**Week 6 – April 17-18 - 2 Samuel 7-8**

**Introduction**

In tonight’s passages, we will see examples of David honoring and trusting God. He will honor God in his desire to lift up His name and His glory in the building of a place of worship. Though David is given a “not yet” in the building of the temple, God allows him to know that this vision will eventually realized. David will trust God in battle, as God uses him to bring an eventual season of unity and peace for Israel.

**Read 2 Samuel 7:1-17**

Cedar was a valuable wood and hence very expensive. In verse 2, David was bothered by the contrast of his own home versus the ark of God. He was troubled by the thought that he was living in a comfortable cedar house while the ark of the covenant was dwelling in a tent.

David wanted to further honor and glorify God by building a temple for Him. Even though God did not commission David to build a temple for Him, the king wanted to do more than what God had commanded him. That is such a beautiful spot to be in our relationship with God. **Oftentimes we think of how little we can do to still please God or to reach the minimum standard and get by, but how often do we think of more ways to please Him? What does fulfilling God’s word and extending toward Him a life of worship to the fullest extent look like?** **How can we shift our mindset to seek the approval of God, not man, and continually pour ourselves out to Him as a living sacrifice?**

“Though the Lord refused David the realization of his wish, he did it in a most gracious manner. He did not put the idea away from him in anger or disdain, as though David had cherished an unworthy desire; but he honored his servant even in the non-acceptance of his offer.” (Spurgeon)

David does not know the reason why God would refuse his faithful desire at this time, but he patiently waits and trusts in the Lord’s timing. **Read 1 Chronicles 22:7-10.** In this passage David shares how God revealed to him that Solomon would build it. In this case, God says “not yet”, but graciously makes a covenant with David. **Have you ever had to deal with a “not yet” or “wait” from God? What was that experience like and what did you learn from it? In the 2 Samuel 7:1-17 passage, what are the aspects of the covenant God makes with David?** He will establish a dynasty for David, a permanent and secure Israel and establish his kingdom through the line of David. God chooses David by His grace, and this covenant speaks about the nation, the land, and hints at the Messiah! Jesus is descended from him!

Verse 16 says “And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever,” speaks to more than just Solomon, but towards Jesus. (Isaiah 9:6-7 and Luke 1:31-33). God’s promise of a house was fulfilled through Jesus Christ, who reigns forever and Hebrews 3:3-6 speaks of the church, reminding us that we are God’s temple.

“God’s servants often mean well but lack the wisdom of God. In the present case (David) a human plan must be corrected by divine revelation” (Davis) **Can you think of a time when God graciously redirected your steps? What were the outcomes and how was the hand of God evident in that situation?**

**(Optional) Verse Challenge:** Challenge everyone to spend 2 minutes to find a verse in the Bible that they could show to a friend on ‘pleasing God rather than man’ or ‘trusting in the Lord’s timing.’ Allow them to share what this reveals about God’s character and how it personally encourages them to hold fast to the promises of God.

**Read 2 Samuel 7:18-29**

**Let’s examine David’s prayer here. What aspect of David’s prayer towards God sticks out to you? What phrases would you use to describe his prayer? (***David’s immense gratitude towards God. His meekness. His submission to God’s will. His faith. He gave praises for the mercies God bestowed onto him and Israel in the present and the past.*)

Let’s look at verse 25. A phrase by Davis, “Prayers plead promises”, speaks to David’s style of prayer here, which is not an arrogant “God you better do what you said,” but rather a bold prayer that says, ‘God I fully trust in You and your promises, I know you will be faithful to your Word and fulfill it’. See the attitude behind his boldness in verse 28-29. Think about and talk through these statements:

* **We may boldly pray His promise for forgiveness**: If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1Jn\_1:9)
* **We may boldly pray His promise for peace**: Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you: not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. (Joh\_14:27)
* **We may boldly pray His promise for help**: Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace of help in time of need. (Heb\_4:16)

**What does your prayer life look like with regards to boldness? Are you able to boldly approach God for petition/forgiveness/help? How about for praise and gratitude? Looking back at David’s prayer, what is his heart posture towards God and how can we learn from him (how can we have such devotion towards God)?**

**Read 2 Samuel 8**

In verses 3 – 8, Israel conquers Syrian alliance. God fulfills his covenant from Abraham (see Gen 15:18-21) as Israel’s dominance extended from the river of Egypt to Euphrates River. David recaptures the land lost previously from Saul and also expanded Israel’s borders (v1-14).

The Lord preserved David everywhere he went, David believed in God’s promises and acted upon them, North against the Arameans and Syrians, South against the Edomites, East against the Moabites and West against the Philistines. It is easy to read over these victories as a dry passage, but these are God’s battles that He is fighting for Israel, each enemy is an instance where David put his full trust and remained faithful to the Lord in the heat of battle. **Likewise, what are some examples of victories God has granted you and how has that impacted your testimony in glorifying God?**

In verse 15, David administered justice and exercised his royal office in the proper way, in the ideal of recognizing and honoring God’s kingdom. We too, have different offices (son, daughter, student, employee) and we ought to be planting kingdom righteousness in our present vocations, in whatever relationships and capacities that we do have. This stems from loving the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind, and that in turn extends to loving your neighbors. **Thinking on your present and future vocations, how can we lift up the goodness of God and exemplify the kingdom of God to the world around us?**

**Conclusion**

Unfortunately, after this study of David’s faithfulness to honor and trust God, next week we will study a famous account of his sin. We be reminded of the ability of the human heart to be deceptive and turn toward rebellion. **In closing, ask family group members to respond to this question: When is the last time you ran to God – was it out of an overflow of honoring and worshipping Him or out of a call to receive mercy after a time of rebellion?**

**Notes:**

Even though David was not the one to build the house of the Lord, he cheerfully and wholeheartedly prepared the materials to build it. 1 Chronicles 29:2-9

2 Samuel 8:1 - Metheg-ammah, “bridle of the mother city” which means the chief city or stronghold. Gath in this case (1 Chronicles 18:1)

Abiathar was the surviving priest from Nob (1 Samuel 22:20)