

Let's Worship God

1st-6th June 2026
2 Samuel



II SAMUEL

Monday - 2 Samuel 10:1-2 - Two Reactions to the King's Kindness

Have you ever spent time with two different people in quick succession. Seeing the two of them in a short space of time highlights just how different they are. It's not that you need to see the two people in the same day to realise they're different, but seeing them side-by-side just highlights it. God has given us a contrast like that in 2nd Samuel 9 and 10. The chapters are linked by the word 'hesed', which most Bible versions translate as kindness in both chapters. It's the same word used in chapter 9, when David says 'Is there still anyone left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?' The big contrast is that in chapter 9, David shows kindness to a son for the sake of his father - and it's gratefully accepted. Whereas here in chapter 10 David again shows kindness to a son for the sake of his father - but it's contemptuously rejected. And because David isn't just anybody - because he's God's chosen king, those two reactions picture for us two reactions to God's kindness to us in Jesus Christ - his ultimate chosen king.

Last week, I trust we were encouraged by seeing the Gospel According to Mephibosheth. We were reminded how Jesus Christ says to us in the gospel: Don't be afraid; Eat at my table; Be like a son. As we share that message with others, by God's grace some will accept the message we bring. But we need to be prepared for the fact that others will throw it back in our faces. They don't want to hear our king's kind offer. They think it's a threat to them. They will try to shame us as his ambassadors, because of how they feel about him. We need to be prepared for both reactions. If we don't expect anyone to accept the gospel, then we'll probably not make much of an effort to share it with them, because what's the point? But on the other hand, if we aren't prepared for some people to reject the gospel, then we could easily be disillusioned when it does happen. So God in his grace and kindness prepares us for both reactions.

Question

1. What are the two reactions to David's kindness in chapters 9 and 10?

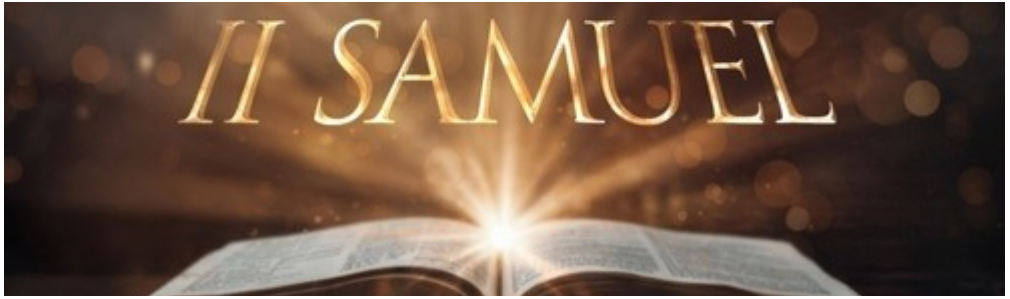
Prayer Points

1. Pray that our friends and family would see the foolishness of rejecting Christ.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"Be of good courage, and let us be courageous for our people, and for the cities of our God, and may the LORD do what seems good to him." 2 Samuel 10:12

Praise: Psalm 84B:1-3 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Tuesday - 2 Samuel 10:1-4 - The King's Kindness Rejected

The chapter begins by telling us about the death of a king we haven't heard of since way back in 1st Samuel 11 and 12. Those chapters tell us that the threat posed by Nahash was one of the reasons why God's people wanted a king in the first place. Sure enough, Saul's first act as king is to defeat Nahash and the Ammonites and liberate the Israelite city they were besieging. Then v2 of our current chapter tells us something that we don't hear of anywhere else: Nahash, king of the Ammonites, had dealt loyally with David. We aren't told when that took place or what it looked like - but it would have been when David was on the run from Saul. Whether David and Nahash had formally made a covenant - or whether David just felt bound to him because of his act of kindness - we're not told. But the point is that Nahash had been kind - he's shown steadfast love - covenant love - to David. As a result, when David hears that he's died, he sends ambassadors to console Nahash's son, Hanun.

In the last chapter David showed kindness to someone within the kingdom - Mephibosheth. In this chapter he shows kindness to someone outside the kingdom. In both cases it's surprising. Both times he shows kindness to people we wouldn't expect him to show kindness to. Both times he shows kindness to people who don't deserve his kindness. Both times he's motivated by covenant loyalty.

So how do they react? Well as we saw last week, Mephibosheth reacted gratefully. But this time, the response of Hanun couldn't be any more different. He doesn't just politely decline David's kindness - he publicly shames his ambassadors. That was something that just wasn't done. Ambassadors were - and still are - considered privileged, even at times of war. So to humiliate an ambassador was a very serious thing indeed. Obviously it showed how Hanun felt, not just about the ambassadors, but about David himself. God's king, in his kindness, had sent him a message of comfort. But he threw it back in his face. We need to be prepared for that reaction as well.

Question

1. What had Nahash done for David?
2. What did Hanun do to David's kindness?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for the kindness of God.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

“Be of good courage, and let us be courageous for our people, and for the cities of our God, and may the LORD do what seems good to him.” 2 Samuel 10:12

Praise: Psalm 84B:4-6 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

II SAMUEL

Wednesday - 2 Samuel 10:1-5 - Evil Advice

We too are ambassadors of the king. Paul says in 2nd Corinthians 5: 'Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us'. Paul is speaking there as an apostle. Today, a verse like that applies primarily to ministers. But there's also a sense in which it applies to every believer. We're all ambassadors for Christ. God the Father has given the Lord Jesus Christ authority over all the nations of the earth, and Jesus sends his people to the nations, commanding them to obey his rule. Jesus Christ rules the four corners of the world, and so he sends his people to the four corners of the world, to proclaim that rule. We go as his ambassadors. When we share the gospel, we're not bringing our own message. People sometimes tell us 'that's just your opinion'. But it's not just our opinion. It's a message from the king. Since it's not our message, we don't have the right to change it, any more than David's ambassadors had a right to change his message. But we must be prepared for the fact that not everyone will accept the message. Some people will react angrily, and sometimes they'll take their anger out on us.

Hanun's princes convince him that David's motives in sending the ambassadors are false. They say to him: David doesn't really want to show you comfort and honour your father. He's actually just here because he wants to spy out the city and overthrow it. People will question our motives as well. They'll say: you Christians are just trying to turn my spouse or my child against me; or: all your church is really interested in is people's money; or: all you Christians want to do is control peoples lives. They'll also question the motives of our king. Satan and his demons are just like these princes in v3. And you know, with most people in the world, Satan doesn't have to convince them that God doesn't exist, because that's pretty hard to do. God tells us that deep down, everyone knows he exists. All Satan needs to do is convince them that God doesn't care. Tragically, Hanun listens to those voices questioning the motives of God's king, and so he rejects his love, and humiliates his messengers.

Question

1. Why does Hanun reject David's message?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that Satan's scheming will be defeated.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"Be of good courage, and let us be courageous for our people, and for the cities of our God, and may the LORD do what seems good to him." 2 Samuel 10:12

Praise: Psalm 2:1-4 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

II SAMUEL



Thursday - 2 Samuel 10:6-12 - The Compassion of the King

How does the king react to his kindness being rejected? The first thing to notice is that he cares for his shamed servants. He shows such compassion for them, because he knows that they're suffering for his sake. That's something for us to remember as well. If you're mocked or laughed at for being a Christian or for speaking up for him, you can be sure that your King feels this compassion for you as well. In fact, even your very suffering can help give you assurance that you belong to him, because you're walking the path he walked. Rather than keeping our heads down as Christians in order to try and avoid suffering, we should actually rejoice at the prospect that we might be counted worthy to suffer dishonour for his name.

The report of the ensuing battle is so short and matter of fact, that we might not think it was a big deal. But it would be hard to overemphasise just how daunting it would have been for the armies of Israel to fight on foreign soil against such large armies who were so familiar with warfare. That makes the words of Joab in v12 especially commendable. Some are critical of his speech because they think it's pretty faithless. They think it's quite defeatist. They would rather that he said, 'let's fight, because God is definitely going to help us win'. But actually, God hadn't given them that promise. God doesn't give us promises about particular situations we face in our lives. He gives us what we could call big-picture promises. For example: 'I will never leave you or forsake you'. But that doesn't mean we won't get sick. It doesn't mean we won't lose loved ones. It doesn't mean we won't lose our jobs. It takes more faith, to say like Job: 'Though he slay me, I will hope in him'. Or to say with Paul 'it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honoured in my body, whether by my life or my death'. It takes more faith to say: 'I'm going to trust him, I'm going to worship him - even if I don't get better. True faith is serving God in a situation where you don't have any immediate guarantees.

Question

1. How does David treat those who are suffering for him?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for Christians being persecuted in other countries.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

“Be of good courage, and let us be courageous for our people, and for the cities of our God, and may the LORD do what seems good to him.” 2 Samuel 10:12

Praise: Psalm 2:5-8 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

II SAMUEL

Friday - 2 Samuel 10:9-14- Faithful Servants

Verse 12 reminds us that our part is to be courageous - and to leave the results to God. 'Be of good courage, and let us be courageous for our people and for the cities of our God, and may the LORD do what seems good to him'. It's not just Joab who talks like that. Do you remember Jonathan back in 1st Samuel 14? 'Come, let us go over to the garrison of these uncircumcised. It may be that the LORD will work for us, for nothing can hinder the LORD from saving by many or by few'. Or Daniel 3? 'Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace... but if not'. Or Amos 5.15? 'It may be that the LORD, the God of hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph'.

V12 isn't just how Joab talks. It's how faith talks. Not dictating to God what he must do in a particular situation, but acting courageously and leaving the results to him. So often however, our problem is our lack of faith-filled courage. The mentality of many Christians in the UK today is more like Fraser in Dad's Army - 'we're doomed'. So let v12 stir you this week! Let it encourage you in the work God has called you to do. Yes, you don't have guarantees that specific situations will turn out the way you hope. But you do know the character of the king. You do know that whatever happens, you're on the winning side. And so: 'Be of good courage, and let us be courageous for our people, and for the cities of our God, and may the LORD do what seems good to him'. We can rest in the confidence that what seems good to the LORD will be for our good as well.

Question

1. What other examples are there of what Joab says here?
2. How can the character of Christ our King encourage us in working for Him?

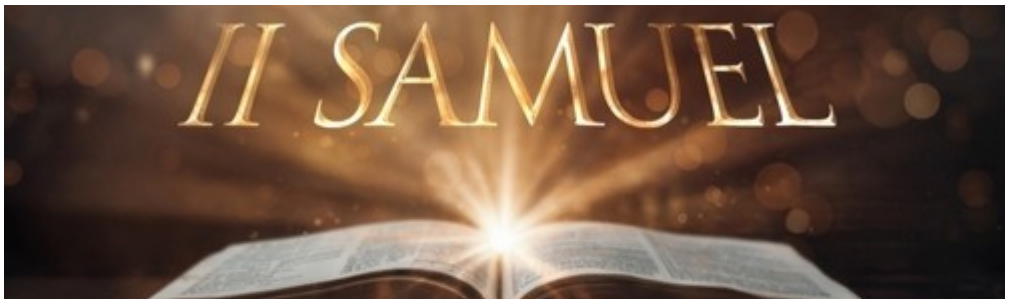
Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that God will always do what is best.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"Be of good courage, and let us be courageous for our people, and for the cities of our God, and may the LORD do what seems good to him." 2 Samuel 10:12

Praise: Psalm 3 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Saturday - 2 Samuel 10:15-19 - The King's Response When Kindness Is Despised

David mobilises his troops for war. Firstly Joab and Abishai lead the people into battle, and the Syrians and Ammonites flee before them. At this point, in v16, Hadadezer, who's a Syrian king, sends for reinforcements - and more Syrians arrive. This time David himself takes command of the Israelite forces, and the Syrians are defeated again. 40,000 horsemen and 700 charioteers are killed. And at this point the remaining Syrians make peace with Israel and become subject to them. As the chapter ends, we can be in absolutely no doubt about what a foolish thing it was for Hanun to fight against David. It was the worst miscalculation he ever made in his life. And it's recorded in the Bible to warn us about making an even bigger miscalculation.

Psalm 2 warns that it's a disastrous miscalculation to try and fight against God's king. But that's what Hanun does in this chapter. That's what all do who reject the gospel. Psalm 2 ultimately pictures those who reject God's true anointed king, Jesus Christ. If resisting King David was futile - and ended in such devastation, then resisting King Jesus - the true Son of God - will be absolutely disastrous. The most popular song played at funerals today is 'I did it my way'. But 2nd Samuel 10, and Psalm 2 show where that leads. People say: 'I did it my way'. Psalm 2 says 'Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way'. If you do it your way, you will perish, unless you stop fighting against God, and come to him through Jesus Christ who is the way, the truth and the life.

What's the message of this chapter in a nutshell? In spite of all the resistance and hostility, God's king will rule. May that encourage you as you go out into the world this next week, as you take opportunities to compassionately warn people of the wrath to come, as you grieve to see people scorning and thumbing their noses at your king. Hold on to the confidence that despite it all, he is ruling. And he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.

Question

1. How is this chapter like Psalm 2?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"Be of good courage, and let us be courageous for our people, and for the cities of our God, and may the LORD do what seems good to him." 2 Samuel 10:12

Praise: Psalm 4- See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

**God tells us that
Ezra read from
the book of the Law
day after day
and that
the people of God
were filled with joy!**

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