

Sermon Text Discussion Notes 03/31/2019

2 Samuel 14-21– “The Exile and Return of the King” by Drew Hunter

Overview

This sermon is the seventh in our series on the book of 2 Samuel. These chapters display the sad decline of David's rule as king. The consequences of his sin lead to the unraveling of his family life and nearly the unraveling of the kingdom of Israel. These chapters also show us the good news that, when the consequences of our own sin seem unrelenting, God's faithfulness remains unswerving.

The sermon text was outlined as follows:

- I. Absalom Conspires (14-15:12)
- II. David Flees (15:13-16:14)
- III. God Delivers (16:15-18:18)
- IV. Israel Cracks (18:9-21:22)

Quotation

Jonathan Edwards faced a situation like David's—when his own church was voting to fire him. Someone who knew him well said this:

“That faithful witness received the shock, unshaken. I never saw the least symptom of displeasure in his countenance the whole week but he appeared like a man of God, whose happiness was out of the reach of his enemies and whose treasure was not only a future but a present good, overbalancing all imaginable ills of life, even to the astonishment of many who could not be at arrest without his dismissal.”

(Ian Murray, *Jonathan Edwards*)

Understanding & Application

- 1) Through these chapters we see how private sin does not often remain private. Its consequences ripple out like a rock thrown into a pond. Considering this, do you see the Holy Spirit convicting you of sin as a kindness in your life?
- 2) In Chapters 15-16, while fleeing his son Absalom's rebellion, in what ways do we see David's trust in the Lord on display? How can we use this as a model for how we should respond to suffering and distress in our lives?
- 3) Through the example in the text, Drew highlighted how the emotional and spiritual health in leadership matters; a warning of the consequences of not tending to your soul. Take some time to reflect on the state of your heart and the ways in which you are actively tending to your soul.
- 4) These chapters highlight the consequences of David not leading or discipling his children well, particularly the impact of his passivity. Drew encouraged parents to not lose heart in the daily grind of parenting as it's the primary way that God shapes the next generation. Can you think of a parent who is discouraged? Why not send them a text, email, or note of encouragement?
- 5) Read David's prayer and response to fleeing from Absalom in Psalm 3. Consider using this as a prayer for any challenges you face this week. May Jesus, our true king and savior, be your glory!