



**Series:** 2 Samuel

**Date:** July 10, 2023

**Speaker:** Scott Urbanek, College & Missions Pastor

**Text:** 2 Samuel 22

**Title:** God Has Chosen to Love You

Good morning, Mercy!

And today's passage is a beautiful passage of perspective. Godly perspective is one of my favorite things in the world. You've been there... You meet with a follower of Jesus who has been where you are right now, and they are able to give you wisdom about the situation and you leave blown away by how Godly and wise they are. Those conversations change our lives. Have you ever had one of those conversations? I've had many. Like the time I was in a terrible relationship my freshman year of college and my disciplers were like, Bro... get out of this. You're not going to marry this girl. I was like, you

don't know what we have! Or when I graduated college and was in my first job as an insurance broker. I had a terrible boss. Like seriously the worst. I know everyone thinks they have the worst boss, but my first boss seriously was, and I was like, I'm going over her head and get her in trouble. Thankfully, an older man in my life was like, don't do that. He taught me a better way. Or in my first year of marriage and we never fought. I was sure that Jess and I cracked the marriage code. And my mentor was like, yeah, that's cute. It's not gonna last. Y'all just haven't learned to be honest with each other yet. Boom! And then something weird started to happen. I got older... And now I became the discipler and mentor to others. I'm seeing all of the potholes their headed toward in their life journey with God that they don't see, and I want to scream at the top of my lungs, don't step in that hole! I've been down there. It's terrible. Or I meet someone who's in the same hole I've been in and my heart melts for their situation because I've been there, and God's pulled me out and they don't see it yet. The perspective that was given to me was the same from every person. It was this simple but powerful reality. God loves you, Scott. He has chosen to love you. If that's true, I was going to be okay. Your circumstances don't mean God's love has changed.

This morning as we continue with our 1 & 2 Samuel series following the life of David, we're going to be able to take a collective breather. This morning is a passage of perspective about God's love for David. In 2 Samuel 22, we're



going to see a song that he wrote on the same day that the Lord rescued him from death. David is testifying to the love he's experienced in the middle of unimaginable circumstances. We've had a lot of rough texts over the last 10 chapters of this book. If you're like me it's like, c'mon Samuel, can we get a breather here? And if you've been feeling that like me, I wanted to point out a scripture that I think will help us with some perspective as we continue in this book. Romans 15:4 the Apostle Paul says, "4 For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope." As the Apostle Paul was writing to the Romans, he reminded them that whatever was written in the OT was written to instruct us. Why? So that we might find endurance in the scriptures and ultimately find hope in Christ! So, all of these stories that we've been walking through are for your good. These stories, these scriptures were written not only for God's purposes at the time they were written but also for anyone who reads them for generations to come. And in today's passage here's the main idea: **God has chosen to love you.** So, no matter what you go through in life, because God has chosen to love you, he will get you through it.

What we see in this is 5 ways in which God loves David. And they are amazing. So, today, I'm going to show you five ways that God loves you. see today: **1) God loves you by hearing your prayers 2) God loves you by fighting for you 3) God loves you by delighting in you 4) God loves you by**

**protecting you 5) God loves you by including you as a participant in his story.**

**22** David spoke the words of this song to the LORD on the day the LORD rescued him from the grasp of all his enemies and from the grasp of Saul. **2** He said: The LORD is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer,**3** my God, my rock where I seek refuge. My shield, the horn of my salvation, my stronghold, my refuge, and my Savior, you save me from violence. **4** I called to the LORD, who is worthy of praise, and I was saved from my enemies. **5** For the waves of death engulfed me; the torrents of destruction terrified me.**6** The ropes of Sheol entangled me; the snares of death confronted me. **7** I called to the LORD in my distress; I called to my God. From his temple he heard my voice, and my cry for help reached his ears.

#### **1) God loves you by hearing your prayers.**

In verse one we see the context in which David was writing this song. God had just rescued him from certain death at the hands of Saul. There isn't really a scholarly consensus on the exact moment he wrote this song, but most likely when he was on the run in 1 Samuel 20. Look at what he said about the Lord. He starts testifying to the power he's experienced. He said, "The Lord is my rock, my fortress, my deliverer, my God, my refuge, my shield..." and so on. His relationship with



God was a personal one. 12 “my’s” in the first 3 verses. Notice that David didn’t start with his circumstances, he started with testifying who to he has known God to be in his life. God has always been there for him. Since God had been there for him, his present circumstances didn’t all of the sudden mean that God had changed. And particularly in this moment, because his terrible circumstances were not because of anything he had done wrong. Some of us when we face tough circumstances for our sin it makes sense. But in this case, Saul was jealous. That’s it. He’s on the run and God shows up for him. How? By hearing David’s prayers. Vs. 4 says “I called to the Lord, who is worthy of praise, and he rescued me from my enemies.” David called to the Lord. And in verse 7, he says it again: “I called to the Lord in my distress; I called to my God and from his temple (heaven) he heard my voice, and my cry reached his ears.” God always hears you. What do you do when life goes sideways? Do you call to the Lord, or do you lean on yourself? Look at what David did. David is saying, since I know God to be my rock, fortress, deliverer, where I seek refuge, my shield, my salvation... Since he is those things, I call to him. The only one who can do anything about it. Now, did David always feel like God responded right away, No! Look at Psalm 10:1, David says, “Why, O Lord, do you stand far away? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?” Is David contradicting himself? No. He’s sharing how he feels in that moment. It feels like you’re far off, Lord! It feels like you don’t hear me. We’ve been there, right? Maybe you’re there now. Where are you, Lord?! That’s what David is saying in Psalm 10.

But, then at the end of the same Psalm, in verse 17 he says, “Oh Lord, you hear the desire of the afflicted. You will strengthen their heart; you will incline your ear...” David is honest to God about how he feels in 10:1, but at the end of his prayer, he claims what he knows to be true. God hears us! If you feel like you’re in a spot where God isn’t hearing you, keep calling him. He hears you. God loves you hearing your prayers for help. He hears your cries. Don’t stop. He listens to David’s prayer and shows up for him in times of need. David tells us how he showed up for him. Let’s look at vs 8 in 2 Samuel 22...

Then the earth shook and quaked; the foundations of the heavens trembled; they shook because he burned with anger.<sup>9</sup> Smoke rose from his nostrils, and consuming fire came from his mouth; coals were set ablaze by it. <sup>10</sup> He bent the heavens and came down, total darkness beneath his feet.<sup>11</sup> He rode on a cherub and flew, soaring on the wings of the wind.<sup>12</sup> He made darkness a canopy around him, a gathering of water and thick clouds.<sup>13</sup> From the radiance of his presence, blazing coals were ignited.<sup>14</sup> The LORD thundered from heaven; the Most High made his voice heard.<sup>15</sup> He shot arrows and scattered them; he hurled lightning bolts and routed them.<sup>16</sup> The depths of the sea became visible, the foundations of the world were exposed at the rebuke of the LORD, at the blast of the breath of his nostrils.



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What an incredible response! 2) God loves you by fighting for you.

What we read here is a poetic display of a dramatic metaphor. David is using powerful, descriptive imagery to illustrate his experience. Look at God's response to David's circumstances. It made God angry! Vs 8 says, "Then the earth shook and quaked; the foundations of the heavens trembled; they shook because he burned with anger." God's response to David's circumstances was anger. God was angered at how Saul was after him. He was angry because God loved David. And if God loves you, evil acts against those he loves is not okay with him. As I was thinking about this passage, it reminded me of a story my wife told me a year ago. She took our kids to the park with our older kids, and I was at home with the little ones. And she walked in the door and said, "Scott... I yelled at a teenager at the park." I was shocked. My wife isn't very animated. She's super chill. If she yells something is wrong. Basically, there was a teenager that started to try and spit on my one of my kids head at the park and Jess momma bear'd that kid back to Jesus. That's what David is trying to illustrate. Some of you might be thinking... why anger? I thought God was a God of love? Yes, he is a God of love. But he is angry because he loves. Don't miss that. The extent of his anger here shows us the extent of his love for David.

Church, God is not indifferent to the fact that David's enemies were surrounding him! And God is not indifferent to your circumstances. Especially, like David's situation in this passage, if those circumstances were not of your choosing. God cares! How do we know? The cross is the ultimate display of God's love and his anger. We can measure God's love for us by the lengths he went to save you. Namely, sending his son. But we can also measure his anger toward the sin and brokenness in the world by the wrath he poured out onto his son. Isaiah 53 says that it pleased God to crush his son to save us! What? Only love can do that. God loves you by fighting for you!

Church don't miss that. He was angry about David's situation. And when you suffer unjustly, he's angry about it. One thing that I love about God is that he has powerful emotion toward your experience. There are days, I'll be honest, where I wonder. Can I get through this? Is this going to be the time where I'm wiped out? No! God fights for me. And if Jesus didn't abandon you and I on the cross in *his* darkest hour. He's not going to abandon me in my darkest hour. He fights for us! Why? Why does he do it?

Here's why Let's look at vs 17-20. "He reached down from on high and took hold of me; he pulled me out of deep water.<sup>18</sup> He rescued me from my powerful enemy and from those who hated me, for they were too strong for me.<sup>19</sup> They confronted me in the day of my calamity, but the LORD was my



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support.<sup>20</sup> He brought me out to a spacious place; he rescued me because he delighted in me.”

### 3) God loves you by delighting in you.

David says that God rescued him because he delighted in him. Some of you just need to hear it this morning. God loves you simply because he wanted to. He just does. If I had to summarize God’s delight it would be like this: He loves, you and he likes you. Now, was there anything particularly amazing about David? No. But God decided to love him. David said, “he reached down from on high and took hold of me; he pulled me out of deep water.” God chose to love David simply because he wanted to. And here he’s pointing out a greater reality because in the moment that David wrote this he wasn’t physically in water. No, he’s pointing to God’s sovereign hand in his help. David, a lot like Moses was chosen by God for a particular purpose. God chose to use Moses a lot like he chose to use David. He chose to love them and use them. Remember the circumstances of God choosing Moses? Things weren’t great. Pharaoh was trying to kill the all the Jewish males, so in desperation Moses’ mother placed him in a basket and Moses’ floated all the way to the feet of Pharaoh’s daughter. When she noticed that this was a Jewish child, she named him Moses. Which in Hebrew sounds a lot like mashah, “to draw out”.<sup>1</sup> The name also is related to the common

Egyptian word for son. So, she chose the name sounded like “to draw out” of the water in Hebrew and “son” in Egyptian. But the greater reality was that God used Pharaoh’s daughter as the means to “draw out” out a savior for Israel so that he could love them. Do you see what David doing here? He’s starting to show us how God views him. God drew him out of the deep waters. He has set David apart. We see this in 1 Samuel 16, God told Samuel that the king of Israel was to be born of from the line of a man named Jesse. And God didn’t choose the boy that we would have thought. He chose the little kid who was out working as a shepherd. This is how bad it was when Samuel showed up to look at the potential candidates, Jesse didn’t even bring David in as an option. But God chose to love David. God’s love rested on David the same way it did with Moses. God chose to delight in them.

And in verse 20 he says exactly that, “he rescued me because he delighted in me.” And God’s delight in him was how David based is entire identity. David knew where he stood with God. We see this in verses 21-25: **The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness; he repaid me according to the cleanness of my hands.<sup>22</sup> For I have kept the ways of the LORD and have not turned from my God to wickedness.<sup>23</sup> Indeed, I let all his ordinances guide me and have not disregarded his statutes.<sup>24</sup> I was blameless before him and kept myself from my iniquity.**

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<sup>1</sup> ESV Study Bible



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<sup>25</sup> So the LORD repaid me according to my righteousness, according to my cleanness in his sight.

Why did God rescue him, he delighted in him? These verses show how David views himself. Some of you might look at this and say, how can this be? How can he possibly view himself as righteous and blameless? You don't have clean hands David! No, I don't think David views himself as sinless. We know that from verses in Psalm 51 when he tells the Lord that he has sinned against him. No, the only way that he can say these things is that it's because it's how God views him. An important thing for us to remember in the context of 1 and 2 Samuel is that David is called "the man after God's own heart." 1 Samuel 13 says that God rejected Saul and was going to find a king who was a man after his own heart. Many of us have been having trouble with 1 & 2 Samuel because we're wondering how this man after God's heart is! David is terrible. But I think we're misunderstanding what God actually meant by that. The point of 1 & 2 Samuel isn't to prove to the reader that David was in fact a man after God's own heart. That wasn't the point. The point was to show us God's own heart for David. It's the place that David had in the heart of God. Not the place God had in the heart of David. David was a sinner. But God chose to love him, and David knew that. His whole identity was built on it.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Alistair Begg, Sermon on 2 Samuel 22. This connection was a helpful explanation of why there can be a disconnect with David being "a man after God's own heart."

Sometimes it can make us mad even at the thought of David viewing himself in this way. And if that's true it's because we don't understand the gospel. Why did God die for you? Was it because you were great? No! It's because of God's delight in you. You are a sinner, yet God delights in you anyways. The great journey of the Christian life is us believing who God says we are. Not making ourselves into who we need to be for God to love us. Like David, we need to build out identity and security in the fact that God rescues us because he has chosen to love us! The promise of God is that he saves the humble. Humility here means that you realize you are hopeless without Christ, but simultaneously of great value to him.

Another helpful verse here is in verse 25. So, the LORD repaid me according to my righteousness, according to my cleanness in his sight. How is he righteous? How can he be made clean? This answers the question that many of us ask. How can people from the OT be saved? How can they go to heaven? Christ hasn't come and hasn't died yet. How does that happen? The answer is...The same way we are made righteous. Romans 4:3 appeals to the faith of Abraham and says: <sup>3</sup> For what does the Scripture say? **Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him for righteousness.** <sup>4</sup> Now to the one who works, pay is not credited as a gift, but as something owed. <sup>5</sup> But to the one who does not work, but



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believes on him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited for righteousness. Abraham, Moses, David, and all of God's people from the OT who believed in God, God's righteousness is imputed to them. Imputed means that it is credited to them. David is saved the same way we are, imputed righteousness. OT people are saved by putting their faith in a Christ to come. NT people are saved by putting their faith in the Christ of the past.

Our salvation comes from Christ! He chose to delight in us. Heb. 12 says that it was "For the joy set before him he endured the cross." Not only does he delight in us, he also protects us. Let's look at verse 31-37: **God—his way is perfect; the word of the LORD is pure. He is a shield to all who take refuge in him. 32 For who is God besides the LORD? And who is a rock? Only our God.**

**33 God is my strong refuge; he makes my way perfect. 34 He makes my feet like the feet of a deer and sets me securely on the heights. 35 He trains my hands for war; my arms can bend a bow of bronze. 36 You have given me the shield of your salvation; your help exalts me. 37 You make a spacious place beneath me for my steps, and my ankles do not give way. 38 I pursue my enemies and destroy them; I do not turn back until they are wiped out.**

4) God loves you by protecting you

If we focus in on verse 32, I think we were able to summarize this whole section. David poses a question... "For who is God besides the Lord? And who is a rock? Only our God." David is hinting at the fact that there are others who don't believe in this God. He's saying, only Yahweh, the God of Israel is a rock! But so many in his day and so many in ours build our lives on a rock that will never protect them. In our culture, the God of our age is the "God of me." We think we know what is best and we do everything we can to build walls of protection around our life. And all seems good until crisis happens that then we realize we can't protect ourselves. So, we lean on false idols to protect us. An idol is trusting in anything other than God to provide for us what only what God can provide.

David's word is a warning to us. Don't be fooled. Verse 31 says, "only God's way is perfect and the word of the Lord is pure. He's a shield for those who take refuge in him." The way we take refuge in him is by trusting in his love for us through his word. One of the many temptations of terrible circumstances is that we can walk away from God's protection. God's word protects us because it tells us the truth about who God is and who we are. We find hope in it. And many can walk away from it in hard times and then we start to lean on other rocks for hope. Other worldly philosophies. The Apostle Paul warns us about this in Colossians 2: **6 So then, just as you have received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to walk in him, 7 being rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, and**



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overflowing with gratitude.<sup>8</sup> Be careful that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit based on human tradition, based on the elements of the world, rather than Christ. When things get difficult, you need to be on guard. When things are hard, we're tempted to find ways out other than leaning into the rock of our salvation, but it will only lead to destruction. Why, be on guard? Those philosophies don't love you. In fact, none of them chose to die for you. But Christ did. And only he can protect you. Worldly philosophies are the enemies' way of destroying you though ideas that sound great: follow your heart, love is love, do you. How can we tell if it's a worldly philosophy? I don't have a ton of time here, but in summary: worldly philosophies in America are hyper focused on you and you being able to live how you want. Biblical truth doesn't work the same way. The way of Christ tells us to not live for ourselves, but rather to die to our desires and to choose his. Because our desires are broken and won't lead to our flourishing. His desires for us will include self-denial, but his plan is never to harm us, but to save us from ourselves.

Verses 42-46 show us a chilling reality for those who lean on any other rock except Christ. They look, but there is no one to save them— they look to the LORD, but he does not answer them. They are calling to God, but not because they love God. Ps. 145:18 comments on this by saying The LORD is near all who call out to him, all who call out to him in truth. A word for all of us in this room is that when you hear the gospel you

either surrender to it, or you harden yourself to it. There's no in between. If you don't know Jesus, if you've never surrendered to him. I beg you. Look at all of the ways God loves those who follow him. And he wants you today. Please give your life to him!

And the 5<sup>th</sup> way that God loves us is this. Therefore I will give thanks to you among the nations, LORD; I will sing praises about your name.<sup>51</sup> He is a tower of salvation for his king; he shows loyalty to his anointed, to David and his descendants forever.

5) God loves you by including you as a participant in his story.

This week and next week are the last two weeks of the 1 & 2 Samuel series. Israel wanted a king. But the promise of God to the world would be realized, but not through David. After 1 & 2 Samuel comes 1 & 2 Kings. And what we see is king after king. Kings came and they went pointing to the reality that there was a true king that has yet to come. A messiah king who wouldn't sit on an earthly throne, but on a heavenly throne. Jesus, from the house of David, would be that messiah!

And hundreds of years later after this story. On an unsuspecting night. An angel showed up to a teenage girl. And he told her something that was hard to believe. The angel





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said, Mary, you're are going to give birth to a child. She was a virgin and betrothed to a man who was from the line of David. She was sitting in the same fields that David used to shepherd as a boy. And he was the promised one who was to save the world. This Jesus would be the ruler of the nations. And like Mary, Jesus loves us by including us as participants in his story.

Will you join him in it?! God has made local churches God's plan A to reach the world. Like Mary, we all play a part. Give everything you have to Reach your neighbors, coworkers, family member, your children.

Let's pray!