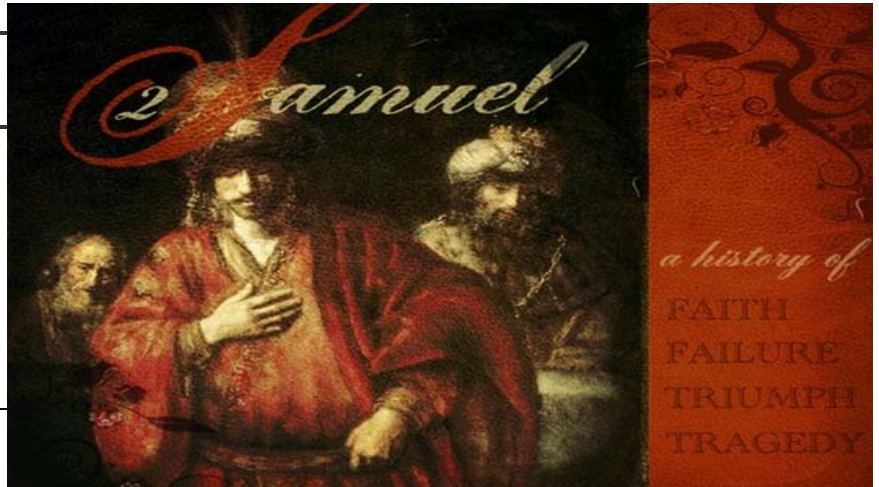

2 Samuel 19

Related Topics:

David; Joab; Absalom's Death; Grief;
Excessive Sorrow; Influence via Attitude;
Grace; Pride; Fickleness of man

2 Samuel 19:1-8



**1It was told Joab, "Behold, the king is weeping and mourning for Absalom."*

2So the victory that day was turned

into mourning for all the people, for the people heard that day, "The king is grieving for his son."

3And the people stole into the city that day as people steal in who are ashamed when they flee in battle. 4The king covered his face, and the king cried with a loud voice, "O my son Absalom, O Absalom, my son, my son!"

5Then Joab came into the house to the king and said, "You have today covered with shame the faces of all your servants, who have this day saved your life and the lives of your sons and your daughters and the lives of your wives and your concubines, 6because you love those who hate you and hate those who love you. For you have made it clear today that commanders and servants are nothing to you, for today I know that if Absalom were alive and all of us were dead today, then you would be pleased. 7Now therefore arise, go out and speak kindly to your servants, for I swear by the Lord, if you do not go, not a man will stay with you this night, and this will be worse for you than all the evil that has come upon you from your youth until now." 8Then the king arose and took his seat in the gate. And the people were all told, "Behold, the king is sitting in the gate." And all the people came before the king.

Joab rebukes David. "Snap out of it! You are discouraging the very people that risked their lives for you." There are several lessons for us here.

1. There is such a thing as excessive mourning. We need to understand that we have the capacity to feel and to emote because we have been made in the image and likeness of God. As such, we have a mind. We can think and reason. We can feel and emote. One of the great problems of evolutionary thought is that it can not answer the question: How does that which is unconscious create consciousness? Our personhood is derived from the Image of God. We are told that God the Holy Spirit can be grieved. Jesus, God incarnate, wept at the tomb of Lazarus and he wept over the city of Jerusalem. To grieve and mourn is not a sin. We are exercising God-given capacity in those things, but there can come a point when we must stop mourning and beyond that point it is excessive.

An example is the prophet Samuel.

1 Samuel 16:1

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go."

God doesn't say to Samuel, "Why are you crying?" as though Samuel shouldn't have been crying. Instead God says, "It's time to stop crying." There is a time for tears

Ecclesiastes 3:4

a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

Grieving and weeping are not in and of themselves signs of unbelief or ungodliness, but there comes a time when God says, It's time to stop and move forward. It is time to stop mourning over the past and participate in the unfolding of my plans. To grieve and mourn beyond that is the same thing as saying that you disagree with what God has done or what God has permitted.

The real ungodliness and unbelief for Samuel would have been for Samuel to continue to mourn over Saul, for Samuel to do nothing, and for Samuel to sit and live in the past. That would have been unbelief and even rebellion! More specifically, David is being rebuked for his excessive grief and mourning over the death of Absalom.

1 Thes. 4:13

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.

Paul does not say that Christians should not grieve over the death of saved believers. Christians do sorrow when our loved ones in Christ are taken away from us in death.

It is not a lack of faith to do so.

It is not a lack of Christian maturity to do so.

He just says that our sorrow is not like those who have no hope.

The sorrow of the believer is an ache over the absence of the loved one on this side of heaven.

But the sting of that loss, and the resulting sorrow, is swallowed up in the hope of heaven.

QUOTE:

Spurgeon – Some Christians sorrow at times in death or tragedy like those who have no hope in God and this is wrong to do. "If your dear ones are dead you cannot restore them to life by your unbelief; and if they still survive, it will be a pity to be downcast and unbelieving when there is no occasion for it. 'Your strength is to sit still.' Remember that you are a Christian, and a Christian is expected to be more self-possessed than those who have no God to fly to.

1. Your attitude affects others. Especially if you are in a place of leadership.

When you are in the ministry you do not have the luxury of pouting because discouragement spreads like wild fire.

EXAMPLE: The discouraging words and attitudes of ten men led a generation into fear and unbelief. For which God said they would never enter the land of promise which resulted in a death march in the wilderness until the last of that generation died.

Because of that you can not let your own emotions effect others. Did David have a right to grieve? Yes, but it should not have been done in such a way as to bum out the rest of Israel.

One of the keys to strong and stable ministry is to find men and women who will not let their own emotions overflow onto others in an adverse way.

1. Happy or heavy is a choice.

Possessing an attitude that blesses those around me is not contingent upon things going my way. It is because I have decided to to be a blessing

On what basis do I say this?

Phil 4:11

Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content.

I think of a married couple. They spent weeks at a time in Pediatric Intensive Care with their little boy. He was having constant seizures and nobody could find a way to stop them. We made our first visit to their home and they were living in a single wide mobile home at the end of a dirt road in the middle of a forest – while dealing with their first born baby constantly suffering seizures! After years of going through this the boy finally ended up going to UCLA Medical Center where he was one of like 5 people in the country that had half their brain removed. Through all of that, they were never a source of discouragement. By man's standards, this couple has a right to be unhappy, but they have made choices to be happy.

Have you and I chosen to be unhappy today?
Happy or Heavy? It is a choice we make.

1 Samuel 19:9-13

9And all the people were arguing throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, "The king delivered us from the hand of our enemies and saved us from the hand of the Philistines, and now he has fled out of the land from Absalom. 10But Absalom, whom we anointed over us, is dead in battle. Now therefore why do you say nothing about bringing the king back?" 11And King David sent this message to Zadok and Abiathar the priests, "Say to the elders of Judah, 'Why should you be the last to bring the king back to his house, when the word of all Israel has come to the king?' 12You are my brothers; you are my bone and my flesh. Why then should you be the last to bring back the king?' 13And say to Amasa, 'Are you not my bone and my flesh? God do so to me and more also, if you are not commander of my army from now on in place of Joab.'"

Who was Amasa? He was the man that Absalom placed over his rebel army!

2 Sam 17:25

Now Absalom had set Amasa over the army instead of Joab.

This is an incredible display of grace by David. This is so like Jesus. There are so many guys that were once influential in the cause of the enemies of God who are now captains in God's army. The grace of David extended to the former commander of his enemies army would sway the hearts of those that were against him.

2 Samuel 19:14-15

14And he swayed the heart of all the men of Judah as one man, so that they sent word to the king, "Return, both you and all your servants." 15So the king came back to the Jordan, and Judah came to Gilgal to meet the king and to bring the king over the Jordan.

David would not come back and force himself upon them as king.

QUOTE: Redpath

“David didn’t lift a finger to re-establish his authority . . . His return to sovereignty was decided by the voluntary submission of his kinsmen and by their loving obedience to his will.”

He would not come back unless he was welcomed by the hearts of all. What a great picture of King Jesus. Jesus will never force Himself upon any of us. Salvation is a matter of a man or woman willingly bowing the knee to Jesus, willingly abdicating the throne of their hearts and willingly asking Jesus to be king of their lives.

Just as David swayed the hearts of the people, so Jesus sways our hearts. For years of my life, man tried to force me to bow to their religious system. In one evening Jesus swayed me. He won me over.

Don’t confuse Jesus with religiosity or churchianity.

QUOTE: Blaikie

The Second Book of Samuel p. 292-293

Christianity really is all about Jesus. He is a different kind of King! Religion, Church, is all so empty and so pointless if your heart has not been swayed by Jesus.

2 Samuel 16-23

16And Shimei the son of Gera, the Benjaminite, from Bahurim, hurried to come down with the men of Judah to meet King David. 17And with him were a thousand men from Benjamin. And Ziba the servant of the house of Saul, with his fifteen sons and his twenty servants, rushed down to the Jordan before the king, 18and they crossed the ford to bring over the king’s household and to do his pleasure.

And Shimei the son of Gera fell down before the king, as he was about to cross the Jordan, 19and said to the king, “Let not my lord hold me guilty or remember how your servant did wrong on the day my lord the king left Jerusalem. Do not let the king take it to heart. 20For your servant knows that I have sinned. Therefore, behold, I have come this day, the first of all the house of Joseph to come down to meet my lord the king.” 21Abishai the son of Zeruiah answered, “Shall not Shimei be put to death for this, because he cursed the Lord’s anointed?” 22But David said, “What have I to do with you, you sons of Zeruiah, that you should this day be as an adversary to me? Shall anyone be put to death in Israel this day? For do I not know that I am this day king over Israel?” 23And the king said to Shimei, “You shall not die.” And the king gave him his oath.

Two ways of looking at David’s dealing with Shimei.

1. As another example of David’s gracious treatment of even the worst of his enemies – and as such a type or picture of Jesus. Surely I was a Shimei – in times past - hurling stones at Jesus in a manner of speaking, mocking those who loved Jesus. But here I am. Saved by Grace. Serving by Grace the One who was so gracious to me.
2. This was all calculated by both David and Shimei in light of the immediate political climate. Shimei’s course was purely that of a political opportunist. He was bold and wise. He was taking full advantage of this moment of peace. He openly and publicly played upon the conciliatory actions of David making sure he jumped on that train before it left the station.

On David’s side, had he followed Abishai’s counsel it would have offended the thousand Benjamites who formed his escort. He also knew that this was not the moment to punish any of his enemies because nothing but trouble and fighting would have followed. This viewpoint helps us understand 1 Kings 2 where just

before dying, David commanded that Shimei be put to death.

David had vowed to not kill Shimei, but he also understood that Shimei was not a genuinely repentant man. He was instead a political animal whose confession and display of support for David (1,000 men) were merely political pretense intended to save his hide. David knew that leaving Shimei alive would pose a threat to Solomon.

2 Samuel 19:24

24And Mephibosheth the son of Saul came down to meet the king. He had neither taken care of his feet nor trimmed his beard nor washed his clothes, from the day the king departed until the day he came back in safety. 25And when he came to Jerusalem to meet the king, the king said to him, "Why did you not go with me, Mephibosheth?" 26He answered, "My lord, O king, my servant deceived me, for your servant said to him, 'I will saddle a donkey for myself, that I may ride on it and go with the king.' For your servant is lame. 27He has slandered your servant to my lord the king. But my lord the king is like the angel of God; do therefore what seems good to you. 28For all my father's house were but men doomed to death before my lord the king, but you set your servant among those who eat at your table. What further right have I, then, to cry to the king?"

Why would I want to rebel against you, David? The whole matter is a lie!

2 Samuel 19:29-30

29And the king said to him, "Why speak any more of your affairs? I have decided: you and Ziba shall divide the land." 30And Mephibosheth said to the king, "Oh, let him take it all, since my lord the king has come safely home."

Was David compromising here.... Was David confused here? I believe that he is doing something along the lines of what his son Solomon would one day do (1 Kings 3). Two women came to Solomon with one living baby, both were claiming that the baby was theirs. Solomon said – “Cut the baby in half.” The women to whom the child really belonged said, “NO - Let her have it”. The other woman said, “O.K. - Let’s divide it”

Note Mephibosheth’s answer. I don’t care about the land or the possessions.... I just want you David. I don’t care about the gift.... I want the Giver. David knew then, that Mephibosheth was not after gifts

HUGE QUESTION: What are you and I after? Do you want Jesus? Or do you want Jesus in order to get the girlfriend/boyfriend, the promotion, the rent check? Can we say, “I don’t want gifts or things – I just want you”?

2 Samuel 19:31-35

31Now Barzillai the Gileadite had come down from Rogelim, and he went on with the king to the Jordan, to escort him over the Jordan. 32Barzillai was a very aged man, eighty years old. He had provided the king with food while he stayed at Mahanaim, for he was a very wealthy man. 33And the king said to Barzillai, "Come over with me, and I will provide for you with me in Jerusalem." 34But Barzillai said to the king, "How many years have I still to live, that I should go up with the king to Jerusalem? 35I am this day eighty years old. Can I discern what is pleasant and what is not? Can your servant taste what he eats or what he drinks? Can I still listen to the voice of singing men and singing women? Why then should your servant be an added burden to my lord the king?"

I'm getting too old. I can't tell if it's Ruth's Chris or McDonalds. I can't tell if the music is in tune or out of tune. All of those palatial goodies would be wasted on me!

2 Samuel 19:36-38

**36Your servant will go a little way over the Jordan with the king. Why should the king repay me with such a reward? 37Please let your servant return, that I may die in my own city near the grave of my father and my mother. But here is your servant Chimham. Let him go over with my lord the king, and do for him whatever seems good to you." 38And the king answered, "Chimham shall go over with me, and I will do for him whatever seems good to you, and all that you desire of me I will do for you."*

What a beautiful quality. In his old age he was glad to see others be blessed with that which he never enjoyed.

2 Samuel 19:39-43

39Then all the people went over the Jordan, and the king went over. And the king kissed Barzillai and blessed him, and he returned to his own home. 40The king went on to Gilgal, and Chimham went on with him. All the people of Judah, and also half the people of Israel, brought the king on his way. 41Then all the men of Israel came to the king and said to the king, "Why have our brothers the men of Judah stolen you away and brought the king and his household over the Jordan, and all David's men with him?" 42All the men of Judah answered the men of Israel, "Because the king is our close relative. Why then are you angry over this matter? Have we eaten at all at the king's expense? Or has he given us any gift?" 43And the men of Israel answered the men of Judah, "We have ten shares in the king, and in David also we have more than you. Why then did you despise us? Were we not the first to speak of bringing back our king?" But the words of the men of Judah were fiercer than the words of the men of Israel.

The king is coming back and they fight over him. The 10 Northern tribes are saying to the Southern tribes of Judah, "Why do you get to bring him" back? Judah said, "because he's our relative." Then the Northern tribes said – "We were the first to want him back"

TWO THINGS HERE

1. We are all so easily offended.

QUOTE: Blaikie p.294-295

1. Man is so fickle, only a few weeks earlier they were fighting against David and now they are fighting over David. It is important to understand the nature of people. When you are serving Jesus, know that the same people who at the beginning of the week one week cried – "Hosanna", cried "Crucify Him" before the week was over

It must be a settled thing that the "love of Christ constrains" you. Because if it is the love of people that constrains you, you will not be motivated to serve them for very long.

What happens when the "hosannas" turn into "Crucify him"? If its your love for the lost that motivates you to evangelize – what happens when NO ONE responds? Jeremiah preached for 40 years without a convert. The ONLY true motivation for ministry is simply "Jesus – "I love you" regardless of peoples attitudes or response.

The same people that were fighting against David are now fighting over him. And next week – in CHAPTER 20, we will see them fighting against him again.

CLOSING POINT / TRANSITION

There is NO furlough from the fight of faith.

There are NO breaks from the battle that we are engaged in. It would do us all well to have that as a settled issue. It is good for us to realize that there is NO real resting place on this side of eternity, until we are taken home to be with the Lord

EXAMPLE: David has just put down a rebellion led by his son Absalom. He put up with a squabble between the 10 Northern Tribes of Israel and the 2 Southern Tribes of Judah over who should escort David back into Jerusalem.....

The lesson for us is that we should not be put out when we go through consecutive trials. Not very much time passes before you are rudely reminded that this world is not your home.

What we are longing for is what Abraham longed for:

Heb 11:10;15-16

*10For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.....
15If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. 16But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.*

