

"Trust The Lord In Every Adversity"

2 Samuel 2:12 - 4

1_5_2025

Speaker: Pastor Dave Briggs

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18:25

Good morning. You're looking particularly nice today. As most of you, or many of you may know, our brother in Christ, Bob Eggink, went home to be with Jesus on Christmas. Bob was and is a real hero of the faith.

18:53

Quiet, a quiet man with a great sense of humor, thoughtful, kind, loving. He loved this church family and he loved the Lord Jesus with all his heart. If you would like to attend the service for Bob, it's going to be held in Riverside on January 14th.

19:16

That's a Tuesday. We have a flyer on the table in the foyer for you if you'd like to pick that up with directions and information. Now I have a question for you. Do you ever wish you had more problems in your life?

19:39

Our passage today brings us an action-packed story full of all kinds of drama, danger, and adversity. In other words, we're back in 2 Samuel. And at the end of our passage, David is actually going to tell us in his own words what he thought about all of the hardships in his life.

20:02

Will you pray with me, please? Father, we just thank you for this wonderful place in your word that you have given us today to study and to journey through and to embrace and enjoy. It has a powerful message that can really help us with our problems and our troubles.

20:20

Please give us ears to hear and hearts to receive your word this morning. It's in the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen. We're going to enjoy a healthy serving of God's word today. We're going to pick up the second part of 2 Samuel, and then we're going to also cover chapter 3 and all of chapter 4.

20:48

Don't worry, I will have you out before sundown, I promise. I'm kidding. It's going to be way later than that. If you'd like to use the Bible and the chair under you or in front of you, we're going to start on page 309. We started our study of 2 Samuel back in November and then in December we had our Christmas series and then Pastor Bruce closed out 2024 with a wonderful message from 1 Peter last week.

21:20

Now, I'm sure that you remember everything we covered in 2 Samuel in November, but here's a quick refresher for the people sitting around you. In chapter 1, David was still living in exile in the city of Ziklag in the land of the Philistines, and a messenger came and told David that King Saul and Saul son Jonathan had been killed in battle with the Philistines.

21:53

Then the messenger lied and said he found Saul badly wounded on the battleground, and Saul asked him to kill him to put him out of his misery, and the messenger claimed that he did as the king requested.

22:06

The messenger hoped David would reward him, but David executed him for killing the Lord's anointed king. Then David deeply mourned the loss of King Saul and Jonathan, his dearest friend. Then in the first part of chapter 2, the Lord told David it was finally time for him and his men and their families to return from their exile to David's homeland of Judah, and they went to live in the city of Hebron.

22:39

The leaders of Judah came and anointed David as king over Judah, but Abner, the commander of Saul's army made Saul's son, Ish-bosheth, the king of Israel. So now the nation of Israel was divided. The northern tribes of Israel served Ish-bosheth, and the one southern tribe of Judah served David.

23:01

So what's going to happen? Could this lead to civil war? Let's find out. 1 Samuel 2, we're going to take this healthy serving of God's Word one little bite at a time. Here we go. Verses 12 to 13, Chapter 2.

23:18

Abner, the son of Ner, and the servants, or army of Ish-bosheth, the son of Saul, went out from Mahanaim to Gibeon, And Joab the son of Zeruiah, and the servants of David went out and met them at the pool of Gibeon, and they sat down, the one on the one side of the pool and the other on the other side of the pool.

23:37

Abner was the top commander of the army of King Ish-bosheth of Israel, and Joab was the top commander of David's army of Judah, and these two generals and their armies met at the pool of Gibeon, not for a pool party, but what's going to turn out to be a bloodbath.

23:59

Let's read on, Verses 14 to 17. And Abner said to Joab, Let the young men arise and compete before us. And Joab said, Let them arise. Then they arose and passed over by number twelve for Benjamin and Ish-bosheth, the son of Saul, and twelve of the servants of David.

24:19

And each caught his opponent by the head and thrust his sword in his opponent's side so they fell down together. Therefore, that place was called Helkath-hazzurim, or Field of Sword Edges, which is at Gibeon, and the battle was very fierce that day.

24:35

And Abner and the men of Israel were beaten before the servants of David. Abner suggested a contest where twelve of his best men, fought against 12 of Joab's best men. And we're not told why Abner did this.

24:52

Maybe, I'm just speculating, maybe he wanted to demonstrate how fierce his warriors were to perhaps convince Joab not to be unwise to go to war with Israel's superior army. Whatever the reason the result was, 24 brave young men killed each other, and then fierce fighting broke out between the two armies of Judah and Israel, and Judah clobbered Israel.

25:23

Verse 18, and the three sons of Zeruiah were there, Joab, Abishai, and Asahel. Now, Asahel was as swift afoot as a wild gazelle. The three sons of Zeruiah were not only brothers, they were David's nephews, because Zeruiah was David's sister.

25:44

Joab, we know, is David's general. We met Abishai, if you remember, back in 1 Samuel, chapter 26, when he went with David into Saul's camp while Saul was sleeping, and Abishai wanted to take Saul's spear and kill him, but David spared Saul's life.

25:59

And now here we meet Asahel, the gazelle, the youngest of David's nephews, and he was deeply revered for his speed and agility, verses 19 to 21. And Asahel pursued Abner, and as he went, he turned neither to the right hand nor to the left hand from following Abner.

26:20

And Abner looked behind him and said, is it you? Is it you, Asahel? And he answered, it is I. Abner said to him, turn aside to your right hand or to your left, and seize one of the young men and take his spoil.

26:32

But Asahel would not turn aside from following him. As Abner and the army retreated, Asahel just kept coming straight for Abner. Abner told Asahel to stop chasing him and just fight with one of his other soldiers.

26:50

If this sounds like Abner was afraid of Asahel, Abner was actually trying to warn and protect Asahel. Let's look at verses 22 to 23. And Abner said again to Asahel, turn aside from following me. Why should I strike you to the ground?

27:10

Then how could I lift up my face to your brother Joab? But Asahel refused to turn aside. Therefore, Abner struck him in the stomach and with the butt of his spear, so that the spear came out at his back, and he fell there and died where he was.

27:25

And all who came to the place where Asahel had fallen and died stood still. Asahel was swift and brave, but he underestimated Abner's superior skill as a warrior, and he paid for his mistake with his life.

27:45

Abner did not want to fight Asahel because he knew he would kill him, and then Asahel's brother, Joab, would want to avenge his death, which would turn their civil war now into a blood feud between Joab and Abner.

28:02

Verses 24-25. But Joab and Abishai, the two remaining brothers, pursued Abner, and as the sun was going down, they came to the hill of Ammah, which lies before Giah on the way to the wilderness of Gibeon.

28:17

And the people of Benjamin gathered themselves together behind Abner and became one group and took their stand on the top of a hill. So at sundown, Abner and his men stopped retreating, stopped running, and they gathered and took the high country, high ground, for a do-or-die last stand.

28:38

Verses 26-28. Then Abner called to Joab, shall the sword devour forever? Do you not know that the end will be bitter? How long will it be before you tell your people to turn

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from the pursuit of their brothers? And Joab said, as God lives, if you had not spoken, surely the men would not have given up the pursuit of their brothers until morning.

29:00

So Joab blew the trumpet and all the men stopped and pursued Israel no more, nor did they fight anymore. This bloody battle was a fight between men who came from different tribes of Israel, but they were all descendants of Abraham.

29:19

Abner called out to Joab and basically said, enough. Enough is enough. You have the victory. When are you going to call off your men? Maybe Joab was so obsessed with avenging his own brother's death that he wasn't thinking about all the death toll around him.

29:38

For Joab to inflict heavy casualties on the army of Israel was a really bad idea because David will need a healthy strong army in Israel when he becomes king. So Joab ordered his men to pull back and the battle ended here, but not the war.

29:57

Verses 29 to 32 will finish chapter 2. And Abner and his men went all that night through the Arabah, which is a desert region. They crossed the Jordan and marching the whole morning they came to Mahanaim, which is their home base in Israel.

30:14

Joab returned from the pursuit of Abner and when he had gathered all the people together, they were missing from David's servants, 19 men besides Asahel. But the servants of David had struck down of Benjamin, 360 of Abner's men.

30:29

And they took up Asahel and buried him in the tomb of his father, which was at Bethlehem. And Joab and his men marched all night and the day broke upon them at Hebron. Both armies returned to their home bases in Israel and Judah and counted their losses and we can imagine David deeply grieved the loss of his nephew and the 20 men of Judah as well as the 360 men that died of Israel.

31:01

Let's start chapter 3 verse 1. There was a long war between the house of Saul and the house of David and David grew stronger and stronger while the house of Saul became weaker and weaker. The civil war lasted about two years and the Lord was with David so Judah became stronger and stronger while Israel, that defied God by making Ishbosheth the king, grew weaker and weaker.

31:34

We see here that obedience to the Lord always makes us stronger, always. Disobedience always makes us weaker. David did not want a war with Israel, but God used that war to strengthen and grow David into the man God created him to be, into the king God created him to be.

32:00

We don't want our problems either, do we? But God uses our battles to strengthen and grow you and me into the people He created us to be. Now we come to a little break in the action to get a little information about David's personal life during his seven and a half years where he lived and ruled in Hebron of Judah, verses chapter 3 verses 2 to 5.

32:28

And sons were born to David at Hebron, his first was Amnon, of Ahinoam of Jezreel, and his second, Chileab, of Abigail the widow of Nabal of Carmel, and the third, Absalom the son of Maacah the daughter of Talmai king of Geshur, and the fourth, Adonijah the son of Haggith, and the fifth, Shephatiah the son of Abital, and the sixth, Ithream, of Eglah, David's wife

32:56

These were born to David in Hebron. David arrived in Hebron with two wives, but in the seven and a half years he lived and ruled, he accumulated some more spouses and sent out a lot of birth announcements.

33:16

Polygamy is against God's plan for marriage, and David paid dearly for his polygamy. When his six bouncing baby boys grew up, Amnon assaulted his half-sister. Absalom and Adonijah both rebelled against David and tried to seize the throne, and the other three are just never mentioned again.

33:42

Verses 6 to 7. While there was war between the House of Saul and the House of David, Abner was making himself strong in the House of Saul. Now Saul had a concubine whose name was Rizpah, the daughter of Aiah.

33:59

And Ish-bosheth said to Abner, why have you gone in to my father's concubine? Ish-bosheth was a weak king, so Abner became the real power behind the throne. And toward the end of Ish-bosheth's two-year reign, he accused Abner of a very serious crime.

34:19

For anyone other than the king to date a royal concubine was equal to treason. Let's read Abner's response verses 8 to 11. Then Abner was very angry over the words of Ishbosheth and said, Am I a dog's head of Judah?

34:36

To this day I keep showing steadfast love to the house of Saul, your father, to his brothers and to his friends, and I'm not giving you into the hand of David. And yet you charge me today with a fault concerning a woman.

34:48

God do so to Abner and 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.

35:02

And Ish-bosheth did not answer Abner another word because he feared him. We don't we don't know if Abner really went into Saul's concubine or not. So Abner's fury was either because he felt he had earned the right to do whatever he wanted to do or because Ish-bosheth made a false charge against him that could get him executed.

35:28

Either way, angry Abner announced that he would now set the wheels in motion to take Ish-bosheth's throne away from him and give it to David. And poor Ish-bosheth wished he'd never opened his mouth. After a long civil war, think about this, after a long civil war, God used an argument over a concubine to show Abner it was time to stop his support of Ish-bosheth and unite all of Israel under David.

36:05

We never know. We never know how the Lord is going to resolve our difficulties, do we? God works in mysterious ways. We are wise just to trust the Lord every day and expect the unexpected. Abner had made Ishmael the king of Israel out of loyalty to Saul, but Abner should have been loyal and obedient to God.

36:34

Abner clearly said here that he knew David was God's choice to be king, not Ish-bosheth. Are we ever like Abner? We ever know what God wants us to do, but we choose to do something else, and then we work real hard to convince ourselves we're not really disobeying God, but we know deep down, yeah, yeah, we are.

37:01

Let's read on verses 12 to 16. And Abner sent messengers to David on his behalf, saying, To whom does the land belong? Make your covenant with me, and behold, my hand shall be with you, to bring all Israel over to you.

37:17

And David said, Good, I will make a covenant with you, but one thing I require of you, that is, you shall not see my face unless you first bring Michal, Saul's daughter, when you come to see my face.

37:29

Then David sent messengers to Ish-bosheth, Saul's son, saying, Give me my wife, Michal, for whom I paid the bridal price of a hundred foreskins of the Philistines. And Ish-bosheth sent and took her from her husband, Paltiel the son of Laish.

37:43

But her husband went with her, weeping after her, all the way to Bahurim. Then Abner said to him, Go, return. And he returned. Abner, what a softy, huh? David agreed to make peace with Abner. But David had one stipulation.

38:04

He wanted his first wife, Michal, returned to him. Remember, Saul gave his daughter, Michal, to David as a reward for killing Goliath. But then Saul required a dowry or a bridal price of a hundred foreskins of the Philistines.

38:22

And David, always being an overachiever, actually collected 200. But he only mentioned the 100 here that Saul demanded. Michal, if you remember, had been in love with David when she married him. And David owed his life to Michal because she helped him escape when Saul sent men to capture him.

38:41

But then Saul gave Michal to another man as part of Saul's twisted strategy to try to destroy David. Now, Michal's second husband, Paul Tiel, was heartbroken when they took Mikel away from him to return her to David.

38:57

Paltiel cried his eyes out until sweet old Abner just said, go away. And he did. Let's look at verses 17 to 19. And Abner conferred with the elders of Israel, saying, For some time past you have been seeking David as your king over you.

39:19

Now then bring it about, for the Lord has promised David, saying, By the hand of my servant David, I will save my people Israel from the hand of the Philistines and from the hand of all their enemies.

39:30

Abner also spoke to Benjamin. Then Abner went to tell David at Hebron all that Israel and the whole house of Benjamin thought good to do. Israel was made up of twelve tribes. Saul came from the tribe of Benjamin, so the elders of Benjamin were loyal to Saul's son Ish-bosheth.

39:52

Abner was Saul's cousin, and he controlled the army of Israel, so the other tribes, except for Judah, went along and served Ish-bosheth as their king, even though we see here they preferred David. But now Abner is using his political and military strength to convince all the elders, especially the elders of Benjamin, that it was time for the war to end and it was time to make David their king.

40:20

Of course, we don't need to give Abner a whole lot of credit here. It wasn't Abner at work. It was God. It was God who changed the hearts. And it was God who was working to achieve His plan and His purpose for David and Israel at the right time and in the right way.

40:42

Verses 20 to 21. When Abner came with 20 men to David at Hebron, David made a feast for Abner and the men who were with him. And Abner said to David, I will arise and go and will gather all Israel to my Lord the King, that they may make a covenant with you, that you may reign over all that your heart desires.

41:04

So David sent Abner away and he went in peace. David graciously received Abner, his former enemy. David wined and dined him and then sent Abner away in peace to make all the necessary arrangements to unite all of Israel under David's rule.

41:26

If you were David, wouldn't you think all your problems were over? Looks like a pretty happy ending, doesn't it? In your life, do you ever see one problem go away just to be replaced by another? Let's read on.

41:44

22 to 25. Just then, uh-oh, I added uh-oh, that's not in Scripture. Just then the servants of David arrived with Joab from a raid, bringing much spoil with them. But Abner was not with David at Hebron, for David had sent him away and he had gone in peace.

42:04

When Joab and all the army that was with him came, it was told Joab, Abner, the son of Ner, came to the king and he has let him go and he has gone in peace. Then Joab went to the king and said, what have you done?

42:16

Behold, Abner came to you. Why is it that you have sent him away so that he's gone? You know that Abner the son of Ner came to deceive you and to know you're going out and you're coming in and to know all that you are doing.

42:30

Remember Joab hated Abner for killing his brother Asahel, so Joab was not happy at all to learn that Abner not only came but he was given this lavish feast and then he wasn't put in prison. David just let him walk away freely with his blessing.

42:51

Joab accused Abner of only pretending to want peace so he could spy on David for this bishop. Verses 26 to 30. When Joab came out from David's presence he sent messengers after Abner and they brought him back from the cistern of Sirah but David did not know about it.

43:13

And when Abner returned to Hebron, Joab took him aside into the midst of the gate to speak with him privately and there he struck him in the stomach so that he died for the blood of Asahel, his brother.

43:25

Afterward, when David heard of it, he said, I and my kingdom are forever guiltless before the Lord for the blood of Abner, the son of Ner. May it fall upon the head of Joab and upon all his father's house.

43:36

And may the house of Joab never be without one who has a discharge, or who is leprous, or who holds a spindle, or who falls by the sword, or who lacks bread. So Joab and Abishai, his brother, killed Abner because he had put their brother, Asahel, to death in the battle at Gibeon.

43:57

Abner killed Asahel, Joab's brother, in fair combat. But Joab murdered Abner in cold blood after David sent him away in peace. David, as we've seen before, strongly believed that vengeance belongs to the Lord.

44:20

So David laid quite a curse on Joab and their family for his wicked revenge. But let's really think about this, because this is going to touch all of our lives. David's top general just murdered Israel's top general before he could seal the deal on the peace treaty.

44:45

If the elders of Israel thought David had anything to do with giving the assassination order, would there be more war now? Did Joab just ruin everything? Had God lost control of the situation? No, not one bit, as we're about to see, verses 31 to 39.

45:16

Then David said to Joab and to all the people who were with him, tear your clothes and put on sackcloth and mourn before Abner. And King David followed the bier, were coffin.

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They buried Abner at Hebron, and the king lifted up his voice and wept at the grave of Abner, and all the people wept.

45:35

And the king lamented for Abner, saying, should Abner die as a fool dies? Your hands were not bound, your feet were not fettered. As one falls before the wicked, you have fallen. And all the people wept again over him.

45:49

Then all the people came to persuade David to eat bread while it was yet day. But David swore, saying, God be so to me, and more also, if I taste bread or anything else, till the sun goes down. And all the people took notice of it, and it pleased them, as everything that the king did pleased all the people.

46:07

So all the people of Israel, all the people in all Israel, understood that day that it had not been the king's will to put to death Abner, the son of Ner. And the king said to his servants, do you not know that a prince and a great man has fallen this day in Israel?

46:23

And I was gentle today, though anointed king. These men, the sons of Zeruiah, are more severe than I. The Lord repay the evildoer according to his wickedness. In this situation, the people of Israel saw David's grief, sincere grief and anger, and they knew, they knew, he had nothing to do with Abner's death.

46:48

In fact, in fact, they loved David all the more. We need to remember this lesson when our plans go sideways and things look bad. Here's the lesson. God is always in control. God never makes a mistake.

47:15

Never. We can trust Him. No matter what. Trust Him. Let's start Chapter 4. When Ishbosheth, Saul's son, heard that Abner had died at Hebron, his courage failed, and all Israel was dismayed. Now Saul's son had two men who were captains of raiding bands.

47:43

The name of the one was Baanah, and the name of the other Rechab, sons of Rimmon a man of Benjamin from Beeroth, for Beeroth also is counted part of Benjamin; the Beerothites fled to Gittaim and have been sojourners there to this day.

47:57

When Ish-bosheth heard that Abner was dead, he knew his own days were numbered. We'll come right back to his army, two army captains that we just met in a moment, but first here's a quick note about Saul's other son, Jonathan, who was killed in battle.

48:15

Verse 4. Jonathan, the son of Saul, had a son who was crippled in his feet. He was five years old when the news about Saul and Jonathan came from Jezreel, nurse took him up and fled and as she fled in her haste he fell and became lame and his name was Mephibosheth.

48:34

Now typically a new king coming in like David would kill Mephibosheth because he's a descendant, he's an heir, he's a potential threat for the throne. But if you remember back in 1st Samuel chapter 20 David promised Jonathan that he would take care of Jonathan's family when he became the king.

48:54

So when we get to chapter 9 we're going to see how David honored his promise to Jonathan and his treatment of Mephibosheth. Let's go back to the two army captains verses 5 and 7. Now the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, Rechab and Baanah set out

and about the heat of the day they came to the house of Ish-bosheth as he was taking his noonday rest.

49:19

And they came into the house as if to get wheat and they stabbed him in the stomach. Then Rechab and Baanah, his brother, escaped. When they came into the house, as he lay on his bed in his bedroom, they struck him and put him to death and beheaded him.

49:33

They took his head and went by the way of the Arabah, or desert, all night. Ish-bosheth was betrayed and murdered by his two army captains. They took his head as a trophy because they thought David would reward them.

49:51

How do you think that's going to go for them? Knowing David's history, let's find out. We'll finish the chapter verses 8 to 12. And they brought the head of Ish-bosheth to David at Hebron. And they said to the king, Here is the head of Ish-bosheth, the son of Saul, your enemy who sought your life.

50:13

The Lord has avenged my Lord the king this day on Saul and on his offspring. But David answered Rechab and Baanah his brother, the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, as the Lord lives, who has redeemed my life out of every adversity.

50:27

When one told me, behold Saul is dead and thought he was bringing good news, I seized him and killed him at Ziklag, which was the reward I gave him for his news. How much more, when wicked men have killed a righteous man in his own house on his bed, shall I not now require his blood at your hand and destroy you from the earth?

50:45

And David commanded his young men and they killed them and cut off their hands and feet and hanged them beside the pool at Hebron. But they took the head of Ish-bosheth and buried it in the tomb of Abner at Hebron.

51:00

David executed these two wicked men just like he executed the messenger at the beginning of chapter 1. And that is how our epic saga ends. So as we close, I want to look back with you at a great statement that's really easy to overlook.

51:24

It was in verse 9. this, he said, as the Lord lives, who has redeemed my life out of every adversity. David faced a lot of adversity, didn't he? So why wasn't he bitter and angry at God? David could have said, as the Lord lives, he has made my life so hard and painful.

51:54

But no, David proclaimed his gratitude and trust in the Lord that was with him and saved him in every single turmoil, battle, hardship he faced. My brothers and sisters, our Bible tells us we will have troubles and tribulation in this broken world.

52:21

But the Lord will be with us to guide us and strengthen us and deliver us just, just like He did with David from every adversity. We can trust our Lord when the sun is shining and when we're in the dark.

52:44

We can trust our Lord when we're laughing and when we're crying. We can trust our Lord when we're dancing and when we're dying. We can trust our Lord in every adversity like David. Whatever you're battling today, you may not understand what God is doing in your life, but you can be sure God's got you, God's got you, and He knows exactly what He's doing.

53:22

He's working everything together for your good and His glory. You can trust Him every step of the way. You can trust Him every minute of the day and night, even when, or especially when, the road is hard.

53:42

Our prayer team is going to be here to pray with you if you would love prayer for something you're battling today or for any reason. We also have a prayer wall outside. You can just go out the door to your right.

53:54

It's a nice little wall. There's cards there. You can write a prayer request. You do not have to sign your name, and our prayer team, our prayer warriors, will be praying for you tomorrow night. Let's pray together.

54:06

Father, we thank You for Your faithfulness. Thank You, dear Father, that we can trust You, our God, the Lord our God, for every day every night, every sorrow, every hardship, and we can actually go stronger and stronger in our adversity when we walk with You.

54:27

In Psalm 9:10, David wrote, those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, O Lord, have not forsaken those who seek you. Lord, we love you, and we seek you, and we trust you, and we thank you.

54:42

In the name of Jesus, amen. We have the privilege to celebrate communion together now this morning. Jesus gave us this holy sacrament of communion so that we could

gather together as His family to come together and remember His sacrifice on the cross for us.

55:06

Let me read to you Luke, chapter 22, verses 19 to 20. And Jesus took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

55:22

And likewise, the cup, after they had eaten saying this cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. If you have not placed your faith in Jesus yet, then communion has no meaning for you yet.

55:41

But here's really good news, best news you're going to hear. You can ask Jesus right where you're sitting to save you from your sins and bring you eternal life, walk you right into heaven when you die, and He will, and then you can come take communion with us.

55:57

And you will have so much to celebrate today and in all of 2025 and forever. I'm going to lead us in a brief prayer in just a moment and then I'll stop and you'll have a few moments quietly just to prepare your hearts to take communion.

56:12

And then as you see, we have elements in the front and in the back. Just come collect those, take communion at your seat when you are ready. Let's pray together. Lord Jesus, please, now as we get ready to share in the holy sacrament of communion, please now, Lord, show us if there's any sin in our lives that we need to confess before we come to Your table.

56:36

We love You and it's in Your name we pray, Amen.