**Week 7 – April 24-25 – II Samuel 9-10**

**Introduction**

These two and earlier chapters in David’s reign as king so far show us the faithful and loving nature David possesses and portrays. While in the near future David will make catastrophic decisions that bring him away, these accounts serve as a contrast, showing who David is as king when faithfully acting as a man after God’s own heart. **How do times of grace when we are closest to God help us get back after we have turned away towards our own desires?**

**Read II Samuel 9**

(v.1-5) Chapter 9 starts with David seeking to fulfill a covenant he made many years prior with Jonathan. **Read 1 Samuel 20:14-15. What makes this covenant unlikely in light of David’s position as king?** *(the new regime would normally seek to purge out the old regime to establish a new kingdom).* Other than this, it had already been so long and Jonathan was no longer alive, meaning there was no earthly accountability for David. **Why is it so easy for us to make excuses or take the easy way out when presented with a choice like this?** Nevertheless, David remained true to his word in a way that reflects the trust we have that God will remain true to the promises He gives to us. **As Christians, why is it important that we keep our promises? What does it say about us when we are not people of our word?**

(v.6-13) Focusing on Mephibosheth, we see in 2 Samuel 4:4 and in multiple verses here (3 & 13) that he had two injured feet and that he was a member of the former king’s lineage and (as mentioned above) this usually leads to death. **With these two things in mind, in what ways does Mephibosheth’s situation reflect our spiritual reality?** *(lame and helpless in regards to spiritual things, heredity puts us at enmity with God because of our sinful human nature*). **Read Romans 5:6-10. In what ways are we spiritually dead or spiritually lame? What is revealed about God’s character in that while we were helpless, Christ died for us?** Mephibosheth was taken in undeservedly, freely received the gift to eat forever at the king’s table, had fields and servants to meet his needs, and was now treated as David’s son with his residence in Jerusalem. **What are some of the things we are promised when we are brought in as children of God? How should we act in light of these blessings that we receive freely and undeservedly?**

This love for Jonathan was poured out from David to Mephibosheth in a way that reveals the true power of covenantal love and the love that David had for Jonathan. **How would you describe covenantal love based on David’s actions?** *(Unconditional, deeper than feelings, completed in full).* **How does this definition of love differ from what we define love to be these days?**

**Read II Samuel 10:1-12**

Chapter 10 starts very similarly to chapter 9 with David attempting to show love and kindness to someone for the sake of their father. This might have been a mere courteous formality, but the act of kindness was attempted nonetheless. While this act of charity is clearly not received, the principle of David showing kindness to those both inside and outside of the kingdom is one that we can model. **Why is it important to show love/kindness to those outside of the family of God as well as those inside? Do formal, courteous acts of kindness (e.g. holding the door, saying thank you) show the love of Christ in our hearts?** Despite the intent, the Ammonite advisors retaliate in the most shame-inducing way possible, marring and exposing the manhood of these emissaries. Despite this humiliation, David welcomes them back in, provides for them, and ultimately the Ammonites are forced to flee from the battle. **In what ways does this account show the wickedness of the Ammonites?** **How does David’s actions in caring for the men in their shame mirror Christ’s affectionate care for us?**

The battle is about to commence with all of Israel’s elite troops assembling under Joab to face off against the Ammonites and the recruited Arameans. As they are about to engage in battle, Joab notices they are flanked and splits up the army, proclaiming glorious encouragement as they go. **What sticks out to you from what Joab says in verses 11-12?** It is significant that it comes from Joab, who killed Abner back in chapter 3. He seems to have repented and returned to God as he now is proclaiming faith that God can save them if He so desires. **Is the phrase “May the Lord’s will be done” empowering or humbling for you and why?** Ultimately we can find great comfort in this, as the sovereign will of God promises us who love God that ‘all things will work together’ for our good (Romans 8:28). This means that even in situations where we feel like everything is falling apart and we do not know how God is using it, God is working it together for our good. **Is this a difficult truth to grasp? Why or why not?**

**Read II Samuel 10:13-19**

As this chapter comes to its close, we see grand victory for Israel against the opposing nations. Though the Ammonites and Arameans first flee from Joab and Abishai, the Arameans regroup to try one final push, only to be met with all of Israel’s forces led by king David. The opposing nations then realize their defeat and all become subject to Israel. **What does this powerful scene of every nation under Hadadezar submitting to Israel in peace say about God?** This ultimate subjection to God’s people in peace is foreshadowing an event coming in the future, where every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord (Philippians 2:10-11). **How can we better cultivate a sense of the ultimate glory of Christ? How should our lives be lived in response to the supremacy of Christ?**

**Conclusion**

This study has shown us multiple ways in which David is a king who is after God’s own heart, and he models many characteristics that we should aspire to instill in our hearts. Ultimately, this is all to show the nature of the coming Christ, who has all of these characteristics perfectly and does not have the faults and mistakes David has. **Spend time getting into triads (or small groups) and reflecting/praying on the ways that we saw Christ throughout this study**:

* Christ as our faithful covenant keeper who died for us
* Christ as our provider who gives us everything freely
* Christ as the one whom we are to model
* Christ as the welcoming bearer of our shame and guilt
* Christ as the sovereign God who works all things together for our good
* Christ as the preeminent, supreme God who will come again in glory