

The Weekly Word
May 22-28, 2017

Weather is growing nicer and the days longer. Don't let the outside steal time from your time with the Lord. Happy reading...
Grace and Peace, Bill

To hear the Bible read click this link... <http://www.biblegateway.com/resources/audio/>.

Monday, May 22: 2Samuel 4- Live differently...

In a ruthless age, when human life seemed to mean little to most people, David once again sets a standard of righteousness for his throne and kingdom.

The suggestion from the text is that most kings would have honored these 2 ruthless men for killing the king's rival. But not David; he marched to the beat of a different drummer. He followed a different set of internal and external rules. David honored the Lord, rather than simply doing what was expedient.

The Lord tapped me on the shoulder and asked if I am willing live similarly. Will I follow His rules rather than the rules of the people of my culture?

In my world, out right murder of my enemy is not the issue... but there are still many aspects of life where God's way and the world's way differ.

Jesus said 'turn the other cheek' (Matthew 5:39, Luke 6:29) When insulted, my world generally advocates getting even or ahead. Which road do I follow?

Jesus said 'You can't serve both God and money' (Matthew 6:24, Luke 16:13) and Paul reminded us that 'The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil' (1Timothy 6:10). Much of my world is driven by serving and loving money. Whose way will I follow?

Jesus said 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' However, my world features a lot of hate and it is hard to be immune from picking up my world's vibe.

And so my morning went as God laid out for me the way of my world and His way. Each time God asked me if I would be a David to my own world and live differently... by living a God honoring life...

How about you?

Lord, I wondered as I began reading how Your voice might speak through this portion of Your Word. You have spoken to me and I am feeling the weight of conviction. I am seeing my failures and deficiencies in my life. Forgive my lack and my sin; cleanse me and Lord strengthen me so that tomorrow I might be just a bit more faithful than today. May that be so each day of my life until you take me home to be with You for eternity. I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Tuesday, May 23: 2Samuel 5- Drawbacks to our instant society...

If I read things correctly David was made king of Judah at age 30, king over all Israel at 37 and he reigned until he was 70. *David was thirty years old when he became king, and he reigned forty years. In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and in Jerusalem he reigned over all Israel and Judah thirty-three years (4-5).*

David was a younger boy when he came into Saul's service. Therefore, David has labored and served and fought battles and hid from Saul for years. Then he received a part of his promised kingship and lived with that for another 7 years before the Lord's Word to him came into fruition.

Years, decades of service before God's promise was fulfilled! All this time David remained faithful, going about his business with integrity, learning more and more how to walk with and trust the Lord.

We want things quickly and this is growing truer in our instant society. I bought a pair of athletic shoes last week. I went to the store but then if I ordered them online, which I did at the store, I saved over 50%. It was worth it to me to save the money. Now a week later I am waiting for them to show up at my door, it will be seven to eight days when they arrive tomorrow according to the package tracker. I thought it would take only two to three days. If I had ordered them on Amazon Prime it would have only taken two days from when I press confirm order. Seven to eight days seems like an 'eternity'.

Like I said, we are used to getting things instantly and yet David waited more than a decade!!!

Things of God, particularly character, do not come quickly. They are slowly learned over time and often through testing

Watching and reading about David reminds me about faithfulness... faithfulness day in and day out. That is what God desires and He will work His will out in His time not ours!

Am I being faithful to the Lord today?

Am I willing to remain faithful for as long as it takes?

Am I willing to remain faithful until my dying day?

These are the probes the Lord makes into my life as I sit today with Him.

Oh, Lord, give me patient endurance to walk every day of my life with You. I pray this in the name of Jesus who walked all the way to Calvary for me. Amen and Amen.

Wednesday, May 24: 2Samuel 6- Desire and the word...

David loved the Lord. His desire was to honor God, worship God and to spread the fame of the Lord near and far.

With his capital city secure, David sought to honor the Lord by bringing His Ark into the city and David arranged for an elaborate entrance party. Part of his arrangements was to build a brand new cart to carry the ark on its journey. His intention was admirable and it came from a heart of love, however David's cart idea was misguided. David likely didn't know that the Ark was to be carried by poles not on a cart and a disaster happened. Uzzah should have known better than to steady the Ark by laying a hand on it. He was killed by the Lord instantly for his insolence.

After three months David cools down and apparently gets instruction from the Word of God and they carry the Ark into the city with great fanfare and worship.

Sometimes we can do things for the Lord with wonderful intentions but what we are doing does not line up with God's Word.

Obedience, not sacrifice, brings joy to the Lord.

Human intentions are one aspect of a faith-filled life, the other is obedience to God's Will and way as presented in His eternal Word. Both passion and obedience are important if we are going to live faithfully to the Lord. David learned this lesson the hard way...

Oh, God, may I learn this lesson from David. Teach me Your Word so that my manner of living will match my desire and intention to live for You. I pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Thursday, May 25: 2Samuel 7- Blessings of God...

I was sitting and thinking about what it must have been like for David to have this exchange with God, to learn how much God loved him and how much God was going to bless him. What a wonderful day that must have been.

My thoughts quickly rotated... the Lord God has blessed me (and all His followers) with similar blessings!

We have been blessed with eternal life, more than a lineage that will rule forever, we have been granted safe passage into eternal life when our earthly life is over. In eternity we will reign with the Lord and live in His perfect kingdom forever and ever!

In this life we have been granted a peace that passes all understanding. Even when storms rage in and around our lives we can have peace, peace only God can give!

We have been granted every spiritual blessing in Christ (Ephesians 1:3). Oh, these blessings are not necessarily earthly blessings; they are more powerful. They are blessings like... being loved by God; having a way out from every temptation; assurance of pardon and forgiveness from all the sins we have committed. Also gifts of God's leading during life and knowing His voice... shall I keep going? Having my identity formed and dictated by the God of heaven and earth not the whims of people around me. There is no way to measure the 'value' of these blessings.

All these and so much more are granted to me along with Sonship by the God of glory all as gifts growing from God's call in my life to follow Jesus.

David received some wonderful blessings from the Lord, so have I and so has everyone who calls on the name of the Lord Jesus to be saved.

Enjoy some time today reveling in the blessings of God which are yours through faith in Jesus and then bless His name...

Praise God from whom ALL blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below. Praise Him above you heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Yes, Lord, I will praise You... I deserved nothing and yet You have given. I receive with gratitude and joy and bless your name... for You are good and it is right to praise and thank You –Father, Jesus, Holy Spirit. Amen

Friday, May 26: 2Samuel 8- Dedicated to the Lord...

This chapter sums up many of David's years as king. Beyond all the exploits, one line captured David's heart for me. *King David dedicated these articles to the LORD, as he had done with the silver and gold from all the nations he had subdued (11).*

As his fame and might rose, David continues to remain dedicated solely to the Lord.

Were someone to chronicle my life, I wondered, would it be obvious to them that I remained dedicated solely to the Lord as David was?

What in my life would be evidence of my dedication? My giving? My serving? My character? My words? My manner of life? My use of godly disciplines?

If I am truly dedicated solely to the Lord then my life will show it...

Oh, Lord, show me many ways that I can put my dedication to You in practice. I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Saturday, May 27: 2Samuel 9- Kindness for kindness sake...

David's kingdom is becoming more stable and secure. God's hand is certainly on David. Out of his blessing David seeks to bless someone from Saul's family for the sake and love he had for Jonathan.

After a search is conducted, it turns out that Jonathan has a son still living. David blesses him, returning his inheritance and inviting him to dine at the King's table for the rest of David's reign.

There appears to be no motivation for this act of kindness other than kindness itself. David wanted to do a kindness to his friend Jonathan... Kindness for kindness sake.

David gained no political advantage. This was not done because he owed Jonathan a favor, it was purely a kindness for kindness sake.

The phrase 'kindness for kindness sake' stuck to me. The Lord started working inside of me. When was the last time I showed a kindness for kindness sake? When was the last time someone was on my heart and I just did something nice. When was the last time I did that for someone not an immediate family member or good friend?

Kindness is one of the Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5: 22-23) that is supposed to be flourishing in the life of a Believer... is it flourishing in mine?

Oh, Lord, fertilize kindness in me. Help me to see acts of niceness that can brighten the lives of other people. I pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Sunday, May 28, 2017, Sunday Worship

If any of my thoughts or the Bible readings spark questions send an email reply and I will do my best to answer all questions from people on the list... I will answer personal questions privately; general questions will be answered in a subsequent email installment.

If you are reading along with me from the PCOG website you can send questions or request being placed on the weekly email list by emailing Lisa at office@pcogonline.org.

Click here for a link to my sermons on the web. Sermons are generally posted within 2 days.