



2 Samuel 2:1-11

"A Glimpse of Christ"

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15:51

Good morning, everyone. It is so good to be with you all. If you would please open your Bibles to 2 Samuel chapter 2. 2 Samuel chapter 2. We're going to read this morning from verses 1 through 11.

16:20

This is God's holy and inspired word. All those who have ears to hear, let them hear. 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.

16:37

David said, To which shall I go up? And he said, To Hebron. So David went up there, And there's two wives also ahead. Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail, the widow of Nabal, of Carmel. And David brought up his men who were with him, everyone with his household, and they lived in the towns of Hebron.

17:01

And the men of Judah came, and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah. When they had told David it was the men of Jabesh-gilead who had buried Saul, David sent messengers to the men of Jabesh-gilead and said to them, may you be blessed by the Lord because you've shown this loyalty to Saul your Lord and buried him.

17:25

Now may the Lord show steadfast love and faithfulness to you, and I will do good to you because you have done these things. Now therefore let your hands be strong and be valiant, for Saul your Lord is dead, and the house of Judah has anointed me king over them.

17:45

But Abner, the son of Ner, commander of Saul's army, took Ish-bosheth, the son of Saul, and brought him to Mahanaim. And he made him king over Gilead and the Ashurites and Jezreel and Ephraim and Benjamin and all Israel.

18:06

Ish-bosheth, Saul's son, was 40 years old when he began to reign over Israel. And he reigned two years, but the house of Judah followed David. And the time that David was king in Hebron over the house of Judah was seven years and six months.

18:27

This is God's word. Will you pray with me? Lord, as we approach this text this morning, I know my heart is heavy with the trials of life. And I come here this morning wanting to see the face of Christ.

18:51

So I pray that you would show us yourself. You would show us your glory today. That we would see you. Our hearts would treasure you above all else. You are the one that we seek. I'm reminded of the Heidelberg Catechism.

19:14

What is our only hope in life and death? And it's this, that we are not our own, but we've been bought by Jesus Christ. That is precious. I pray that you would help us to know that this morning, to walk out these doors with that renewed commitment to live for the glory and honor of our king.

19:44

And all that we do, that we say. It's in Jesus name I pray. Amen. I've titled this message this morning A Glimpse of Christ. And reading through this text, it's not a complicated text, right? Took us what a whole minute to read through and it divides very nicely into three sections.

20:06

We have section one, David is anointed king over the southern portion of Israel there and over Judah. Section two, David shows kindness to those who buried Saul. In section three, we have this Abner fellow anointing Ish-Bosheth king over Israel.

20:29

We have this just political drama going on, not an overly complicated text. But I want to remind you, and if you remember way back when we talked about David versus Goliath. I shared that these stories are not just written for us to know merely historical data, to be able to recite, hey, this is the events of what took place.

20:54

Those are important, those are good, but these things are written for theological purposes. These things are written so that we might know and see Christ. The author of 2 Samuel, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, is providing us with a glimpse of the rule of Christ.

21:17

And through this text, we follow a trail of breadcrumbs that lead us to Christ. And that's what I'm going to seek to point out and observe this morning. But before we go and break this down verse by verse, I want to show a contrast that I think the author is deliberately kind of putting in front of us.

21:36

And that contrast is between David and Abner. On one side, you have a man who seeks God and seeks to follow God's plan. And then on the other side, you have one who actually knows God's plan, but just blatantly rebels against it.

21:57

This isn't new to the story, right? In fact, if we go back to all the way back to Genesis chapter 3, we see this as the consistent theme throughout the Bible. You have a righteous line. You see the offspring of the woman there, and you have this unrighteous line of the offspring of the serpent.

22:18

And we see those two lines, and we see this contrast throughout the whole Old Testament to this point of those that seek after God and those that don't. In 1 Samuel, we saw it primarily put on display between King Saul and David, right?

22:38

King Saul knew God's will, knew God's plan. God had spoke to him through the prophet, through Samuel, through the revelation that God gave him there and what did Saul do? He heard it and he disregarded it.

22:57

You remember way back to 1 Samuel chapter 15 verses 1 through 3 it says this, and Samuel said to Saul, the Lord sent me to anoint you king over his people Israel. Now therefore listen to the words of the Lord.

23:13

Thus saith the Lord of hosts. That's in a small statement. Thus say, this is what the God of armies says. I have noted what Amalek did to Israel in opposing them on the way when they came up out of Egypt.

23:30

Now go and strike Amalek and devote to destruction all they have. And what does Saul do? Does Saul complete the task? No. He doesn't complete the task. In the same chapter, verse 10, it says this, the word of the Lord came to Samuel.

23:47

I regret that I have made Saul king, for he has turned back from following me and has not performed my commandments. Verse 23 of the same chapter. This is what God says to Saul, because you have rejected the word of the Lord, he also has rejected you from being king.

24:12

Whoa, that's massive. And it's no coincidence, if you remember last week, it's no coincidence, and even the end of 1 Samuel, that Amalekite informs David of Saul's death. If the messenger's claim in the last chapter was true, that he delivered Saul's fatal blow, then Saul died by the very hand that was connected to his failure.

24:45

That's God's righteous judgment. Ultimately, the man who refused to kill the Amalekites had to order his own death by one of them. So in our text, we have another repetition of this same thing, of one who seeks after God and seeks to obey what God has commanded.

25:10

Although imperfectly, right, we're gonna see as we follow David's life, was he a perfect king? No. And we're gonna see on the other side, one who flatly rebels against God's command. So verse one says, after this, David inquired of the Lord.

25:29

He inquired of the Lord. Shall I go up into any of the cities of Judah? God said to him, we'll go up, and he sends them to Hebron. Verse 8, this is the contrast. But Abner, son of Ner, commander of Saul's army, took Ish-bosheth, the son of Saul, and brought him and made him king.

25:51

Right? So we have David, the anointed king of God, right? And we're sitting here in this story, we're like, man, it's been a long time since Samuel went and visited Jesse and the sons lined up before him.

26:04

And right? It's like, oh, this has been a long time. And we read at the end of this chapter, or end of this section, that he's going to reign here in Hebron for, what was it, seven and a half years? This is, we cover just that in one sentence, but this is a long time.

26:28

So now we have this anointed king, but look at chapter 3 and we're going to, we'll develop the context when we get there in a couple weeks. And we're going to see this, this fellow Abner, he switches sides.

26:41

I think because of a scandal, and he's killed. But notice what he says in 2 Samuel 3 verses 9, right? He gets called out by Ish-bosheth for a potential sexually immoral act, and he responds to the king that he had put in place, and he says, God do so to Abner, and more so, more also, if I do not accomplish for David what the Lord has sworn to him

to transfer the kingdom from the house of Saul and set up the throne of David over Israel and over Judah from Dan to Beersheba.

27:23

Abner, now we could get to, we'll talk about chapter 2, was this an act of repentance? Was this, what was it? That'll be a problem for a later message, but I want to point out Abner knew the promises of God.

27:38

He knew God's promise to David and what God had set David, that God had set David as the king, but yet in chapter 2 we see Abner raising up Ish-bosheth as king, and you have to ask why, like that's the drama of the text.

28:00

I think the author here, he's laying out this contrast between Abner's rebellion, and the author seeks to now show us, right, as when you put a diamond on a black backdrop, if you will, David's character, which I think has theological purposes that point us straight to Christ, and I think we're going to see that this morning.

28:26

David seeks the Lord and seeks to do what is right and what is honorable in this text, and so I shared the outline, and I'm going to use that outline this morning, but I'm going to kind of use it and follow just I'm going to take a, I'm going to steal from Pastor Dave.

28:45

I'm going to pose a few questions of application. The first question as I was reading through this text that I was confronted with that I would like to now confront you guys with, is do we seek the Lord in all of our decisions?

29:05

Do we seek the Lord in all of our decisions? Verse 1, after this, David inquired of the Lord, shall I go up into any of the cities of Judah? The Lord said to him, go up, and David said, to which shall I go up?

29:20

And he said to Hebron. So David went up there and he brought his two wives, also Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail the widow of Nabal of Carmel, and David brought up his men who were with him, and they made him king there of Judah.

29:38

Now a result of the fall way back in Genesis chapter 3, is this false sense of anonymity, this false sense of independence. We believe that we are in charge and we fail, I'm using kind of capital W, we, humanity, we fail to recognize God's rule and reign over everything, right?

30:08

That was the promise of the serpent. The day you eat it, you shall be like God, knowing good and evil, right? You shall be self-determining. And that's the result of the fall, is now mankind moves forward with this false idea that he is in charge and not God.

30:29

And the drama of the Bible as it unfolds, as we see this this conflict of God not relinquishing his rule and reign, but we see mankind seeking to usurp that rule and reign. And we often believe, even subconsciously, that our lives are our own and that we have the right to choose our own path and to blaze our own trail.

30:59

But I want to remind you, whether you're Christian or not, right, it matters not at all that Jesus Christ is the king of kings and the lord of lords. He is the sovereign one. He created all things, he designed all things, he rules over all things, he owns all things.

31:20

You don't vote him into office and you cannot remove him from office, right? I don't like preaching that says make Jesus lord of your life. I hate to break it to you, you don't make Jesus anything. He is lord of your life.

31:41

Whether you recognize it or not. He is Lord. Christians here today, I want to remind you this of what Paul wrote to 1 Corinthians, to the church in Corinth in 1 Corinthians chapter 6. Verse 19 and 20 says this, or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God?

32:08

You are not your own. Christian, you are not your own. For you were bought with a price, so therefore glorify God in your body. Do you seek God in every decision? I don't care how big or small that is, right?

32:37

God cares about that cup of coffee, right? How insignificant and often is your life is ruled by the supreme reign of Christ and you are not your own. Are you living in submission to him? I love the hymn.

32:56

Elvina Mabel Hall was born in Alexandria, Virginia in 1818 and she penned a famous hymn written on the flat leaf of a bulletin at the Methodist Episcopal Church in Baltimore in 1865. And I wanna read it and I think you'll recognize it rather quickly.

33:15

The hymn starts and it says, I hear, I hear the savior say, and this is what the savior says to me, thy strength indeed is small. Child of weakness, watch and pray. Find in me thine all in all. Forgive the old English of it.

33:37

It means find in Christ that he is your everything. Find in me thine all in all. And this is the refrain. Jesus paid it all, all to him I owe. He paid it all, all to him I owe. Everything, not just Sunday mornings for an hour.

34:04

Everything. From the cars you buy, to the person you marry, to the jobs you choose, why you choose them, to the smallest of tiny details. We owe him all. Sin has left a crimson stain. He washed me white as snow.

34:24

I love the fourth verse. And when before the throne, I stand in him complete. So when we're in heaven, Jesus died my soul to save. My lips shall still repeat. And we go back to the chorus, the refrain, Jesus paid it all, all to him I owe.

34:49

For all of eternity, we're going to praise and recognize what Christ has done, what Christ has accomplished. He paid it all. I appreciate how the author of 2 Samuel here, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, shows a man.

35:06

Now, let me say it shows a king, right? So imagine fighting with your pride, knowing that you are God's anointed king, right? That kind of elevates a sense of self-worth, doesn't it? But it shows a man who humbly seeks God.

35:28

What does it mean to seek the Lord's counsel? Well, we actively seek God's guidance and direction our lives by reading our Bibles, right? Simple, by reading our Bibles, by praying for wisdom, by carefully considering how God's revealed will in scripture applies to our specific situation and decision.

35:51

We rely on the Bible as a primary source of our understanding of God's plan for our life. Now a lot of times people go, but that doesn't tell me the name of who I'm supposed to marry or what college I'm supposed to go to.

36:07

No, it doesn't. But it provides you with all that wisdom around so that you make the right decision. And oftentimes I talk to people, they're like, I need to know what God's will is for my life, and I'll ask him, well, okay, how is your devote time?

36:25

And what's more often than not the answer? And it could be better, right? You know, actually my Bible's in the back of my car. I kind of forgot it there last Sunday after church and haven't really opened it.

36:37

Okay, how's your prayer time? You know, oh, how are you doing with evangelism and the Great Commission? Are you sharing Christ with those around you? You know what, no, no, I'm not really called to be an evangelist.

36:51

Well, yes you are. How about you obey the things God has revealed to you first, and then we'll worry about those other issues, right? This is what it means to seek the Lord. As a secondary source, there is also safety in seeking counsel from godly leaders, godly family members, and godly friends.

37:13

I remind you what the Proverbs say in Proverbs 11, Chapter 14, where there is no guidance that people fails, but in the abundance of counselors, there is safety, right? The enemy wants to remove you from the safety of the body of Christ to get you out there by yourself with your own thoughts and your own thinking, because you're easier to pick off out there.

37:35

There's safety in counsel. Matthew, Chapter 7, Jesus tells us ask and it will be given to you. Seek and you will find. So I often liken it to, you know, all of us have lost our keys at one point, right?

37:50

Now we have these little like tile things that buzz and beep to help us find them. But what do we do when we lose our keys? We tear our house apart, right? Cushions are flying off the couch. We're going through laundry.

38:03

We're going through the washer machine. Like we're searching everywhere until we find our keys. Usually there's a little argument and bickering, you know, between husband and wife, right? Where did you put them?

38:15

You drove the car, right? And we passionately pursue finding our keys, right? We search high and low. Now replace your house with the Bible and you want to know what God's will is, devour every page of this book.

38:40

Turn it upside down, sideways through and through, get your nose in the text and read it. Now understanding God's will and obeying God's will as we see are two different things. Abner knew God's will.

38:58

Saul knew what God wanted him to do. They just disobeyed it, right? So oftentimes we're like, yeah, I know the Bible really well. Okay, great. Do you obey it? Do you do what it says? Well, you know, don't be legalistic on me.

39:14

You know, I just, you know, those are two different things. We need to learn to obey God's will. David points us to Christ here as one who knew God's will, who humbled himself and sought to obey it. Now, the frustrating thing with David as a type of Christ, that's what David is.

39:42

He's a figure in the Old Testament that points to Christ. And oftentimes when we hear that, we get frustrated by that because we're like, well, David's just a sinful dude. Like really that guy? Well, yes, that guy.

39:54

And as we read David's life and we see his failures, our longing grows for a king who will not fail us. You see, that's the point. And what is Paul write in Philippians chapter 2, verse 8. Speaking of Jesus and being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death in the cross.

40:20

Right before that, he says being equal with God is not something he has to grasp for because he was equal. He is equal with God. And he put on human form and he humbled himself. Right? That's quite a humbling, isn't it?

40:39

That's an immeasurable humbling. And so we've done that much humbling, we don't have anything to say. What did he do? He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death of the cross. Therefore, God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus, every knee should bow in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God,

41:08

the Father. I kept reading that because, again, that was my first point earlier, is that Jesus Christ is Lord of all, whether you recognize it or not, and every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that he is Lord.

41:24

Yet here's the beauty of the gospel, because oftentimes what people hear in this type of message is, Mike, that sounds like really legalistic preaching. It's not. And here's why. The beauty of the gospel is that Christ perfectly obeyed all of God's commands on our behalf.

41:52

Perfectly obeyed all of God's commands on our behalf. Christ is our champion, as we learned back with the David and Goliath story. Right? And as I said, as we read David's life, our heart grows in frustrations because of David's failures.

42:14

And we see our continued failures and our heart longs for the King. As we read through redemptive history, it longs for the King that will not fail. That will not fail. And this isn't legalistic preaching because here's the truth.

42:31

Here's the purpose of the law. The law reveals the depths of our sin. The law puts us in a state of absolute bankruptcy before God. We cannot do it. Right? Jesus is asked, what shall I do? Love God, love people.

42:55

We like preaching that, right? Who's the only person who ever perfectly obeyed that? Jesus. And He obeyed that on my behalf. And the beauty of the gospel is that when I'm justified, my sin gets put upon Him.

43:19

My sin gets put upon Him. That's often where we stop but that's not the end of the beauty. His righteousness and His perfect obedience gets put upon me. That's the gospel. And we come to David now, and we see a guy who's anointed as King, who is being...

43:41

being pursued, sought, hunted by the king of Israel. And now that guy dies. His body and the body of his people get pinned to the wall of Bethshean there, right? And David now honors the people that risked their life to go get his body and to provide it a proper burial.

44:07

Most kings, nowadays, most of us, we'd be like, good, let him hang on that wall. Let him rot there. How dare, he's been pursuing me, right? I've been having to live in caves because of that guy. But what do we see in David?

44:30

We see a picture of Christ that says, love your enemies, do good. And we recognize we were once enemies of Christ. We were once enemies of Christ. And what God is doing here is he's saying, this is the kingdom that Christ is going to fulfill.

44:50

You like the kindness of David here? You like the compassion of David here? You like that David sought the Lord and perfectly, not perfectly, but sought to obey him and longing for the one who will perfectly obey?

45:05

That's Christ who accomplished it all on your behalf. It's not legalistic preaching to say he bought you, he owns you. All to him we owe. He's a good king. He's a gracious king. He's a king that does good to those who were once his enemies, who seek to do right.

45:33

That's the beauty of the gospel. So I ask you again, do you seek the Lord in all of your decisions, not out of legalistic, trying to earn favor with God? You will never reach it that direction. But recognizing right now because of the finished work of Christ, you have the favor of God upon your life.

45:59

And now you get to sit here and serve him with everything you are. Because he is a great king. He is a good king. He's a compassionate king. He's the king that our hearts long for. So David sought the Lord and God says, go to Hebron.

46:21

And there he's anointed king of Judah. And if you know your Bible well, Hebron is a unique place. And I don't think the Lord accidentally instructed David to go to Hebron. He didn't close his eyes and point at a map and say.

46:38

Oh, Hebron. But Hebron's significant, Abraham, when he came into the Promised Land, he settled in Hebron. He, Sarah, Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob, Leah, were buried in Hebron.

And Hebron is where three guys come and visit Abraham and say, in a year, Sarah's going to have a son of promise.

46:56

And Alistair Begg points out in his message on this text, he goes, remember Matthew chapter 1, verse 1. The book of genealogies of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. And what the author is doing here in this part of redemption, redemptive history, is he's drawing a straight line from the promises of Abraham, to the promises of David, to the promises of Christ.

47:23

He's linking them all together. This is not accidental. He's moving the story forward to bring us to Christ. This leads to the second question. do you do what's right even when it's hard? Do you do what's right even when it's hard?

47:44

Or to put it another way, let me put it a biblical way, do you live as a citizen of the kingdom of Christ, of Christ's kingdom? So when David, end of verse 4, when they told David, it was the men of Jabesh-Gilead who buried Saul.

48:04

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. Now may the Lord show steadfast love and faithfulness to you and I will do good to you because you have done this thing.

48:25

Now therefore let your hands be strong and be valiant for Saul your Lord is dead and the house of Judah has anointed me king over them. David shows kindness to those who in a worldly sense blessed his enemy.

48:45

Isn't that the gospel? Like I see the gospel all through that. Our king shows kindness to those who once opposed him. In 1st Samuel chapter 31, the men of Jabesh-Gilead risked their lives to retrieve the body of Saul from the Philistines and give him and his sons a proper burial there.

49:11

They had hung Saul's body. They had pinned his corpse to the fortress, Bethshean. I've been there. It's an amazing city and the men of Jabesh-Gilead took Saul and his body and they buried him. Many leaders as I said would have said just leave him there.

49:29

Let him rot in the sun. Let the birds feed on his flesh and the world would be like yeah that's right. That's just. But David's concern here is for God and his concern, right? That's David's focus, isn't it?

49:52

Right? The world would say, well, Jabesh-Gilead, well, that's going to become a hotspot. That's going to become a hub for those who are still loyal to Saul. That's going to be a place you should wipe off the face of the earth.

50:06

You see, that's how the world would think about that. David shows that he had the mind of Christ and that he did not recoil at such threatening actions, but instead showed honor to Saul and blessed those who did likewise, because he was more concerned about God's reputation than his own.

50:33

A few weeks ago, I got to teach Romans chapter 12 with our are 180 students. And I read this section, I think it's it's profoundly important here. And it shows, it shows how those are to, how we are to behave, those who are of Christ's kingdom are to behave.

50:55

And Paul writes this to the church in Rome. I remind you that wasn't an easy place to be a Christian at that time. He says this, love be genuine. Abhor what is evil. Hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. In other words, we're to be in competition with each other.

51:27

And who can, who could show honor to people better? Boy, that's convicting to me. Outdo each other in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal. Be fervent in spirit. Serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope.

51:47

Be patient in tribulation. Be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. Bless those who persecute you. Bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice.

52:00

Weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. Repay no one evil for evil. But give thought to do good, to do sorry, to do what is honorable in the sight of all.

52:20

If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourself, but leave it to the wrath of God. For it is written, vengeance is mine. I will repay, says the Lord.

52:34

To the contrary, if your enemy is hungry, feed him. if he is thirsty give him something to drink for by doing so you will heat burning coals on his head. Do not overcome, do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good.

52:51

David understood that long time before Paul wrote it, right? David is pointing us to Christ and saying this is how kingdom citizens act, how they behave, how they treat one another, how they treat their enemies.

53:10

David's concern was Israel's cause. Is your concern kingdom concerns? Do you hold Christ Kingdom and your citizenship in that kingdom as supremely valuable to a degree that your entire life is shaped by that reality. Everything about you changes so that you reflect the character and image of your king.

53:42

So do you do what is right, even when it's hard? Right? To be a citizen of the kingdom of heaven is a costly thing. Christ says, deny yourself, take up your cross and follow him. Your life is not your own.

53:59

You were bought with a price. And again, it is not legalistic because what does Christ give us? Everything. We gain him. We gain him. So the job in the end doesn't really matter. The car doesn't really matter.

54:23

The argument with the person and the church doesn't really matter. Christ matters. And as citizens of our king, we strive and all that we do to outdo each other in showing honor. So we don't gossip. We don't call each other names.

54:46

We don't repay evil for evil. We empathize with those who are out in the world and we seek to do good to them so that they might see the beauty and worth of the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. And that leads to the final question is this, where do your loyalties lie?

55:04

Where do your loyalties lie? Verse 8, but Abner, the son of Ner, commander of Saul's army, took Ish-bosheth. Now Ish-bosheth, isn't that a fun word to say? Like, I think that's an anger management word, right?

55:18

Ish-bosheth, right? It means man of shame. So it's not the best of words, but it's just fun to say Ish-bosheth. The son of Saul and brought him over to Mahanaim, and he made him king over Gilead and the Ashurites and Jezreel and Ephraim and Benjamin and all Israel

55:36

Jezreel and Ephraim and Benjamin and all Israel, made him king. At times we grasp biblical principles more effectively through negative examples, right? And Abner gets put up here as a negative example.

55:54

He's the black backdrop, if you will. Unlike David in submitting to God, Abner vividly displays his ambition by propping up Ish-bosheth, aware of his lack of legitimate claim to Israel's throne. As mentioned earlier, Abner demonstrated his godless ambition by rejecting God's word, despite being aware of David's anointing as the true king of Israel.

56:25

Abner's selfish desire and animosity towards David compelled him to defy God's will. Even to the the damage of a nation and a people. Right, that's that's the sinful desire of the world and we're going to see Abner as his story is going to end in the next chapter. But he's kind of this snake that kind of is just here at this this point and then he switches sides, I think when it's convenient. And and that's what we see this this opposition to what God is seeking to do.

57:06

And I want to read Psalm 2 for us real quick. Psalm 2 reads this why do the nations rage and the people plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves and the rulers take counsel together against the Lord and against his anointed saying let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us. He who sits in heaven laughs, the Lord holds them in derision.

57:33

Then he will speak to them in his wrath and terrify him in his fury saying as for me I shall set my king on Zion my holy hill I will tell of the decrees the Lord said to me you are my son. Today I have begotten you. Ask of me and I will give the nations your inheritance.

57:57

And the ends of the earth your possession you shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like potter's vessel. I remind you he is a just king. Now therefore here's the commission now therefore oh kings be wise be warned oh rulers of the earth.

58:21

Serve the Lord with fear and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the son lest he be angry and you perish in the way for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are with all those who take refuge in Him.

58:42

So I go back to the question, where do your loyalties lie? Where do your loyalties lie? This Psalm declares Christ as King. It's a Messianic Psalm. It's tapping on David but it has that that fuller meaning that Christ is King to the ends of the earth.

59:00

There is no part of creation where His rule doesn't touch. There is no changing of the guards. There is no weakness. And the gospel question in verse 12 of this Psalm is, are you going to kiss the son and find refuge in Him?

59:23

He's a good King. He is a just King and He will carry out justice. And the only safe place to be is under his protection and his rule. The nation's rage, they plot in vain, right? They gather together, they conspire amongst themselves how to break off his bonds, how to how to throw off his rule.

59:54

And what is the one who sits? It's a funny Psalm. He who sits in heaven, what does he do? He laughs. You put yourself in God's part. Their hearts are beating because he's seeing to it that their hearts are beating.

01:00:15

Their lungs are taking an oxygen because he's seeing to it that their lungs are taking in oxygen. And what are they doing with their breath? They're conspiring together, saying, speaking, using their breath to say, let us overthrow.

01:00:36

And he who sits in the heaven laughs. It's not a laugh of some comedy, something. It's a laugh of contempt. It's that laugh at his sheer sovereignty, looking at the futility of their attempts. Beloved, Christ is king.

01:00:59

He is sovereign overall. It's non-negotiable. It's non-negotiable. There is no changing of the guards. And the author of 2 Samuel seeks to point out through David's Christ-like character, Christ is a good king who shows kindness and bestows blessing upon his subjects.

01:01:21

And we're going to see in chapter 3, he's going to seek to show blessing to Abner as well, doing good to those who don't do so good to him. Worship team, you guys can come on up. We're going to close this morning with a hymn written by Charity Lee Smith in 1863.

01:01:51

Charles Spurgeon also published this hymn in his church Hymnal, three years after it was penned in 1866. And the title is Before the Throne of God Above. I'd like to read one verse. It reads, Behold him there, the risen Lamb, my perfect spotless righteousness.

01:02:15

Behold him there. Where's there? at the right hand of the throne of God forever making intercession for us. And what is he? He's my perfect spotless righteousness. He's the one who perfectly obeyed all the the laws of God on my behalf and freed me from the burden, the crushing burden of the law.

01:02:34

He is the great, unchangeable I am. He cannot change. There's no changing of his guard. And hear this. He's the king of glory and of grace. He's a good king. One with himself, I cannot die. Why can't I die?

01:02:55

Because he rose from the dead. I am now united with him, one with him. I cannot die. Sure, my body might stop breathing at some point. My heart might stop beating. Spurgeon says that's the best moment of a Christian's life because it's the first moment he opens his eyes in heaven.

01:03:14

My soul is purchased by his blood. My life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ my savior and my God. This is the promise of his kingdom, of his kindness, of his goodness, of his sovereign reign overall.

01:03:34

Would you stand and pray with me and then we're gonna sing this song together. Lord, we're so grateful for this text. Simple text, yet I think packed with such meaning and purpose. Help us to understand it.

01:03:57

Help us to fall in love with your kingdom, to fall in love with our king, to bring our lives because of the grace of God, not because of legalism, but because of what you have done for us. We bring now our lives as a living sacrifice.

01:04:16

As Paul writes there, holy and acceptable unto God, which is our reasonable act of service, where we come before the throne of God. And we don't just give our percentage. We give the 100%. We lay everything down.

01:04:34

And say all to him I owe. You're a good king. Help us to be citizens. Pilgrims on this earth with our eyes fixed upon our citizenship in heaven. Let not our hearts fall in love with the things of this world but fall in love with you.

01:04:58

It's in Jesus' name I pray. Amen.