

Sermon Text Discussion 3/10/2019

2 Samuel 8 - 10: Justice and Generosity in the Kingdom of God (Drew Hunter)

Overview

This section of 2 Samuel describes what could be considered as the pinnacle of King David's reign. It not only highlights many of his military victories over Israel's enemies, but also tells the story of incredible kindness as David fulfills a commitment he made to Jonathan, Saul's son, through Jonathan's son Mephibosheth.

As rich a text as this is on its own merit, more importantly, it should be viewed in the context of the overall storyline of the Bible; as a prophetic pattern pointing to what God's kingdom will be like when it comes in its fullness. David himself is a pattern of the better king to come, Jesus. Through David's example, we get a glimpse of how Jesus will one day rule with justice and generosity.

Quotation

"We reflect God's justice and generosity because of how he has treated us. He has welcomed us into his heart. We receive his grace and extend it to the world around us." Drew Hunter

Understanding & Application

- 1) Read 2 Samuel 7:10 and Psalm 2. What promise did God make to David? How is He fulfilling this promise in chapters 8 and 10? How are the nations responding to their defeat to David?
- 2) 2 Samuel 8:15 describes how David ruled over Israel and the newly conquered nations – with justice and equity. What would it have been like to live under this type of king? Describe this new way of living together.
- 3) As Christians, we should be striving to live according to the pattern established by David. Describe, in practical ways, how you can behave with justice and equity at home, at work, at school, in the community, etc.
- 4) Mephibosheth's life was transformed by King David – from a potential enemy to a friend and from one who was unwanted to one of honor. Why should this beautiful story of extreme kindness make us want to shout for joy! (Hint – think of King David as a pattern of a better king to come.)
- 5) Which is easier for you – to see Jesus as a just king or as a gracious friend? Why? Share personal examples of his justice and grace in your life.
- 6) Drew mentions four practical ways we can reflect God's grace – show surprising kindness, practice hospitality, support the adoption of children, care for the disabled. Discuss these as a small group. What commitment can you make to reflect God's grace in one of these ways?