"AndthetimethatDavidwaskinginHebronoverthehouseof Judah was seven years and six months."**

For seven and a half years, David remained patiently content as ruling over the unified kingdom was further denied him. Imagine all those years of waiting for God to bring His promise to pass. David might have grown frustrated with having to wait even longer after he had proven his faith by all the previous years of waiting on God's timing. David could have tried to fulfil God's plan in the energy of his flesh, by using his military strength to force Israel to submit to his leadership. David did none of those things. David proved to be a spiritually strong man by resting in what God had spoken over his life and waiting on God's timing and provision to bring it all to pass. In all that David has displayed up to this point, he proves himself to be a man of strength and humility. God can trust a man like that. May David's example be imparted to our generation.