

Calvary Chapel of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

3rd - 5th Grade

Sunday Morning

Study 15

David's Last Words

David's Last Words

The Objective is the key concept for this week's lesson. It should be the main focus of the study.

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The "Main passage" is the basis of the study, where the other verses support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the "reward box" found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God's Word.

Objective To look at the character of David and his dependence on the Lord in all things, and to learn from his example.

Key Verses

2 Samuel 23:1-7—Main Teaching Passage

Memory Verse - 2 Timothy 2:8

"Remember that Jesus Christ, of the seed of David, was raised from the dead according to my gospel."

Hook

Review last week's memory verse, Psalm 51:10

Ask the students to finish the sentence, "David was a _____"

Expect the answer "King" and then remind the students that David started as a shepherd, became a mighty warrior, was a worshipper of God, and also, sadly, was sinner who failed (but asked for forgiveness and repented).

Today, however, we are going to see that David was also a songwriter. He didn't write pop songs, he wrote worship songs to God.

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

BOOK

As we come to a close on our study on David's life, we are blessed to have his final words recorded for us.

In this passage, David is introduced to us as the son of Jesse raised on high, anointed of the God of Jacob, the sweet psalmist of the Lord. We are reminded by this introduction that David was the lowest/youngest son of a shepherd, that the throne was gifted to him by the Lord and not by anything that David had done or deserved. We see that God anointed David and empowered him to accomplish his great works, but most importantly that David was seen from God's perspective as "the sweet psalmist of the Lord." David was a conquering king, but the Lord saw him as a song writer who poured his heart out to the King of kings.

David started his final speech by claiming that the Spirit of God was speaking through him. The Lord, the "Rock of Israel" was speaking through David to men. We are told that whoever would take the throne after David must be just, ruling in the fear of the God. If he did this, the next king would be a light to the kingdom that brings life and health to the nation. David remembered the promise of God in 2 Samuel 7, that He would build David's house and that a man from his line would always rule over Israel. This gave David a hope and an assurance that no matter what happened, the Lord would be watching over His people. David finished with a warning, stating that those who are in rebellion will be like thorns that are cast away and burned up in fire.

These words would prove to be true in the lives of the kings who would come after David. Those who were just and loved the Lord would bless the nation and experience a time of growth and renewal, but those who turned away from the Lord would bring difficulty and hardship, ultimately ending with the nations being driven out of the land in captivity.

LOOK

When we examine David's life, there are a lot of important things that we can learn. David teaches us that we don't need to be born in an important family and be rich and famous to be used by God (he was the youngest son chosen). He teaches us to be brave, knowing that we can overcome any obstacle if God is with us (Goliath). We learn from Him the importance of worshipping God in spirit and in truth (when the ark was brought to Jerusalem). We also see that anyone can fall into sin, but if we

The interpretation/exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

LOOK (Continued)

repent and earnestly ask for forgiveness that God is just and faithful to forgive (David and Bathsheba/Psalm 51).

Today we see that David attributed all of his success, all of his victories, to God Himself. We see that David was only able to accomplish all he did because God's Spirit was upon him and he was anointed by the Lord. We also see that the Lord remembered David not as a great warrior or a brave leader of men. God showed us that David was a songwriter, the "sweet psalmist of the Lord."

How was David able to honor Saul in the cave rather than killing him in secret? How was David able to trust God when he faced Goliath? Because David was constantly thinking about who God was. David wrote 75 of the 150 psalms we have recorded for us. He poured his heart out daily before the Lord asking for help or forgiveness, praising God for His goodness and mercy, and many more.

David's last words to us are a warning to whoever takes the throne after Him. He told Israel that if they were just and honored the Lord, then the nation would prosper, but if they rejected God, then the nation would suffer because of it.

We can apply this last part to our lives as well. We need to be just and righteous in the way that we act towards those around us, honoring God with everything that we do. We need to seek the Lord in our decisions, knowing that His word is a light to our path and a lamp to our feet. We need to remember that if we reject God, then ultimately we will be cast out of His presence. David trusted God in all things, and he is put before us as an example to live by.

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life?

TOOK

As a class memorize 2 Timothy 2:8.

Ask the kids to share something that they remember about David from our studies. Ask them what we can learn from these things.

Pray: Ask God for His help to be like David, pouring out our hearts as he did and remembering the Lord in all things.

Parent Question: Why is David called "the sweet psalmist of the Lord"?

FURTHER STUDY

Commentary on 2 Samuel 23 by David Guzik

2 SAMUEL 23 – DAVID’S LAST PSALM

A. David’s last psalm.

1. (1-4) The character of God’s perfect king.

Now these are the last words of David.

Thus says David the son of Jesse;
Thus says the man raised up on high,
The anointed of the God of Jacob,
And the sweet psalmist of Israel:
“The Spirit of the LORD spoke by me,
And His word was on my tongue.
The God of Israel said,
The Rock of Israel spoke to me:
‘He who rules over men must be just,
Ruling in the fear of God.
And he shall be like the light of the morning when the sun rises,
A morning without clouds,
Like the tender grass springing out of the earth,
By clear shining after rain.’

a. These are the last words of David: It wasn’t that these were the words David spoke from his deathbed, but they expressed his heart and longing at the end of his life.

i. “I suppose the last poetical composition is here intended. He might have spoken many words after these in prose, but none in verse.” (Clarke)

ii. This short psalm is a beautiful song of wisdom from David at the end of his life. “Wherein he doth, in few words but full of matter, acknowledge God’s benefits, confess his sins, profess his faith, comfort himself in the covenant, and denounce destruction to unbelievers... How much in a little!” (Trapp)

iii. What a life his was – we have a capsule of David’s life in the titles and descriptions of 2 Samuel 23:1:

- The son of Jesse: Jesse was a humble farmer and this title reminds us of David’s humble beginning.
- The man raised up on high: David allowed God to raise him up, so that he could confidently rest in this title.

· The anointed of the God of Jacob: David was anointed by God, not by himself or merely by man. He had a unique empowering and enabling from God.

· The sweet psalmist of Israel: David had a beautiful gift of eloquence and expression before God. This title reminds of David's deep inner life with God.

b. The Spirit of the LORD spoke by me: This indicates that at least at times, David was aware of the work of divine inspiration through him and expressed in his words.

c. He who rules over men must be just: As David looked back over his life and reign, he was struck by the great need for rulers to exercise justice. He knew this by seeing the goodness of justice provided and the curse of justice denied.

d. Ruling in the fear of God: This is the key to justice in the work of a leader. When leaders rule in the fear of God they recognize that a God of justice reviews their work and will require an accounting of how the ruler has led.

e. He shall be like the light of the morning: David reflected on how a wise ruler is blessed when he rules with justice. Though David's reign was not perfect it was blessed – and his reign is the most identified with the reign of the Messiah.

i. From one perspective David's reign was a disaster. He suffered from a dark scandal during his reign, he suffered under repeated family crises, under an attempted insurrection from his own son, under another civil war, and from three years of famine.

ii. In contrast to David, his son Solomon's reign seemed perfect. Solomon enjoyed a reign of peace, great prosperity, prominence, and glory.

iii. Yet the Bible has nothing but praise for David and his reign, reflected in passages like Psalm 89:20, Isaiah 55:3-4, Romans 1:3, and Revelation 22:16. In contrast, Solomon is barely mentioned in the rest of the Scriptures and when he is, it is almost in a backhanded way (see Matthew 6:28-29 and Matthew 12:42).

iv. The difference between David and Solomon was found in their different relationships with God. David's passion in life was simply to be with God (Psalm 84:10), while Solomon's passion was personal improvement (1 Kings 3:4-15). We can also say that David endured to the end, loving and serving God in the final chapters of his life (2 Samuel 23:1-7), while Solomon forsook God in his later years (1 Kings 11:4-8).

2. (5-7) David's trust in God's covenant.

“Although my house is not so with God,
Yet He has made with me an everlasting covenant,
Ordered in all things and secure.
For this is all my salvation and all my desire;
Will He not make it increase?
But the sons of rebellion shall all be as thorns thrust away,
Because they cannot be taken with hands.
But the man who touches them
Must be armed with iron and the shaft of a spear,
And they shall be utterly burned with fire in their place.”

a. Although my house is not so with God: David looked at the complete blessedness of a just ruler's reign and he knew that his reign fell short of both perfect justice and complete blessedness.

b. Yet He has made with me an everlasting covenant: David knew that the everlasting covenant from God was not based on David's perfection as a ruler. It was based on God's gracious commitment to His everlasting covenant.

c. This is all my salvation and all my desire: David only said this because the covenant was based on God's faithfulness and not his own. David knew that his own obedience was not enough to be a foundation for all his salvation and all his desire.

i. We can say that because of his sin and its consequences, David's light dimmed towards the end of his life, but it was not extinguished. He shined until the end. "In the Divine dealing with us, there is no mistake, no lapse. Nothing has been permitted which has not been made to serve the highest purpose. This is so even of our failures, if, like David, in true penitence we have forsaken them and confessed them. It is certainly so of all our sorrows and trials." (Morgan)

d. The sons of rebellion shall all be as thorns thrust away: The covenant was based on God's faithfulness, but David knew that obedience still mattered. God would still oppose the sons of rebellion and they would end in ruin. David knew he could trust the LORD to take care of his enemies and wicked men.

i. "This was the whole theme of David. The Lord is in control. Rest in Him. Don't fret yourself because of the evildoers that bring evil devices to pass. Rest in the Lord, trust also in Him. Delight thyself in the Lord! And all of the help, and the strength, the ministry of God's Spirit to our hearts, through the Psalms, the sweet psalmist of Israel. What a legacy he has left." (Smith)

ii. This remarkable relationship with God is the reason why David was Israel's greatest king, and the most prominent ancestor of Jesus Christ. The New Testament begins with these words: The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David (Matthew 1:1).