



2 Samuel 1

"David vs Death"

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19:35

I want to invite you to grab your Bible and make your way to 2 Samuel chapter 1. 2 Samuel chapter 1, if you weren't here with us last week we had kind of had kind of an introduction to what's going on in 2 Samuel lots of wonderful stuff it gave us an opportunity to to kinda step back and look at the big picture where normally we have so many weeds to look at,

19:58

so many trees to look at that we don't get an opportunity to step back and look at the forest. So I encourage you to go back and check that out if you weren't with us. But we are diving into a new book that's not really a new story.

20:12

So Samuel was one story, was one book of the Bible until they decided to stick it on scrolls back when they translated a few thousand years ago and they needed to split it up. So we're starting 2 Samuel.

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So 2 Samuel picks up the story directly where 1 Samuel left off. If you were with us a couple of weeks ago. 2 Samuel begins when we know something that King, or excuse me, David, he'll be King David next week, when David doesn't know that Saul was defeated, that King Saul was killed in a battle that we saw a couple of weeks ago in 1 Samuel 31.

20:50

David must have been anxiously awaiting news. He knew that this battle was about to happen. He knew that Israel and the Philistines were going to war against one another, and he had been kicked off the front lines as he was partnering with the Philistines during that time.

21:04

And so David is anxiously awaiting what happened. He's awaiting news from the battle. And so David, in our passage this week that we're going to look at, we're going to look at all of chapter 1. And David is going to receive word that King Saul and Jonathan and the Israelite army have been defeated, and that King Saul and Jonathan are dead.

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An Amalekite, remember those are the same people that David had fought against that had stolen his possessions, had taken his wives and his families, and they had raided David's camp just a few days earlier.

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This young man, an Amalekite, brings David a report of what happened on Mount Gilboa. So his story is going to differ a little bit from what we saw in chapter 31. It differs in many respects. He tells an entirely different story.

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This Amalekite is going to claim that he killed Saul at Saul's request instead of Saul falling on his own sword like 1 Samuel 31 tells us. And so we're going to look at this improbable story, what we see here, what I believe the narrator wants us to accept as fact when we look at him saying, this is what happened in chapter 31.

22:15

And then the Amalekite says, this is what happened in chapter 1 of 2 Samuel. We're to believe that a couple of weeks ago, that was the true story. And this week's story from the Amalekite is a lie.

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And so Saul is being presented as totally isolated, calling for the random help of a stranger. It doesn't seem to fit together. Doesn't seem to make sense. And so we're going to look at how David receives this news, this strange information that's coming to him, but also how David is going to respond to the news that King Saul, and by the way, his best friend Jonathan are dead.

22:52

So let's read together. I invite you to follow along for 2 Samuel chapter 1. We'll start in verse 1. We're going to make our way all the way through verse 27, through the end of the chapter.

23:02

It says in verse 1, after the death of Saul, when David had returned from striking down the Amalekites, David remained two days in Ziklag. And on the third day, behold, a man came from Saul's camp with his clothes torn and dirt on his head.

23:17

And when he came to David, he fell down to the ground and paid homage. David said to him, where do you come from? And he said to him, I have escaped from the camp of Israel. David said to him, how did it go?

23:29

Tell me. He answered, the people fled from the battle, and also many of the people have fallen and are dead. Saul and his son Jonathan are also dead. Then David said to the young man who told him, how do you know that Saul and his son Jonathan are dead?

23:44

The young man who told him said, by chance I happened to be on Mount Gilboa. There was Saul leaning on his spear and behold the chariots and the horsemen were close upon him. When he looked behind him he saw me and called to me and I answered, here I am.

24:00

And he said to me, who are you? So I answered him, I am an Amalekite. And he said to me, stand beside me and kill me for anguish has seized me and yet my life still lingers. So I stood beside him and I killed him because I was sure that he could not live after he had fallen.

24:15

And I took the crown that was on his head and the armlet that was on his arm and I have brought them here to my Lord. And then David took hold of his clothes and tore them and so did all the men who were with him.

24:27

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. David said to the young man who told him, where do you come from?

24:41

He answered, I am the son of a sojourner, an Amalekite. And David said to him, how is it that you were not afraid to put out your hand to destroy the Lord's anointed to kill King Saul? And David called one of the young men and said, go and execute him.

24:59

And he struck him down so that he died. 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. David lamented with this lamentation over Saul and Jonathan his son.

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And he said, it should be taught to the people of Judah. Behold, it is written in the book of Jashar. He said, your glory, O Israel, is slain on the high places. How the mighty have fallen. Tell it not to Gath, publish it not in the streets of Ashkelon, lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice, lest the daughters of the uncircumcised exult.

25:35

You mountains of Gilboa, let there be no dew or rain upon you nor fields of offerings. For there the shield of the mighty was defiled, the shield of Saul not anointed with oil. From the blood of the slain, from the fat of the mighty, the bow of Jonathan turned not back, and the sword of Saul returned not empty.

25:57

Saul and Jonathan, beloved and lovely, in life and in death they were not divided. They were swifter than eagles, they were stronger than lions. You, daughters of Zion, weep over Saul, who clothed you luxuriously in scarlet, who put ornaments of gold on your apparel.

26:13

How the mighty have fallen in the midst of the battle. Jonathan lies slain on your high places. I am very distressed for you, my brother Jonathan. Very pleasant have you been to me. Your love to me was extraordinary, surpassing the love of women.

26:29

How the mighty have fallen and the weapons of war perished. These are the words of the Lord. Would you pray with me, church? God, we thank you for your word. We thank you for the opportunity to continue in this story, to continue and consider in 2 Samuel 1 how David deals with the reality of death.

26:49

The death of your chosen man, the king of Israel, and also his beloved best friend. God, Jonathan, who stood next to him as a brother in so many ways. God, we pray that as we consider this story, as we consider how your word would speak to us this morning, God, we pray that you would give us tools to deal with difficulty when it comes.

27:10

God, we know that the experience that David's experiencing here in this chapter. God, it's not unfamiliar to any of us. Death comes around us regularly. We pray that you would teach us. Help us to learn what it looks like to lament well.

27:26

Help us to learn what it looks like to deal with grief in the way that you would have us to. And so, God, this morning as we consider these words, we pray that you would speak to us and that we as your servants would listen.

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It's in Jesus' name we pray. Amen. All right. Well, as we work our way through this passage, we pick up the story in verse 1, and what we see is that David hears the news of Saul and Jonathan's death.

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As we pick up the story, David has been in Ziklag. He's been fighting against Amalekites. He did not know what had happened before this messenger arrives. Seems clear to me that David has nothing to do with Saul's death.

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The narrator wants us to notice that David was in a completely different location. David had nothing to do with overthrowing Saul or overthrowing Saul's kingdom. David's hands are clean and the exchange of power that's about to come next week in chapter 2.

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But verse 2 tells us that a man came from Saul's camp. Now, that doesn't necessarily mean that he was a soldier in Saul's army. It simply means that this man came from the front lines, that he had a word of what happened there among Saul and his soldiers.

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And so the messenger comes to David, and it tells us that the messenger reports to David many people are dead. By the way, King Saul and Jonathan are also dead. David starts to try to unravel this, understand this a little bit better, and so he starts asking questions.

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He asks the Amalekite how he knows that this is truly King Saul and Jonathan who are dead, and so the young man proceeds to tell his story, right? I would use air quotes there because the story that he tells us is in clear disagreement with one chapter earlier, the last chapter in 1 Samuel 31.

29:16

It seems probable to me that as we look at this story, this young man, he goes out into the battlefield that between the moment when the Philistines killed Saul and many of the men that were around him, before the Philistines came the next day to come and elude the battlefield, to strip the dead, the young man had come and had begun taking any valuables that he could get his hands on before the Philistines got there.

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He had robbed the corpses of many of the soldiers that were around and he had come to these bodies and he looks at them and says, whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa. I recognize that helmet, I recognize that crown.

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This is the king, this is Saul and Jonathan, his son, and he takes the opportunity that's presented in front of him. He fabricates this story, most likely, in an effort to gain favor with or to gain some sort of a reward from David, the man that many perceived, many knew that David was going to be the next king of Israel after Saul died.

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He had already been anointed as the next king, and so this Amalekite looks for an opportunity to better himself, to better his situation, to do something to advance himself in his own cause. And so the Amalekite hatches this plan.

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He comes to David and he tells David that he had mercy killed King Saul. At Saul's request, I didn't kill him on my own, but in an act of bravery to save the king from the dishonor that was going to come against him, this young man says, I killed King Saul.

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That leaves me with a question, though. Because if Saul, the king of Israel, is out there on the battlefield, where is everybody else? It doesn't make a lot of sense in this story

that why would King Saul make a random request of a random boy, a foreigner, who's kind of bee bopping across the battlefield for some strange reason in the middle of this war?

31:13

He should have had trusted men at his side. He had an armor bearer. He had his sons that were there fighting with him. He had the army of Israel there that was fighting with him at his side. Why would King Saul look over his shoulder and go, hey, everyone's gone.

31:25

Could you come kill me real quick? The Amalekite messenger hatches this plan. He presents this story to David. He even presents King Saul's crown and his armlet as evidence that King Saul was truly the one that he had found that was dead.

31:43

We see David hear the news. It doesn't make a lot of sense to him. And so, David, we see David's response in verses 11 through 16. We see David actually takes time and David punishes the guilty in this moment a little differently than I think what many of us would have expected.

32:01

Chapter 1 here, our passage this week, teaches us a few important things about God's judgment. A few important things for us about how God deals with wrongdoing. At first, God's judgment is always a call for grief and repentance.

32:18

What we see here is that God has decided, we remember from a few weeks ago, God has determined King Saul and King Saul's sin cannot be allowed to continue in the position of power in Israel. That the king who has decided to no longer obey God has decided to no longer do what God has instructed him to do.

32:39

God has had enough and so King Saul's days are coming to an end, but God's judgment that he's going to pour out on King Saul. By the way, we also see God pour out some judgment on this young Amalekite.

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As the Amalekite comes and tells David of Saul's death, I imagine that he kind of assumed that this conversation was going to go very differently than it did. I have to imagine that this young Amalekite, he was expecting the conversation to result in a joyful response from David.

33:11

That David was going to hear, Saul, the man who has hunted you for years at this point, Saul is dead. You can come out of hiding. You can come back home. You can take your rightful place on the throne.

33:22

Saul, your oppressor is dead. That's not how David responds. David doesn't respond with joy and excitement. David responds with with grief. David responds in mourning. It tells us that in verse 12, David tore his clothes.

33:40

He's described as mourning, as weeping, as fasting. This is a terrible moment in David's mind. Why is it that David responds with such emotion, such negative emotion? I think David knew that God was displeased by a heart that is vengeful, that wants to seek the blood of our enemies, that would lash out against people who we would perceive as those who are against us.

34:07

I think David understood the principle that his son Solomon would write about years later in the book of Proverbs. Proverbs 17 says, whoever mocks the poor insults his maker, and he who is glad at calamity will not go unpunished.

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God's judgment is a call for grief and repentance, not joy and celebration. But the next thing that we see is that sin is rightly punishable by death. Sin is rightly punishable by death, because as David is considering the death of Saul, the man who has been on a path of continual sin over and over again, over and over again over the last several years.

34:52

Now we see David questioning this Amalekite about his story, about his reported wrongdoing as well as what we truly believe happened in this moment because based on what we saw in 1 Samuel 31, the Amalekite is lying about what happened.

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He's lying about the fact that he came upon mostly dead Saul and that he mercy killed Saul. The Amalekite is reporting that he killed Saul, God's chosen anointed of Israel. So regardless of whether the account in chapter 31 of 1 Samuel is true or whether the story that the Amalekite is telling is true, in either of these instances the Amalekite did something wrong, didn't he?

35:34

The Amalekite sinned in this moment. Either he lied to David about what happened or he killed God's chosen king that had been leading Israel through this time. David seems suspicious or maybe just curious about how this young man came to possess King Saul's crown and his armlets.

35:53

We see the Amalekite telling a different story than the narrator does in 1 Samuel 31. And so as we're wrestling with which one of these two is true, I found in an effort to resolve the difficulty between these two accounts, commentator Dale Ralph Davis provides a simple interpretive rule for us to follow.

36:13

If you ever have a choice between the narrator and an Amalekite, always believe the narrator. Right, Amalekites are the enemies of God's people over and over and over again throughout these stories. If you ever have a choice whether to trust Amalekite or not, be careful, right?

36:30

But based on what David hears, based on the information that David has in front of him, he determines that the Amalekite should be put to death for his crimes. Now, we can step back and say whether that crime was lying to David about what truly happened or whether it was that he took King Saul's life.

36:47

This man deserved to die. He tells David that he killed King Saul. David would have expected a resident of Israel, even a resident alien, someone who wasn't necessarily from there, but said, I've lived in Israel, should be familiar with the requirement that God has for people to respect his king.

37:10

That if God has put this man, put King Saul in this position of being king over Israel, that's not for another person to determine when that should start or when that should end. Anyone who came against God's anointed as Saul's life was chosen by God, was sacred, was protected by God, anyone who struck him was liable to the punishment of death.

37:34

They were wrongly, or excuse me, they were rightly convicted of death, whether it was that or whether it was the fact that he simply lied to David about what happened. The result is that a young man's sins resulted in his execution.

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Now if we look at this story and we think David what seems a little harsh doesn't it? He was just coming trying to report the story to you. He was just looking to better himself in some way. If we think David was being unnecessarily harsh on the Amalekite, I think that means that we fail to realize just how significant this position that King Saul was placed in truly was.

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How holy and separate and entirely different the anointed king of God's people was. Saul was individually chosen by God and it was up to God, as it always is, to determine when leaders come into power and when leaders leave power.

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I'll remind you of Romans chapter 13 happened to be written many years later but this speaks so clearly. The Apostle Paul speaks to how we should view authorities in our life how God places people in positions of leadership.

38:46

Romans 13 tells us, let every person be subject to the governing authorities for there is no authority except from God and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore, whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed and those who resist will incur judgment.

39:03

God places people into positions of leadership and God removes them. That's not for us to determine. That's not for us to decide. We certainly feel a little bit differently about that as we have opportunities to elect and choose our leaders in America.

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But the reality is that my one vote is such a small portion of that, isn't it? It's not my responsibility. It's not my privilege to choose who God puts into or takes out of power. And it wasn't this Amalekite's responsibility either.

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Perhaps more importantly, we forget that in God's economy, Romans chapter 6 tells us the payment for sin is death. As the next king of Israel, David was acting as a just judge on God's behalf that day.

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The Amalekite, whichever one of the two realities is true, whether he was lying to David or whether he was responsible for killing King Saul, David is acting as a just judge that day. He reminds us that on the day of judgment, that all sin will be paid for.

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Sin is not dealt with lightly. Sin deserves death. It deserves punishment and no sin can rightly go unpunished. The good news for us is that God made another way for that sin that we've committed to be paid for when Jesus went to the cross.

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That Jesus paid our penalty so that we wouldn't have to, but the reality is that all sin must be punished. God cannot be a just God. He cannot be a loving God. He cannot be fair. He cannot be the God of the universe if he just looks at sin and says, eh, not that bad.

40:43

And we feel that way too. too, don't we? When we look at evil that exists around us, when we see violent crime, when we see wrongdoing, when we see people groups oppressed, we look at those things and we go, no, no, no, that's not right.

40:54

That needs to be dealt with. That needs to be judged. Wrongs need to be made right. That same feeling that we have in our hearts, that same sense of justice that we have when someone wrongs us or someone wrongs someone that we love, that's the same thing that God shows in saying that wrong needs to be dealt with, that sin needs to be punished.

41:18

The day of judgment will come. All sin will be dealt with. And in this moment on this day, this young Amalekite came to realize that the wages of sin are death. David heard the news. David punished the guilty.

41:35

But now David, it tells us in verses 17 through 27, we see David mourn the fallen. David mourns the fallen in these last 11 verses of this chapter, we have this beautifully constructed lament. This lament that David is mourning the loss of King Saul, mourning the loss of Jonathan, mourning their deaths.

41:58

Now there are many in this world, there are many in our world, in our culture today who will avoid the reality of death at all costs. We take our sick to the hospital and we hide them away. We don't see them when they're sick.

42:11

We don't look at them. We don't consider them. We even talk about death in a way that helps us to kind of just push it away into the closet. We'll refer to people passing away. We'll say that they've gone to a better place.

42:22

We'll say things that kind of soften the blow of the reality that the person has died. People will go out of their way to avoid facing death in all kinds of creative different ways. But that's not how the Bible addresses death.

42:39

The Bible speaks of death very clearly. The Bible speaks of death as a curse, tells us that the result of sin that has entered into the world, that all the way back at the beginning of the book, all the way back when when God created a perfect world, and Adam and Eve sinned, and it tells us that the world was broken.

42:57

We made it three chapters into the book before the world broke. Adam and Eve sinned, disobeyed God, and now all of these terrible consequences have come into the world, the main one of which is death and separation from God.

43:12

The Bible speaks of death as a curse that has come upon humanity, has come upon the world. It's the result of sin. It was never intended to be a part of God's perfect world that God created. Death is an enemy, which by the way God will destroy at a later time as Jesus proved that he had power over death when he was killed, hung on a cross, and three days later after they had put him in the grave he got up and said,

43:41

no I'm not dead anymore. and got up and walked out of the tomb. That's the God that says, I have power over death, I have power over sin, I have power over all of this, and one day I'm going to make this right, I'm gonna make this reality go away.

43:55

But until then, death is a terrible enemy that we have to face. And with all that said, even with the hope of resurrection and life in the future, it is still appropriate for us to lament, for us to grieve and sorrow over death when it comes against us.

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This idea of lament is a biblical practice where people express their grief, sometimes to one another, sometimes to God in prayer. We have an entire book of the Bible called Lamentations as these different laments kind of pour forth out of the prophets.

44:35

We see this lament from David as he hears the news about Saul and Jonathan being dead. Verse 19, it shows us the introductory verse to this lament captures the theme of the poem that Israel has suffered a significant loss in the death of Saul and Jonathan, and David cries out, how the mighty have fallen.

44:59

Even as David has had a strained relationship with Saul for years, David honors the legitimate accomplishments, achievements, admirable qualities that he sees in Saul and in Jonathan. David refuses to use this as an opportunity to air grievances, to speak negatively of Saul.

45:18

No matter how broken their relationship was, he laments the loss of their king. Verses 20 through 21, these verses speak of the shame and the pain that Israel is experiencing as

King Saul has died. Verse 20, he says, tell it not to Gath, do not tell the news of these men dying.

45:41

Don't tell our enemies the Philistines. He knows that the enemies are going to celebrate their pain, that the Philistines will celebrate the death of Saul and Jonathan, which we actually saw last week, or two weeks ago, excuse me.

45:58

In verse 21, it tells us that David laments the fact that the prosperity of Israel will dry up, that there will be no rain on the mountains, that there will be no crops that come from the rain, that there will be no prosperity as the military power, the military might of Israel has been toppled.

46:20

King Saul, their leader, Jonathan, his beloved son, are dead. David goes on in verses 22 through 24 to speak of the strength of Saul and Jonathan that they had seen as their leaders. Verse 22, he comments on the bow of Jonathan, not being turned back and the sword of Saul not returning empty.

46:47

Verse 23 he talks about how their attacks were swifter than angels, excuse me, swifter than eagles and stronger than lions. Speaking of their military prowess that these men had had conquered, they had won in many battles, their military prowess was great.

47:03

Verse 24 it tells us that the prosperity that they had brought through victories that they had they had clothed the daughters of Israel luxuriously and scarlet, put ornaments of gold on their apparel, the material blessings that Israel had experienced under Saul's leadership.

47:22

They were going to be gone. Verses 25 and 26 David now turns his attention from speaking generally of Saul and Saul's kingdom. He turns and addresses Jonathan, his beloved friend directly in these these two verses in verse 25 and 26.

47:43

He says, how the mighty have fallen in the midst of battle. Jonathan lies slain on your high places. I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan, very pleasant you have been to me. Your love to me was extraordinary, surpassing the love of women.

48:00

Jonathan and David loved one another as a beautiful biblical model of what true friendship should look like. These two given to us as the beautiful example of what friendship should be, Jonathan's selfless care that he showed to David, his brother, that commitment ran deep.

48:20

Jonathan had partnered with David in countless military battles. Jonathan had defended David as Jonathan's father, the king, King Saul, wanted David dead. Jonathan had acknowledged David as the next king of Israel even when it meant that he as the king's son wasn't going to become the next king, even to the detriment of his own personal aspirations to claim the throne.

48:51

Some will look at this statement, will look at this verse, verse 26 and say as David cries out, your love to me was extraordinary, Jonathan, surpassing the love of women. Some will try to imply a homosexual relationship here between David and Jonathan, but there's no sort of sexual overtones in this in any way.

49:12

In fact, the very idea of a homosexual relationship would have been foreign, if not repulsive, to both the author and the original recipients of this letter. In David's grief, David is simply stating that his relationship with Jonathan had been more important to him than any relationship that he had had or would have with any other man or woman or anyone else in his life.

49:38

Jonathan had been a more valuable relationship to him than any woman had ever been. And that may be at least partially due to the fact that David's relationships with women are pretty flawed, right? We see this man marrying multiple women and back and forth and unfaithful that we're going to see in a few chapters all these flaws that we see in David's relationships with women, but regardless, David loved Jonathan like a brother.

50:04

Jonathan was the true right-hand man that David had looked to in the good and the bad moments in his life. It's not surprising then to us that Jonathan's loss grieved David like no other loss ever would.

50:22

We come to verse 27 at the very end and David again bookends this lament with the same statement that he started with at the beginning, how the mighty have fallen and the weapons of the war have perished.

50:35

We look at this chapter, what we look at, what we see here in these verses is that David said, hears some terrible news. We see David deal with the news of Saul and Jonathan's deaths, first, by justly punishing the Amalekite messenger for his reported sin, for his role that he played in this entire circumstance, but secondly, by the big chunk of verses that we have, this lament that David offers as he grieves the loss of Saul and Jonathan.

51:08

As David's closest friend, Jonathan's death lands hard for David. It hits him in a way that no other loss ever would, and he grieves this loss really openly for us. He grieves the reality of death in a way that I think is instructive for us, because emotionally grieving the loss of a loved one is appropriate.

51:34

There's plenty of biblical precedent for us that when we look at what the Bible has to say about death, that when we look at what the Bible has to say about grief, we see death scattered all over the Bible.

51:48

We see how we should respond scattered all over the Bible. We see Jesus grieve with deep emotion at the death of a close friend, Jesus in the shortest verse in the Bible, right? Many of us can probably quote that one, right?

52:05

John 11.35, what's it say? Jesus wept. Jesus upon hearing the news that his close friend Lazarus has died. He's described as weeping at the death of his friend. John 11 says that Jesus wept, and so the Jews said, see how Jesus loved him.

52:29

You know, that always strikes me a little bit strange because Jesus knew why he was there with Lazarus. Just in the next few verses, if you're familiar with the story, Jesus, he weeps at the loss of his friend he weeps at the reality that death has come for Lazarus but he doesn't mourn like any of us have ever mourned before because he weeps over the loss of his friend and then he tells Lazarus never mind get up and he calls him out of the tomb and Lazarus is alive again.

52:59

Jesus isn't just sad because he's never gonna see Lazarus again. Jesus is weeping. Jesus is moved emotionally by the reality that death is this terrible enemy that hurts all of us so regularly. In moments of loss, learning to mourn well is an important thing for us as believers.

53:21

Psalms 34:18 tells us that the Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. Matthew chapter 5 tells us blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted. Ecclesiastes 3 tells us that there is a time to weep and a time to laugh.

53:42

A time to mourn and a time to dance. Sinners are told that mourning, that grief is an appropriate response to our sinfulness. The Bible speaks of this, and in fact, this is the one that King Saul probably should have modeled many years earlier because James chapter 4 tells us, draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

54:03

Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. There's an appropriateness in mourning and grieving when we realize the weight of our own sin.

54:19

But you know what? We can be reminded that as we confront death as Christians, that we don't mourn like the rest of the world mourns. Rest of the world that doesn't have the hope that we have, they look at the death of a loved one and they say goodbye, and we don't.

54:40

1 Thessalonians chapter 4 tells us, Paul says, we don't want you to be uninformed brothers about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others who do not have hope. We don't say goodbye when we have a funeral for a loved Christian.

54:57

When we who know Jesus, that we know Jesus as our Savior, that when we lose a brother or a sister in the faith, we don't look at them, we don't say goodbye, we say, I'll see you later. We say, no, no, I don't grieve as those who have no hope.

55:13

We know what happens after death. We know that God will ultimately overcome death and put an end to our grief. Revelation chapter 21, about one or two pages from the back of the book, right? Revelation 21 verse 4 tells us that God will wipe away every tear from their eyes and death shall be no more.

55:37

Neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore for the former things have passed away. And with all of that said, it is appropriate for us to mourn at the loss of a loved one. This one hits close to home for me right now. David modeled grief for us in a positive way.

56:07

David teaches us that it's okay to grieve when we lose someone that we love. You know, someone once told me, not all grief is bad, right? Just ask Charlie Brown. Matthew Henry talking about David's sorrow over Jonathan.

56:34

He said the more we love the more we grieve. So whether death has touched your life in the recent past, whether death is currently a reality that you're walking through for a

loved one, or maybe it's you facing your own mortality, or maybe death is going to touch a family member or a loved one soon.

56:54

The reality is that death surrounds us, that we live in a world that death is all around us, that all of us die. You know, there's two things that are certain in life, death and taxes, right? All of us die.

57:08

We see people that we love are gone far too soon, far too often. Learning to lament like David did is a good lesson for us to take. It's a good lesson for us as we walk through life. It's not fun, it's not easy, but learning to lament is good.

57:37

Learning to grieve appropriately is good. I want to share with you a book that you're going to laugh at when you see it, because it's a kid's book, but it's a kid's book that I found I picked up a few weeks ago.

57:55

My family was dealing with the loss of my dad. It's a book called, Something Sad Happened by Darby Strickland. It's a book that walks through a little bird losing her friend Ren, and just wrestling with the fact that I don't want to sing today.

58:14

I don't feel like being happy. Why do these things happen? Mama Bird comes along and reminds her of all the things that we know to be true, that God collects our tears, that God sees us when we hurt, that God loves us in the midst of our pain.

58:33

I don't know if it's meant anything to my kids, but it's meant something to me. Death hurts. The grief is good. Learning to walk through, to deal with lament, to deal with pain, to face the death of a loved one. Sorry.

59:15

I just looked over at my kids, I can't do that. God draws near to the brokenhearted and God is going to make all wrongs right. That we don't grieve as those who have no hope. We can look at the cross.

59:52

We can be reminded that we have a Savior who's greater than the greatest enemy, that our Savior faced death, looked it in the eyes, gave his life willingly so that sinners could be forgiven, and then told death, enough, go away.

01:00:20

And in those moments, now when we look at death, we can stand with our heads high, with our chests out, and say, no, no, no, no, you have no power over me. We don't face death like the world faces death.

01:00:37

We face death as the enemy that we know God will remove one day. Revelation chapter 21 says, God will wipe away every tear from our eyes. Death will be no more. There shall be no more mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things will pass away.

01:00:56

That's hope for the future, because we live in a world that is ugly, and we're not made to be here, and we don't have to be here for long. This life is a moment and it's gone, and God's going to come to the end of it, and God's going to say, no, no, no, no, this isn't the

way that it was supposed to be, and he sets all things right, and that puts wind under our wings.

01:01:28

That puts wind in our sails. That gives us hope for tomorrow. That gives us hope when death certainly comes, because death certainly comes. We will lose loved ones. We will face it ourselves. But like David did, it's good for us to mourn.

01:01:48

But it's good for us to know that it's not the end. And we stand with our heads high and we know that that we know. We don't know what happens between here and the end, but we know how the ending comes.

01:02:03

We've read the last page of the book. We know that God sets all things right, and we know that God brings victory in a space that otherwise seems so defeated. Our prayer team is gonna be down here after the service is over.

01:02:19

They would love to pray with you about whatever's going on in life. I wish I knew, because I look around a room like this, and I know there are people that are walking through grief. I know that there are people who have lost a loved one recently, that are in the process of losing someone, or it's coming soon.

01:02:36

I know there are people in this room that are sick with terminal illnesses. I know that there are people in this room that have looked family members in the eye for the last time and don't get to say another word to them until hopefully we see them in heaven one day.

01:02:54

Let us pray for you. Let us pray with you about whatever it is that's going on in life. Our prayer team will be here. We've got our prayer wall in the back that we'd love to pray with you in those moments as well.

01:03:07

Maybe it's in the weeks to come, maybe you don't have the energy or the ability to just come down here and share it today. Just write it down and leave it for us. We'll pray for those too. Would you pray with me now?

01:03:24

God, you are good and your mercy endures. God, when we look at circumstances that are too big for us, when we look at things that just overcome us, when death comes against us, we are helpless. But God, we know that you're not, that as grief hammered down on David and as he laments the loss of the King of Israel and his beloved friend, his brother, Jonathan.

01:04:11

God, we praise you. We thank you that in the midst of seeing the ugly in David's life that you can use this to encourage us. That you can use this to encourage us that death is terrible and that we should lament, that we should grieve, that we should remember, but we don't mourn as those who have no hope.

01:04:40

We know how the story end and God we know that you have power over death, that you have power over the grave, that you have power over sin and and Hades and everything else. And it gives us hope.

01:05:00

God help us to walk in the strength that you provide. Help us to walk in the face of all the ugly, not because of our strength, but because of yours. Father, we rest in you, we place

notta

our hope in you, and we celebrate in you because we have a champion who is greater than any enemy.

01:05:32

We worship you this morning. It's in Jesus' name we pray, amen.