

## (1-21-24) Rebellion Meets Mercy

### 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 6-11, 14-23.

Now as Israel's king, David moves the capital from Hebron to Jerusalem (5:7). It was time that the presence of God, symbolized by the ark of the covenant, needed to take residence in the city of God, Jerusalem; thus, David goes to bring the ark "home." We have heard nothing of the Ark since it left the land of the Philistines, (1 Sam 7:1-2) it had been in storage for 60-100 years. The spiritual life of the nation was low, else this holy symbol of God's presence would not have been this neglected. David wished to make the new capital the religious as well as the political center of his kingdom.

Rebellion Meets Mercy, that sums up David's life. As we read about the life of David, mercy is a constant in his life, whether he is receiving it or giving it. In dark times, times of uncertainty, in times of rebellion we can see God's mercy all through the pages of His book.

Have you ever done something you thought was right, or even what God would want to only find out later you were wrong, or it wasn't what He wanted?

How about in your everyday life? You planned something only to find out later it was totally the wrong plan?

That is where we find David in today's message. Back in chapter 3 of 2 Samuel David struck up a deal to join forces with Abner, Saul's cousin, and commander of the Israel army. In that deal David wanted his wife Michal back. Saul had promised her to David if he killed 100 Philistines (that's keeping it PG13, and instead of 100, he kills 200).

Michal helped David escape when Saul came looking for him to kill him. But she has since remarried someone else and had been Mrs. Palti for the past 10 years. And as I already mentioned David decided to relocate the Ark of the Covenant. David wasn't wasting any time.

#### I. Right Motive/Intentions Doesn't Overrule God's Order.

- Read 2 Samuel 6:1-5.
- David had a plan to move the Ark of God into the capital of Israel, Jerusalem.
- The Ark was in the home of Abinadab. David had Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, lead the charge in moving it. They used a new cart and oxen to move it.
- Can you imagine the worship service? 30,000 choice men, God's Ark being moved to its rightful place after 60-100 years, David and others playing music on all kinds of instruments (v. 5).
- I can imagine the music and dancing were on point. Israel has her king and God surely must be happy and proud of them for remembering Him.
- Read verses 6-10.
- It went from a worship service to a funeral service in a matter of minutes.
- Even with a correct desire/intention—Uzzah wanting to steady the ark as the oxen stumbled—God's word and righteousness cannot be contradicted.
- Wasn't God appreciative of their hard work, their time? I mean their motive was pure, their intentions were good, David's heart was in the right place and poor Uzzah was following the orders of the King.
- What was David's initial response? (Read verses 8-10)

- He was angry and afraid. Has that ever happened to you? You were doing things right, from the right motive, right heart, to only have it blow up in your face?
- I can sympathize with David. There have been times I have grown so angry with God that I shouted at Him. I have been so angry at Him that I have chosen to ignore and or disobey Him on purpose.
- I was doing things from a place of good intent, for a good reason, to have it fail. Or I was ignorantly doing what I thought He would want or desire to realize later, nope.

## II. **Man's Ignorance Doesn't Negate God.**

- What does **2 Samuel 5:19** and **23** say that catches our eye? **"David inquired of the Lord."** That is something repeated. God's people have a responsibility to check in with God. We have His Word, and we should be and are responsible to seek it out.
- **1 Chronicles 13:1-4**, David consulted with his political leaders.
- God's Word was very clear on how the ark was to be handled. (**Num. 3:27-31; 4:15; 7:9; 10:21**). It was to be moved by men from the tribe of Levites, carried on their shoulders, using long poles that ran through the golden rings attached to it.
- God permitted the Philistines to use the cart and oxen method, since they were not His covenant people, instructed in the Word. But for the Jews to ignore the divine commands and imitate the heathen nations, was to invite disaster.
- How many Christians and local churches today **"conform to the world" (Rom. 12:2)** instead of **"following the pattern"** given by God from heaven?
- Rather than being obedient to God's Word, we bend it to fit our philosophy or the world's philosophy. Too often we are serving ourselves, some even justifying their sinful behavior.
- So, we have a choice when things blow up in our face. We can be/stay bitter or get better/right with God.
- Our character, our faith isn't built when things are going right. It's when our backs are against the wall, when things fall out from under us and how we respond will build and show our character.
- When someone hurts you, disappoints you, how will you respond? Will you hold a grudge? Will you adopt a victim mentality?
- Part of what made God call David a man after His own heart was how David responded to correction from God.
- **Read 1 Chronicles 15:2, 12-16.**
- How we respond to God's correction, whether it's through calamity, conviction or through a human representative shows our spiritual condition. What happens if/when we dig our heels in, pout, quit, ignore, avoid, try to mansplain, justify, make it sound biblical, or just stand up in rebellion? We will grow bitter, angry, resentful, we will become afraid and fearful and withdraw from others, which will lead to hatred and murder. That is exactly what Satan wants. He seeks to destroy all unity.
- Will we allow our rebellion to be met with God's mercy? He will allow us to continue down a path of misery or mercy, up to you.

### III. Living for God WILL come with a Price.

- **Read 2 Samuel 6:13-16, 20-23.**

- Without his kingly robe and crown, David danced with all his might before the Lord. Years of longing and waiting had finally come to an end. God had blessed his people, and the king did not contain his joy. He even commanded others to join him. **1 Chronicles 15:16** says he appointed singers and musicians to accompany the celebration as they entered Jerusalem. He was determined that everyone would know of this wonderful moment. The streets must have been filled with cheering crowds as the king danced and praised his way into the city.
- And he comes home to a bitter, sour, and embarrassed wife. The same attitudes that kept her from joining her husband in celebrating God's blessings are keeping thousands from that same enjoyment today.
- We could just explain this away and say that David and Michal came from different schools of worship. People who want things to be reverent. People who want things to be joyful. Tension between the two. Much more here than that.
- Let's examine Michal's problems so that we do not repeat them.
- a. **Michal was a critic, and NO one likes a critic!**
  - A critic is a person who tears down other people's attempts at something new and different. They don't do anything adventurous, but they have many stinging words for those who try to do something adventurous or different.
  - David through God had done some marvelous things. Full possession of the land. Moral order was restored. Material prosperity. Spiritual life was at an all-time high. Israel's worship took center stage. David had it in his heart to build a grand temple for God.
  - At the height of his excitement and achievements, we have Michal who criticizes. No matter how well things are going, there are always the critics.
  - King David had to deal with criticism in almost every chapter of his life, yet he managed every reproach with coolness beyond compare. No wonder God made him King.
  - May we be one of those who rejoice in the good fortunes of others. May we not be one of those who spread misery. I am miserable and I want everyone to be miserable with me.
  - When you come right down to it, your life and what you do with it begins and ends with God. There is no escaping that fact. If you are not happy about where you are in life, it is because you are not celebrating the victories that God has brought into your life.
  - Everyone who is a Christian has shared a victory with our awesome God! Being born again is a victory you have shared with the Lord!
  - Michal had a hard life. Her love was torn. Her father used her.

Dan Southerland- The reality is that criticism and opposition will drive you somewhere. Let it drive you closer to God and you will become better. Let it drive you away from God and you will become bitter.

- This is what happened to Michal. Throughout her life she became bitter not better. Nobody loved the critic, neither did David.
- She is even becoming more like her father, not less like him.
- b. **Michal accuses David of associating with low lives because she feels superior to everyone else.**
  - Michal accuses David of gallivanting with the commoners, as if somehow there are some people in this world that are lower life forms than others are.

- David stands up for himself. David has been selected to replace Saul, and that has added to Michal's sorrow. David is saying, "God chose me, so wake up and smell the coffee. I will celebrate and humble myself before Him and His people. I'm going to keep on dancing with everyone!"
- In God's eyes, are any of us any different from others? We are all sinners in need of forgiveness.
- The ground is level at Calvary. If you don't go to Jesus Christ with those thoughts, Jesus will not meet your need.
- Who went to Jesus seeking healing? Only those who were sick and wanted healing. Same with us.
- Most of the Pharisees never went to Jesus. Why? Because they felt they were better than other men were. They didn't need Jesus. They didn't feel they confess that they were sinners, the lowest of the low, and that only Jesus could help them.
- Jesus was called the friend of tax collectors and sinners. Are you a sinner? If you think not, then you are not a friend of Jesus.
- I love David's response back to Michal in **verses 21-22**. (Mic drop!)
- David will humble himself before God more and more, because he knows he needs help. The proud and arrogant need nothing and so God gives them nothing. On Judgement Day, they will go into Hell because they did not need anything from God. May we see ourselves as we truly are.

"Each minute Michal had to wait only added to her anger as she mulled over just how she would dress down her already undressed spouse. Her mind scrolled through the names of the people who saw him in the streets- people beneath her status. If you had tried to remind her that the return of the Ark of the Covenant was the real issue, I doubt you would have made much headway. No, this is about decorum and culture. This was about pride and position. This was about having to face the next meeting of the Jerusalem Ladies Auxiliary after they had all watched her hubby boogying in his royal underwear."

- This kind of angry judgment has silenced plenty of believers through the centuries. Sang too loud, raised hands too high, amended too often, kids too loud. Michal was just the first in a long line of "church police" who see it as their mission in life to ensure that praising, if done at all, is done with refinement.
  - David was celebrating with and for the Lord. To David, terms like "**humiliated**" and "**undignified**" were badges of honor, not shame.
  - He was celebrating because he had received so much. How much have you received from the Lord? If nothing, you will have nothing to celebrate about. However, if you believe that every good and perfect gift comes from God, then you cannot help but to get up and dance occasionally.
  - Proud and arrogant people have nothing to celebrate but themselves. Christian people have everything to celebrate because we have all spiritual, material, social blessings in the Lord.
- c. Michal was looking around instead of up!**
- She kept her eyes on others instead of God.
  - God wants us to be bold in our witness for Him. If we are looking up, we will be bold. If we are looking around, we will be worried about what others will think.
  - Those who are dancing have no time to criticize others. Not concerned about that, only want to dance.

- Look up in your course of action. When we pray and study about a particular issue, and know this would be good for us, do not look at who is pleased or displeased. Do not look for man's applause, only the applause from heaven.
- Look up for your confidence. They may call you a hair-brained fanatic, a Jesus freak. Who cares? Let your faith rest in the smile of God, not in the approval of man.
- Look up and God will judge your motives. Look around and men will always give as bad a reason as they can for a good man's actions. We will all appear before the judgement seat of Christ; do not care about the judgement seat of man. I think that sometimes the Christian should have very much the same bravado against the judgement of men as David's response to Michal.
- Who cares what you or others think, what does God think?
- Look up and no person can have control over you to lead you. We are to be led by Jesus Christ.
- Do not let anyone have control over you, but press forward in the Christian race, looking unto Jesus, and looking unto Jesus only for guidance and direction.
- Where was Michal when David was in the wilderness? David may have told her not to come, but what about when her father was forcing her to marry this other man. I am sure that David would have taken her in then. She did not want to go into the wilderness. That would have meant humiliation in the eyes of others.
- When was the last time people were embarrassed at you but Your Father in heaven was smiling?

## **Conclusion**

Right Motive/Intentions Doesn't Overrule God's Order.

Man's Ignorance Doesn't Negate God.

Living for God WILL come with a Price.

- Don't become a critic.
- Don't look down on others.
- Keep you eyes on Jesus.