



“A Rainy Parade”

2 Samuel 15

03/02/25

Pastor Drew Hunsley

Anaheim Hills, CA | RockCC.com

20:41

All right. Thank you to our 180 students for leading us this morning and that awesome.

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I always love the first Sunday of the month because we intentionally keep them down here uh in service. We want them to to not just be a part of their own little church upstairs that kind of hides but uh but but that they're part of our church and so uh we're so thankful to have them down here on the first Sunday uh and especially when they get an opportunity to lead with us. So uh so thankful for that. I want to invite you to grab your Bible and open up to Second Samuel chapter 15.

21:12

Second Samuel 15, if you didn't bring a Bible, there should be a black one underneath of your chair you can follow along uh we're on page 323 in those Bibles. So uh if you want to follow along in those copies as well.

21:28

And while we're making uh while while you're making your way to Second Samuel 15, uh just a as a little review kind of catch you up on where we're at in the story. So if you missed uh recently, uh David, uh King David, wonderful King David, everybody knows about David, right? He's the guy who slayed the giant. He's the one who uh has has been the the model of what it looks like to follow God

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up until a few weeks ago.

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So last uh a couple of weeks ago, David uh sinned against the Lord and God declared in Second Samuel chapter 12, uh the judgment was going to come upon him for his actions as he had uh had this affair with Bathsheba as he had had her husband murdered. So uh in chapter 12, God told David uh the sword will never depart from your house.

22:08

He said in that same section, uh he told David, I will raise up evil against you out of your own house. And so last week we saw that if you were here with us in chapter uh 13 and 14, we saw David have his daughter Tamar raped by his son Amnon. And then another one of his sons, Absalom murdered his brother Amnon in cold blood.

22:24

Uh kind of falling apart here in the David household. So Absalom had been on the run for years at this point, hiding from justice as he uh deserved to lose his own life as he had taken his brother Amnon's. But at the end of last week's passage, we saw a passive of weak, depressed David, uh kind of softly allow Am Absalom to return to Jerusalem, to to come out of hiding and he he pardons his wicked behavior.

22:55

Now Absalom didn't express any sorrow for his actions. He didn't express contrition. He wasn't apologetic. He didn't repent in any way shape or form. He simply came out of hiding because uh that the passage tells us that David kind of just decided, well it's it's time for my son to come home.

23:12

This week we're going to see in chapter 15 that Absalom is still the same man that we saw in the previous chapters. Nothing has changed except for the fact that uh last week Absalom was in hiding in the midst of his sins and this week David has allowed Absalom to come out of hiding and to do his evil deeds out in the open. So I want to pray for us as we get started. We're going to dive into chapter 15 and look at what uh is going to happen here in Absalom's conspiracy uh this week. Would you pray with me church?

23:42

God, we pray for um this morning. We thank you that we can come here, that we can gather together, that we can open your word. And God, we pray that as we uh consider this uh this interesting difficult passage for us as we consider uh David being run out of town and Absalom this this evil son uh coming into power. Uh we pray that you would use this as an opportunity to speak to us. Uh God, your perfect inspired word is always sufficient for everything that we need for life and godliness. And so uh we pray this morning that as we humble ourselves before your word that you would speak and that we would listen. We give this time to you. We pray all this in Jesus' beautiful name. Amen.

24:41

All right. Well as we dive into chapter 15, the first 12 verses that we're going to look at, what we're going to see is Absalom's underhanded aggression.

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As we pick up the story in uh chapter 15, we find Absalom uh pardoned. We see Absalom given a platform as he is now living in Jerusalem, living out in the open again

as the heir to the throne. And Absalom is allowed to kind of run around and and do what he wants as he is

25:04

uh not really held in check by passive and weak David. We're going to see in the first six verses Absalom the politician puts a plan into action. So let's read uh starting in verse one. Second Samuel 15. After this,

25:16

Absalom got himself a chariot and horses, and fifty men to run before him. And Absalom used to rise early and stand beside the way of the gate. And when any man had a dispute to come before the king for judgment, Absalom would call to him and say, "From what city are you?" And when he said, "Your servant is of such and such a tribe in Israel," Absalom would say to him, "See, your claims are good and right, but there is no man designated by the king to hear you." Then Absalom would say, "Oh that I were judge in the land! Then every man with a dispute or cause might come to me, and I would give him justice." And whenever a man came near to pay homage to him, he would put out his hand and take hold of him and kiss him. Thus Absalom did to all of Israel who came to the king for judgment. So Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel.

26:19

Absalom at the beginning of this chapter, he he gathers unto himself this this entourage and he begins to to posture himself as the people's hero.

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Absalom is attracting attention. It tells us that he had 50 men that would run before him in this this big entourage of horses and chariots and all these things. He he's coming into town, he's drawing attention anytime he shows up somewhere. And he would often he would set up shop by the the entrance to the to the palace uh to to David's home and as people were coming to the king to to seek justice or to to have David rule on whatever their circumstance was, Absalom would be sitting out by the gate and and whether or not they made it to David that day because the line may have been long,

26:42

they certainly were going to hear from Absalom. Absalom was going to humor them and he was going to present himself as the solution to all the problems that they were facing. Now this is this is campaigning 101, right? Uh he's he's there standing out front. He's he's talking to people and and hugging people and kissing babies and doing all these things and he's standing out there essentially saying, you know the the current administration is terrible, aren't they? Follow me instead. Anybody ever heard a a political ad that had essentially that as the core message? The people that are there now are terrible,

27:13

follow me instead. I have all the answers. Absalom would set up by the entrance to the palace and he would he would offer hope to these people. He would endear himself to these needy people. It says in verse three that he would affirm the needs of whoever it was that came. In verse three he says he he would say to the people, your claims are good and right. He would present himself as the better alternative to Israel for uh them to to have a new leader rather than lazy David, rather than apathetic David, rather than sinful David, whatever it was, he was out there uh saying verse four tells us, he says, oh,

27:41

if I was the judge of the land, things would be better. If I was in charge, I would give you justice. Absalom is quietly, perhaps not so quietly, undermining David's leadership and gathering support unto himself for what we're going to see is an impending coup here in just a few verses. So after four years of doing this, after four years of political campaigning, Absalom decides that now he's gathered enough support. It's time to strike. Let's continue reading in verse seven.

28:07

Verse seven, it says at the end of four years, Absalom said to the king, "Please let me go and pay my vow, which I have vowed to the Lord, in Hebron. For your servant vowed a vow while I lived at Geshur in Aram, saying, 'If the Lord will indeed bring me back to Jerusalem, then I will offer worship to the Lord.'" The king said to him, "Go in peace." So he arose and went to Hebron. But Absalom sent secret messengers throughout all the

tribes of Israel, saying, "As soon as you hear the sound of the trumpet, then say, 'Absalom is king at Hebron!'"

28:59

With Absalom went two hundred men from Jerusalem who were invited guests, and they went in their innocence and knew nothing. And while Absalom was offering the sacrifices, he sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David's counselor from his city Giloh. And the conspiracy grew strong, and the people with Absalom kept increasing.

29:38

Absalom approaches his father in this section. He requests permission to take a contingent, to take a few hundred people and to go to Hebron to fulfill this vow as he says in verse seven. Now as David hears this, I would have to imagine David is certainly I would imagine he's excited. He must have been excited to hear

30:00

hear that his that his long lost son, that his sinful son who had murdered another that had been living on the run for for the last several years that Absalom said, I want to go worship God. I want to go and and go down to Hebron and and offer this vow to fulfill this promise that I would worship the Lord and and David gets so I have to imagine, he gets so excited at this that he ignores all the warning signs that that Absalom's lying to him.

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Absalom mentions this vow to return and to worship God at Hebron, but uh Absalom has been in Jerusalem for the past four years at this point. And he's been there for four years with no mention of this promise that he had made to the Lord.

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Now, if Absalom had made this promise and was going to be obedient to God, the Old Testament law in Deuteronomy 23 would demand that a vow like this should be fulfilled with urgency. Deuteronomy 23 verse 21 says, if you make a vow to the Lord your God,

you shall not delay in fulfilling it, for the Lord your God will surely require it of you or you will be guilty of sin.

31:06

Now there there was no vow. There was no plan. This was Absalom preparing to go and to make his big move and to seize the throne from his father David.

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And so Absalom takes this large contingent of innocent or uninformed guests for his coronation. He asks David for permission. We see this large crowd of people go with him, but but they do so under false pretenses. And in doing so, he creates this appearance of of a big crowd that has aligned themselves with Absalom.

31:39

One of the ones who has aligned himself with Absalom is David's key advisors, one of his most trusted advisors, Ahithophel, right? You guys are taking notes on all these names, right? We will quiz you at the end. We'll we'll have a word bank so you can kind of line up who's who, but all kinds of fun names, right? Ahithophel is one of David's trusted advisors and Ahithophel joins Absalom in his rebellion, in his claim to the throne of Israel.

32:00

And in doing so, as there's this huge portion of the nation who who hears that well there's a crowd there with Absalom, Ahithophel has aligned himself with Absalom and it seems like there's a big majority of the nation that that hears the word, that hears the declaration, Absalom is king of Israel and they all go, okay, and and they line up behind this young man who they perceived to be the new king of Israel.

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So David, what happens with David now? David upon hearing word of what has happened, upon hearing what his son has done down in Hebron, he he moves quickly to retreat from what he perceives to be an impending attack.

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And we look at verses 13 through 23, we see David's preemptive concession. David senses danger as his son has declared himself to be the new king, this newly revealed threat.

33:03

David takes those who are in his household and he retreats from Jerusalem. He takes his wives, he takes his children and their workers and their bodyguards. He takes those that are closest to him and he retreats from Jerusalem. He retreats from the capital city. Let's pick up the story in verse 13.

33:20

It says in verse 13 that a messenger came to David saying, the hearts of the men of Israel have gone after Absalom. And then David said to all his servants who were with him at Jerusalem, arise and let us flee or else there will be no escape for us from Absalom. Go quickly, lest he overtake us quickly and bring down ruin on us and strike the city with the edge of the sword.

33:44

And the king's servants said to the king, behold, your servants are ready to do whatever my Lord the king decides. So the king went out and all his household after him. And the king left ten concubines to keep the house.

33:57

David was unaware of what Absalom may or may not have planned for Jerusalem at this point. And what Absalom may or may not do in his attack and attempt to overthrow David and his kingship. And so David jumps to immediate action.

34:09

He he he jumps into action. He removes himself and removes his loved ones from the capital city, knowing that he essentially a sitting duck there as all these people have turned and and they've come out publicly to say that they supported Absalom as the king. David doesn't know who he can trust.

34:21

David doesn't know who is for him or against him. And so if he sits there and remains in the palace, he he's essentially just a still target waiting for Absalom to come for him. So David in his attempt to avoid unnecessary bloodshed, in his attempt to to save Jerusalem from being attacked in whatever manner Absalom may have decided to attack.

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He may have placed Jerusalem under siege like we saw with previous cities in the past. He may have destroyed Jerusalem as he was seeking to overthrow David. And so David in an attempt to avoid all of this, David retreats.

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And he takes his family, he takes his loved ones loved ones, he takes those that are close to him and in haste, he he packs up and he leaves town. But David in his hurry to pack up and to leave, it tells us that he leaves ten concubines to maintain the royal property.

35:17

David may have assumed that they would be safe there in the royal property. He may have assumed that this wasn't going to be a long departure that he would be back soon, but this is going to be an impactful decision in the coming chapter in chapter 16 as we're going to see God's prophesied judgment come to pass. We'll we'll come back to this next week.

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But as David reaches the edge of town, as David is proceeding out of Jerusalem, it tells us that he stops to take account of everyone who has come with him. He wants to kind of get his ducks in a row. And so he stops as people are passing by and we continue the story in verse 17.

35:54

In verse 17 it says that as the king went out and all the people after him, and they halted at the last house. And all his servants passed by him and all the Cherethites and all the Pelethites and all the six hundred Gittites who had followed him from Gath, passed on before the king.

36:19

Then the king said to Ittai the Gittite, why do you also go with us? Go back and stay with the king, for you are a foreigner and also an exile from your home. You came only yesterday and shall I today make you wander about with us since I go I know not where? Go back and take your brothers with you and may the Lord show steadfast love and faithfulness to you. But Ittai answered the king, as the Lord lives and as my lord the king lives, wherever my lord the king shall be, whether for death or for life, there also will your servant be.

36:58

And David said to Ittai, go then, pass on. So Ittai the Gittite passed on with all his men and all the little ones who were with him.

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And all the land wept aloud as all the people passed by and the king crossed the Brook Kidron and all the people passed on toward the wilderness. As David is exiting Jerusalem, as David watches this sizable group of people pass by, there's a specific note that we have here in our passage.

37:25

There's this group of Philistines. All these three different groups of people, the the Cherethites and the Pelethites and the Gittites, these are are Philistines who had remained loyal to David and gone with him in the midst of this conflict. All the Cherethites and the Pel- Pelethites, these were David's personal bodyguards. These were the foreigners that David had employed to protect him.

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In verse 18 it also mentions these six hundred Gittites who had followed David from Gath. And so David sees all these foreigners walking by and supportive of him, following him wherever it is that he's going to go.

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And David stops their leader, Ittai, questions their actions, questions their motives. What why are you going with us? Why would you choose to follow me?

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David at this point has has little to offer these men. He can't offer security. He can't offer wealth in any way shape or form. He can't offer comfort. They're they're heading out into the wilderness to hide in the woods or hide in the desert plains while while they're going to just wait for things to kind of sort themselves out with Absalom.

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David doesn't have much to offer. He he comments to these men. He says, guys, I would understand if you want to go back to Jerusalem. If you want to align yourself with Absalom, it makes perfect sense to me. Go go do what you need to do.

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But Ittai refuses to abandon David. He he pledges their their lives to David, to the service of of King David. These foreigners are proving to be more loyal to David than the nation that David had been leading for years up to this point that he had served for all of his life

that that he had loved so faithfully up to this point. It's the foreigners who go in David's support and these and these foreigners who go in David's support.

39:07

This entire procession though, this parade out of town is a rather depressing ordeal, right? It's a it's a who rained on your parade kind of moment. This is a a dark depressed processional out of town as David takes stock of this small contingent, these these few who have pledged loyalty and gone with him into the wilderness. We see David marching out of town as he tries to save Jerusalem from impending doom.

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Verse 24, we continue. We're going to see David's surrender to divine determination. We're going to see God's plan is ultimately going to play out and David acknowledges that. So as this depressed

40:00

ning parade continues. David is approached by uh two men, Abiathar and Zadok. These were uh the priests in Jerusalem along with the Ark of the Covenant. They're carrying the Ark of God out of town with them. Let's pick up the story in verse 24.

40:14

says in verse 24 that Abiathar came up and behold, Zadok came also with all the Levites, bearing the ark of the covenant of God. And they set down the ark of God until the people had all passed out of the city.

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Then the king said to Zadok, "Carry the ark of God back into the city. If I find favor in the eyes of the Lord, he will bring me back and let me see both it and his dwelling place. But if he says, 'I have no pleasure in you,' behold, here I am, let him do to me what seems good to him."

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The king also said to Zadok the priest, "Are you not a seer? Go back to the city in peace, with your two sons, Ahimaz your son, and Jonathan the son of Abiathar. See, I will wait at the fords of the wilderness until word comes from you to inform me." So Zadok and Abiathar carried the ark of God back to Jerusalem, and they remained there.

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These priests have joined the the group that have shown loyalty to David and they come carrying the Ark of the Covenant out with them. They're they're bringing God along for the trip out into the wilderness as they followed David out of the city.

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And as David sees them coming, I want to remind you of something that happened back in First Samuel because if we forget about what happened back then, we'll miss what David is doing in this moment.

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Because back in First Samuel there were a couple of different instances where first uh the high priest Eli and then later King Saul, they would take the Ark of the Covenant into their battles. They thought they were going to manipulate God somehow by by bringing along the ark that that symbolized the presence of God.

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They thought if we just bring the magic box along with us that we can manipulate God into giving us a victory. And so they would bring the Ark of God into these battles and in multiple different times God uh sent significant defeat upon the Israelites because they thought they were going to manipulate him into giving them victory by marching the the Ark of the Covenant into battle with them.

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They tried to manipulate God into supporting their endeavors. And so when David sees this, when David sees these priests, Zadok and Abiathar carrying the Ark of God out of Jerusalem,

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David immediately stops these priests. And I would I would imagine that he was appreciative of the support, he was appreciative of their decision to come with him, but David says, no, no, no, no, no. We're not going to try to coerce God into blessing us in this moment. We're not going to take God hostage by marching his Ark and into the wilderness that he's going to come and support us.

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David does something really significant here because David surrenders his fate to to God's sovereign plan.

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David knows the guilt that he has brought upon himself and the decisions that he's made in the previous years.

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And David in verse 25 he says, if I find favor with God, God will bring me back. God's gonna bring me back into Jerusalem. I will see the Ark again. I will see God's resting place again in the temple. But if God decides to judge me,

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if God decides to punish me for my actions, if this is the end for me, if if God has chosen Absalom to be the next king, so be it.

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Verse 26, he essentially says, God is God and he has the right to do what he feels like doing. God can do as he sees fit.

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And so David sends the priests back to Jerusalem to fulfill their duties as the priests in Jerusalem.

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But at the same time, David also looks at these guys and says, hey guys, I really appreciate your faithfulness to me and your loyalty to me, so when you go back, you're gonna be useful to me.

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He suggests that they would be useful to him as covert agents who could live and and and keep their ear to the ground. We're gonna need some spies on the inside.

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And so they were going to be able to secretly relay information to David as they hear what's going on in Jerusalem with Absalom. So having given instructions for the priests to return to Jerusalem, David now leads the the somber processional up the Mount of Olives. And we'll pick up the verses uh pick up the story in verse 30.

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says, "But David went up the ascent of the Mount of Olives, weeping as he went, barefoot and with his head covered. And all the people who were with him covered their heads, and they went up, weeping as they went."

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And it was told David, "Ahitophel is among the conspirators with Absalom." And David said, "O Lord, please turn the counsel of Ahitophel into foolishness."

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While David was coming to the summit, where God was worshiped, behold, Hushai the Archite came to meet him with his coat torn and dirt on his head.

45:03

And David said to him, "If you go on with me, you will be a burden to me. But if you return to the city and say to Absalom, 'I will be your servant, O king, as I have been your father's servant in time past, so now I will be your servant,' then you will defeat for me the counsel of Ahitophel.

45:19

Are not Zadok and Abiathar the priests with you there? So whatever you hear from the king's house, tell it to Zadok and Abiathar the priests. Behold, their two sons are with them there, Ahimaz, Zadok's son, and Jonathan, Abiathar's son, and by them you shall send to me everything you hear." So Hushai, David's friend, came into the city, just as Absalom was entering Jerusalem.

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David in the midst of his distressed retreat does not hide his emotions as he openly grieves the events of the day. This has got to be the worst day or one of the worst days of David's life. He's marching out of his capital city that he has he has established.

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He's seen his son try to overthrow him and his son betray him as he's seized the kingdom for himself. It says that David is openly grieving. He's he's walking up the Mount of Olives barefoot with his head covered. There's no hiding the emotion of what has happened this day.

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But David in his grief as he comes up the mountain, what does he do?

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tells us that in his grief he looks to God in prayer and in worship. Verse 31, we we see him praying to God, praying that God would turn the counsel of this trusted advisor that he has leaned on for so many years that he would turn that wisdom to foolishness.

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And as he reaches the top of the mountain, he stops in worship.

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In the midst of his pain, in the midst of his grief, in the midst of all the terrible things that have happened that day, David stops to worship.

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And in the midst of David's worship, God immediately responds to David's prayer. Immediately. Did did you see that?

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We look at our passage, we we look at it and we see as David was worshipping.

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Verse 32, while David was coming to the summit where God was worshiped, behold, Hushai the Archite came to meet with him.

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his coat torn and dirt on his head.

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While David is worshipping, God sends a trusted friend, Hushai and shows up on the scene.

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David looks at this trusted friend who has come out following him and David's support. And David tells Hushai to return to Jerusalem as a double agent.

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David's taking the opportunities that are presented to him. No, no, no, you're gonna go back in. And Hushai, if you would if you would feign support for Absalom, if you would go in and pledge your allegiance to him, you're going to be trusted as an advisor as well. You're gonna be a cabinet member of this new king's leadership council.

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I know that Ahitophel is going to be there. He's gonna be offering good advice and so what you're gonna do is you're gonna go in and you're gonna cancel out anything that that guy says. You're he's he's gonna have some wonderful plan and you're gonna go, uh-uh. Come up with something different.

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He's gonna come in, he's gonna offer this great idea over here, you're gonna go, no, that's terrible. We're gonna see if we can throw confusion into Absalom's kingdom as he's going to oppose Ahitophel's suggestions. Also,

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you're going to be there as a double agent and you're gonna send information back to me through Zadok and Abiathar and their sons. They're going to to send any word of Absalom's plans out to David to help keep David informed and prepared of what's going on as his son is seizing the kingdom from him.

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And that's it.

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Right? Kind of interesting chapter. We we we study history books and sometimes we get interesting weeks where we just go, all right, so

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what do I do with that. Right? The kingdom has been seized. David is caught off guard and betrayed by his wicked son.

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But this morning as we look at this passage, my my hope, my desire for this morning is that today's message would offer hope to those who may have experienced betrayal in their own lives.

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Because we all have different moments where people fail us. Anybody ever had a family member or a a friend or a coworker or someone

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you thought you knew this person, you thought you could trust this person and all of a sudden there's a pain as they've stabbed you in the back. So where did that come from?

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See, David is in one of those moments in his life. David had David was the father. David loved his son. David raised this boy and and turned him into a man.

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But as David has has tried to lead God's people and lead his family with with wisdom and with courage and and to do his best in so many different ways. David was a good dad for the most part.

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David went off the rails a few years earlier, but but David had been a man who reflected what it looked like to love and to follow God well.

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But David had been stabbed in the back.

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And for anybody here this morning who has ever experienced grief, who has ever experienced someone that that wasn't quite what you thought they were, that that didn't uh treat you the way that they should have.

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I I see those heads starting to move. I see your body language starting to change. I know that this that this is something that that we experience, isn't it? This is something that that that hits close to us. This sounds really distant when we look at the passage and we read through, we go, oh man, there's some really weird names, there's some really terrible stuff and David had to move.

50:47

Okay.

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But this isn't that. This is this is really close to home for us because if you've ever experienced betrayal, if you've ever experienced loss, if you've ever thought you knew someone and realized that that they're a sinner,

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that they betrayed you in some way,

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this morning has hope for you. Because when we look at this passage, we see Absalom's betrayal, we see the pain that David experiences, but we also need to realize that when we when we notice where God shows up in the story, it brings comfort and hope.

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When we recognize God's presence and we turn our eyes to him as our hope, we can take solace in God's sovereignty because nothing that happened in this passage caught God by surprise. It may have caught David by surprise, but it didn't catch God by surprise.

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David was blindsided in this unexpected betrayal, but even in the face of his pain, he turned to God in worship and in prayer as he's marching up the Mount of Olives.

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He crosses this this stream, he he leaves town and up the Mount of Olives he goes and it tells us that God came alongside David in his pain. That God sent a beloved friend

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to come alongside of David that that Hushai shows up right at the moment when David is just broken and at a loss for what to do next.

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God says, no, no, no, I see you. And he sends he sends people to come along to encourage David. He sends the priests that are there saying, David, we don't know what's gonna happen but we're with you.

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He sends Hushai the the the advisor and he comes alongside of him and he tells David, David, we don't know what's gonna happen, I don't know what's gonna happen, but I'm with you.

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God came alongside David in his pain.

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As Hushai comes marching up as he's worshipping and praying.

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You know what? Rather than being defined by his wounds,

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rather than than taking the victim stance and simply saying, God, why would this happen to me?

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This isn't fair, God. Why why I was a good dad, why did you let this happen?

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First off, David knows why it's happening.

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Because David is far from innocent. David in his sin has brought some of this upon himself.

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And I think for many of us, we we sit back and we like to play the victim because the victim space is easy for us and it's comfortable for us. We're never wrong when we're the victim, right?

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But the problem is that reality is not quite so black and white.

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Some of the things that happen to us were were responsible for. And we need to to stand up and accept those things.

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David rather than being defined by his wounds in this moment, David looks to God for healing. And David acknowledges that God is in control and that God is gonna do what God sees best to do.

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He says essentially, God is God and God gets to do what he wants. And if God says that he's gonna bring me back into Jerusalem, that would be great and and and I would love that.

54:20

And if God says, no, no, this is the end for you, I'm gonna trust that God is in control and that's what's best and I'm gonna trust God in that too.

54:29

But rather than being defined by his victimhood, rather than being defined by his wounds, David looks to God and he says, God, you are God and I'm not, so I trust you in whatever it is that happens.

54:43

God's love and God's faithfulness can give hope in the most hopeless of circumstances.

54:54

So here's what I want you to walk out of here with today.

54:58

If you have experienced pain, betrayal, loss,

55:07

you've been brokenhearted, you're in good company because David is as well.

55:14

But I want you to realize that God is near to the brokenhearted and that he sees your pain.

55:20

Now, I I I don't say that to to give you some guarantee that God is going to see your pain, you're gonna place an order and say, God, now that you're here with me, I'm gonna need you to give me one of these and one of these and fix this and and come over here and do this.

55:33

That's not how God works. That's not how David responds to God and it's certainly not how we should respond to God. Because David in the middle of all of this, he acknowledges, God, I've I've done some things and if you decide this is it for me,

55:47

you are well within your rights to do so and God, you are God and you are good and your ways are higher than my ways and you know better than I do. And so if that's your plan,

55:58

I trust you.

56:04

So I'm not here today to tell you that everything's gonna work out the way that you want it to.

56:09

But I need you to know that in whatever it is that you're facing, that God is not surprised.

56:16

Whatever it is that's going on, I need you to know that God is still in control.

56:23

And whatever you're facing, I need you to know that whatever that pain is, I want you to know that God will walk with you through that pain.

56:32

A couple of verses that I want to share with you as we finish up. Psalm 34 verse 18. I love this verse.

56:39

If you've been coming on Wednesday nights, you probably heard Dave share this one with you already because I'm sure he has. So this is a great Psalm as we've been studying through the Psalms on Wednesday night. Psalm 34 verse 18.

56:50

It tells us the Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.

57:00

Also I want to read for you Psalm 73 verse 26.

57:05

I love this verse. Psalm 73 says, my flesh and my heart may fail,

57:11

but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

57:18

Your heart may fail. Your flesh may fail.

57:23

There is a there there's a stop for you. There's a limit to your ability at some point. At some point things get out of your hand. At some point the water gets too deep, right? That that the burden on your shoulders gets too heavy and eventually we all buckle under the weight of something in life.

57:42

It's a diagnosis you can't deal with and can't fix on your own. It's a a relationship that blows up and and there's nothing that you can do to fix it.

57:51

Whatever it is, there there's a point where my heart may fail, my flesh may fail,

57:58

but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

58:02

I want you to be encouraged this morning and know that even when when you hit the end and when you can't do anymore,

58:09

God can.

58:17

I want to share with you something. I I hope this is an encouragement to you. Little little bit of confession, a little bit of disappointment in me, right? Because there is a song that just absolutely perfectly fits with this theme and with this message,

58:30

but we didn't introduce this song this week. It's a new song. It it's one that we've actually got uh Bill and I have a a list of, you know, we we want to fit this song in. This song's really good and then we we we gotta get to these soon, right? Everybody's got songs and we want to stick them all in there and we got about 50 of them that are sitting there going, oh, we gotta sing that one.

58:49

But there's a song that fits perfectly with this, but we've had too many other new ones recently.

58:55

But I want to share something with you.

58:58

All right, so grab your phones. Uh there's an incredible song by Shane and Shane that's that's based on this verse on Psalm 73 verse 26.

59:06

And so if you're walking through a dark valley right now, if you have ever walked through a dark valley or will ever walk through a dark valley, if you simply need some encouragement in the difficulties you're facing,

59:16

this song is called My Portion. It talks about how God is enough for us.

59:24

That in the midst of all of it that God is good and that God is in control and God God even though my heart and my flesh may fail, you are my portion and you are enough.

59:35

So shoot that, it's gonna take you to Spotify, you're gonna listen to this song on the way home or whatever it may be when, you know, when when you're just sitting at home feeling sorry for yourself because because life is hard.

59:48

I want this song to remind you that God sees your pain and that God did not abandon David in his moment of need and God is not going to abandon you in your moment of need.

01:00:00

We're gonna have our prayer team down here in just a few minutes. They would love to pray with you about whatever it is that's going on in life.

01:00:06

And we have our prayer wall that's out the back doors to the right. If you need prayer and and are too shy to come pray with us,

01:00:13

and we'd love to have you drop your prayer requests back there, but we're also gonna take communion together this morning.

01:00:19

And so this morning, as we take communion, I wanna pause to to to tie an interesting connection together for you with with our passage that we've looked at in Second Samuel 15.

01:00:30

Now you you may or may not have noticed this as we were reading through, but in Second Samuel 15, we see David taking a somber journey through Jerusalem and up the Mount of Olives.

01:00:43

David was betrayed by someone that was close to him. David was paying the penalty for sin that had been committed.

01:00:51

Now, granted that was that was David's sin that he was paying the penalty for, but but does that sound familiar to anyone?

01:00:58

It's very reminiscent of Jesus's final days as he went from the Mount of Olives to Jerusalem to the cross.

01:01:05

Jesus paid the price of sin, not his own like like David did, but rather he paid the price for my sin and for yours.

01:01:12

And so for those who have placed their faith in Jesus for salvation, this morning we we gather around this table.

01:01:18

We gather around these these elements, this this cup of juice and this little chunk of Peter bread.

01:01:25

We gather around this table to remember Jesus's sacrifice that he made on our behalf.

01:01:31

So on that on that final evening before he went to the Mount of Olives, before he went to the cross, Jesus instituted this this ordinance and told us to to continue

01:01:43

to continue as often as we gather together to to continue to to celebrate and to remember his death until he comes back.

01:01:51

So let me read for us from Mark 14 as Jesus instituted this. Mark 14:22, he said, Jesus said,

01:01:58

“And as they were eating, he took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to them, and said, ‘Take; this is my body.’ And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it. And he said to them, ‘This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many.’”

01:02:17

Mark 14:22–24 (ESV) If you're here this morning and you belong to Christ, you've placed your faith in him to save you. If you're in good standing before your King this morning, I wanna invite you in just a moment to come

01:02:28

to take of these elements. You you're gonna return to your seat. You're gonna spend some time with the Lord in prayer, and when you are ready to to take these elements, when you and the Lord are in a good place, I wanna encourage you to just partake of them on your own at your seats.

01:02:42

We're gonna celebrate the Lord's death this morning.

01:02:46

We're gonna remember the sacrifice that Jesus made as he paid the penalty for sin.

01:02:54

And we're gonna thank him that in the midst of whatever it is that's going on in life, God doesn't abandon us.

01:02:59

Let me pray for us, and then I'm gonna invite you to come.

01:03:04

God, we thank you for your word this morning. We thank you for the privilege of being able to gather together to to consider what you would say to us today.

01:03:15

And God, we wanna thank you for God for the sacrifice of Jesus,

01:03:23

that our champion, that our substitute would go give his life as a sacrifice, paying the penalty for sin that he didn't commit, so that sinners like me, sinners like us could be forgiven.

01:03:43

God, we are fully worthy of judgment. We are fully worthy of your justice being poured out upon us on our own,

01:03:54

but you made a way. You made a way that sinners like us could be forgiven. You made a way that that that that even though we are not good, that you are good, and you are loving, and you are merciful, and you came, and you paid the penalty, and you made a way for for guilty people to be made innocent.

01:04:13

And so this morning, as we as we remember the sacrifice of Jesus, we pray that you would fill our hearts with joy. God, that you would restore under us the joy of our salvation,

01:04:25

that that you would use this as an opportunity to remind us of what a privilege it was maybe weeks ago, maybe years ago, when we first came to know you, the joy and the privilege of being known of knowing that that you have declared a guilty person innocent, that you have taken a dead man and made us alive in Christ.

01:04:48

God, we pray that as we remember the broken body and the spilled out blood of Jesus,

01:04:56

that you would bless us with a fresh renewal of grace this morning. God remind us what a privilege it is to be called sons and daughters of the King.

01:05:10

Father, we love you, and we thank you for loving us,

01:05:17

when we as sinners, undeserving, unclean, you looked upon us, and you demonstrated your love for us that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. We thank you for that. It's in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.