

Remnant Life Church

July 17, 2022

A Tale of Two Kings

Pt 4

Trusting in God

I Chron 21:1-16

David demonstrated many of the characteristics of a man after God's own heart (**I Sam 13:14**)

- But David was by no means perfect
- Just as he was very good in much of what he did, he was also very bad when he did not

And as we examined last week, the consequences of sin carry a heavy price because there are four truths of sin that we must never forget:

Sin always deceives

Sin Always Destroys

Sin is always discovered

Confessed sin is always forgiven

This morning I want us to look at another way that sin can enter our lives but it begins in a very subtle way

Trust is an important part of our lives

- It most often has to do with our relationships
 - We trust our spouse, our children, our friends in varying degrees
- But you also trust in the daily operations of your life, though you certainly don't think of that in the same way you do your relationships

For the Christian, however, trusting in God is at the foundation of our relationship with Him

- **Psalm 25:1** - *In you, LORD my God, I put my trust.*
 - As a matter of fact, David speaks of the importance of trusting in God 16 times in the Psalms
- **Romans 15:13** - *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*
- **Titus 3:8** - *This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.*
- **Prov 3:5-6** - *Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.*

David dealt with many of the same issues and temptations that we each deal with every day

- But he always trusted in God...well, almost always

At the time we are going to be looking at this morning, David is tired and understandably so

- He has been involved in at least three consecutive wars over a period of several years
- Now, we have said that sin carries negative consequences, but obedience to God also carries consequences - good ones because we read in...

- **1 Chron 18:6b** – *The Lord gave David victory everywhere he went.*
- If you read through the previous chapters of **I Chron 18, 19, and 20** list those that David was involved in including several with the Philistines
 - It had been many years since David had defeated Goliath in the Valley of Elah, but Goliath had relatives who were also giants (**2 Sam 21:15-22**)
 - Four that we know of for sure as evidenced by the fact that when David fought Goliath he collected 5 smooth stones from the river in the valley
 - One for Goliath
 - And one for each of his four relatives if they came out to fight then
 - The Philistines either had very short memories or were not very smart because they kept declaring war on David and in those battles, they suffered tremendous losses.
- So, David is weary and yet there is still another giant he must face
 - It is the giant of temptation brought by satan himself
 - satan is not creative but he is clever

READ – I Chron 21:1-16 (Matt Turner)

This whole situation with David has to do with trusting God

- But I want to look briefly at the decisions of 3 men who were tasked by God to lead His people and each decision indicated their trust in God

The first is Saul

- We have already spent some time talking about the strength and weaknesses of Saul
- But one decision he made led to God taking the crown from Him
 - In **1 Sam 13** we read that the Philistines are amassing a great army to come against Israel and their new king, Saul
 - Samuel had given Saul instructions to go up to a certain place and wait for him – he would come to Saul in 7 days, offer a sacrifice to God, and then tell him what he should do
- But do you remember what one of Saul’s greatest weaknesses were? – Impatience
 - Saul did not wait
 - He got nervous because Samuel did not arrive when he thought he should have
 - So he offered the sacrifice
 - That was a direct violation of the law of God regarding the things of the temple
 - Saul did not trust what God’s prophet had told him and as a result he not only lost the kingdom but he would lose his life as well
 - But the consequences did not end there
 - Jonathan would also lose the throne
 - And he would die in the same battle that would take his father
 - Because sin does not just effect you alone

The second is David

- It may be a little bit difficult to understand why this made God so angry until you consider the entire context of what led up to it

- Again, David has been involved in multiple war campaigns for a long time
- At the end of all of these battles David finally gets to rest and bask in the victories God has given him
 - And the victories were significant against very powerful nations
 - It is recorded that they had overcome 1000 chariots (the tanks of their day), along with 7000 charioteers; 20,000 infantry soldiers were captured and 22,000 killed.
 - A time of well-deserved reflection on their success has come
- But there is a truth present in this moment that we must all keep in mind
 - At the conclusion of a great victory, in whatever arena that may come, there is always the temptation of pride that follows
 - For David, that pride was his thinking that it was the might of his great army, and not the mighty arm of God, that brought their victories
 - Whatever victories we have in life they are only because of the direction, and guidance of God
- David lost sight of this for a moment, but in that moment the first verse of chapter 21 came to pass and David is in for yet another great battle
 - The battle against his pride
 - And unlike those battles against the Philistine army, this one David will lose
- The result of this temptation aimed at David's pride is that David was deceived and his trust became misplaced
 - His trust was placed in his army's might
 - And not in the power of Almighty God
 - Does this not also happen frequently in the lives of individuals?
 - In the time of crisis, we cry out to God knowing that He is our only hope but when it passes, we have no time for Him
 - We go back to the confidence in self which deceives us every time
- And so, David commissions his general Joab to take a census or a count of his army (I Chron 21:2)
 - Did you notice that Joab tried to talk David out of doing this?
 - Again, what is the big deal with knowing how many fighting men you have at your disposal?
 - And there were a lot of fighting men
 - The count revealed 1,500,00 men in his army
 - This was in a time when the entire population of the world was approximately 100 million
 - Today – 7.7 billion
 - It was not the what of counting that angered God is was the why
 - David needed the assurance of his huge army rather than trusting God to fight his battles no matter the size of his army

And that brings us to third and final leader, Gideon

READ – Judges 6:13-16; 7:1-8a

The Midianites and the Philistines served similar roles in the life of the nation of Israel

- Every time you turned around they were making life difficult for the Israelites
- But God also used them as an instrument of punishment for the people's disobedience (Jdgs 6:1)
- God, in His mercy was going to deliver the Israelites and He was going to use a man who might have had the lowest self-esteem in the OT
 - My clan is the weakest
 - And I am the least of my family
 - Do you know that that is exactly the kind of heart God is looking for in His people?
 - In us?
- It is true that Gideon asked God for three signs to confirm God's presence and call on His life
 - The difference, however, in what Gideon did in contrast to Saul and David, is that Gideon did not lack faith, he lacked confidence
 - This why God answered his request for the signs
 - God saw what was in the heart
 - He knew that Gideon was going to depend on Him for everything
- Then God demonstrated His power not only to Gideon but to all the people
- God is not dependent on and does not need anything that man can do
- Numbers mean nothing to Him
 - You can be a 9-foot-tall professional warrior like Goliath
 - But God will use a 16-year-old 5 foot 6-inch-tall boy to defeat you
 - You can be the powerful Midianite army, too numerous to count, striking fear into the hearts of all nations
 - But God will use only 300 men to defeat you without a single blow being struck
 - You can be a church of 10,000 people with a famous pastor
 - But God can use a church of 60 people with a pastor no one has ever heard of to start a revival
- All God desires of His people is trust and faith
 - Faith that God is present, all-powerful, and able to deliver His children no matter the appearances or the obstacles

Who is your faith and trust modeled after this morning?

- Is it the impatience of Saul?
- The pride of David?
- Or is it the timid and humble trust and fear of God shown by Gideon?

I read this recently and it sums up very well what we have been talking about this morning:
To be a man or woman after God's own heart is our goal, and to be that kind of man or woman means that we will always look to Jesus, asking for his forgiveness, seeking his mercy in our times of need. And even in our times of greatest victory and success, we still trust in the Lord, because it is all about God!