

JOURNEY TO ZION

1 SAMUEL 18:1-9, 2 SAMUEL 11-12

Text:

Introduction:

One of the greatest mistakes Christians make is comparing themselves with other Christians! Sometimes people can sit in church and the devil tells them they don't belong or they are not perfect enough!

Today we see the struggles of a man called a man after God's own heart!

In our message, the Journey to Elah, we saw David's anointing and victory over Goliath.

Zion is the word for Jerusalem. After David became the king, he moved the capital from Hebron to Jerusalem.

Here in the middle of David's life we see some of the great tragedies and triumphs of a man of God.

1. DAVID'S GREAT TRIAL – SAUL'S PURSUIT

A. The Reason for the Trial

1 Samuel 18:6-9

⁶ And it came to pass as they came, when David was returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women came out of all cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet king Saul, with tabrets, with joy, and with instruments of musick. ⁷ And the women answered *one another* as they played, and said, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands. ⁸ And Saul was very wroth, and the saying displeased him; and he said, They have ascribed unto David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed *but* thousands: and *what* can he have more but the kingdom? ⁹ And Saul eyed David from that day and forward.

1. David's Popularity

- His acceptance among the people—verses 6–9

1 Samuel 18:16

¹⁶ But all Israel and Judah loved David, because he went out and came in before them.

- His favor with the Lord

1 Samuel 18:12

¹² And Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with him, and was departed from Saul.

2. Saul's Problem

- Saul's jealousy

Jealousy has destroyed multitudes of people.

- Saul's Fear

1 Samuel 18:12

¹² And Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with him, and was departed from Saul.

1 Samuel 18:15

¹⁵ Wherefore when Saul saw that he behaved himself very wisely, he was afraid of him.

B. The Response of the Trial

1. David Flees

Note:

David had to flee from Saul because Saul hated him and David knew it would be wrong to fight against the king whom God had chosen.

1 Samuel 19:10

¹⁰ And Saul sought to smite David even to the wall with the javelin; but he slipped away out of Saul's presence, and he smote the javelin into the wall: and David fled, and escaped that night.

2. David Hides

Note:

David came to Adullam and hid there. While he was there many came to him

1 Samuel 22:1-2

¹ David therefore departed thence, and escaped to the cave Adullam: and when his brethren and all his father's house heard *it*, they went down thither to him. ² And every one *that was* in distress, and every one that *was* in debt, and every one *that was* discontented, gathered themselves unto him; and he became a captain over them: and there were with him about four hundred men.

Note – David's Discouragement

1 Samuel 27:1

¹ And David said in his heart, I shall now perish one day by the hand of Saul: *there is* nothing better for me than that I should speedily escape into the land of the Philistines; and Saul shall despair of me, to seek me any more in any coast of Israel: so shall I escape out of his hand.

C. His Rest in the Trial

His friend Jonathon and his wife Michal protected him, but ultimately his hope was in the Lord.

- He had rest in the Lord after Ziklag

1 Samuel 30:6

⁶ And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every

man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.

- God was Leading Him

Through all of the difficulties, God never forsook David but was in fact leading him.

1 Corinthians 10:13

¹³ There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God *is* faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear *it*.

2. DAVID'S GREAT TEMPTATION

2 Samuel 11:1-5

¹ And it came to pass, after the year was expired, at the time when kings go forth *to battle*, that David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the children of Ammon, and besieged Rabbah. But David tarried still at Jerusalem. ² And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman *was* very beautiful to look upon. ³ And David sent and enquired after the woman. And *one* said, *Is* not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite? ⁴ And David sent messengers, and took her; and she came in unto him, and he lay with her; for she was purified from her uncleanness: and she returned unto her house. ⁵ And the woman conceived, and sent and told David, and said, *I am* with child.

A. David's Lapse (vs. 1)

It was the set time every year that the kings and nations would go to war. Yet he himself tarried still at Jerusalem.

Quote:

When we are out of the way of our duty we are in the way of temptation.

B. David's Lust (vs. 2-5)

David arose from bed.

Quote:

Idleness gives great advantage to the tempter. Standing waters gather filth. The bed of sloth often proves the bed of lust.

Note the next stage in this horrible event:

1. His Look

He saw a woman washing herself. The sin came in at the eye, as Eve's did.

2. His Lust

Quote:

Christians often want to retreat from the spiritual battle and war that rages, forgetting it will always find us. Better to be weary in the battle than to become apathetic, lazy, and caught off guard.

1 Peter 5:8

⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

Illustration:

Gary Richmond, a former zoo keeper, had this to say: Raccoons go through a glandular change at about 24 months. After that they often attack their owners. Since a 30-pound raccoon can be equal to a 100-pound dog in a scrap, I felt compelled to mention the change coming to a pet raccoon owned by a young friend of mine, Julie. She listened politely as I explained the coming danger. I'll never forget her answer. "It will be different for me..." And she smiled as she added, "Bandit wouldn't hurt me. He just wouldn't." Three months later Julie underwent plastic surgery for facial lacerations sustained when her adult raccoon attacked her for no apparent reason. Bandit was released into the wild. Sin, too, often comes dressed in an adorable guise, and as we play with it, how easy it is to say, "It will be different for me." The results are predictable.

C. David's Losses

1. Fellowship with the Lord

2 Samuel 11:26-27

²⁶ And when the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she mourned for her husband. ²⁷ And when the mourning was past, David sent and fetched her to his house, and she became his wife, and bare him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD.

2. Following of his Family

- The death of the infant – 2 Samuel 12:15-16
- Amnon David's son rapes Tamar – 2 Samuel 13:1-12
- Amnon killed by Absalom – 2 Samuel 13:29
- Absalom is killed by Joab – 2 Samuel 18:10-12
- Amasa David's nephew was killed by Joab – 2 Samuel 20:9-10

3. DAVID'S TRIUMPH (2 SAMUEL 12)

A. A Righteous Confrontation

Nathan tells David a story of an unjust man.

B. A Real Confession

2 Samuel 12:13-14

¹³ And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die. ¹⁴ Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also *that is* born unto thee shall surely die.

C. A Restored Kingdom

God preserved David's life and continues his kingdom.

2 Samuel 22:1-4

¹ And David spake unto the LORD the words of this song in the day *that* the LORD had delivered him out of the hand of all his enemies, and out of the hand of Saul: ² And he said, The LORD *is* my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; ³ The God of my rock; in him will I trust: *he is* my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my saviour; thou savest me from violence. ⁴ I will call on the LORD, *who is* worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies.

Close:

David was unable to build the temple, but Solomon was allowed.

In your trial, seek the Lord.

In your temptation, flee Satan.