



Series: 2 Samuel

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Speaker: Spence Shelton, Lead Pastor

Text: 2 Samuel 4 + 5

Title: King Self vs. King Jesus

STARTING POINT

Hey really quick, today after service we are hosting a 20-minute informational session for those newer to Mercy. We call it Starting Point. Our pastoral team leads it, and we share with you our mission and vision. How things work around here & what it would look like for you and your family to be involved here if that's where God may be leading you. Basically, we try to help you figure out what your next step is. OK? Great. On to our message for today

Intro

We are moving into the book of 2 Samuel. And as we do a shift is going to be felt. See 1 Samuel is about the **rise** of David. But starting today we are going to look at the **reign** of King David. David is the greatest king Israel ever has. He unites the tribes and wins great victories. I mean here in 2 Samuel ... this is the golden age of Israel. His reign is so impactful and so central to Israel that the place we will see him establish as the capital in today's text is **STILL** the capital of Israel to this very day. And David's star is the star that flies on their national flag. He's a big deal.

And yet...what you are going to see time and again is that David, while **Israel's greatest king, still is not perfect nor is he permanent**. He's flawed & he fails them. 2 Samuel records his darkest hours where he himself betrays his people and his God. And I bring that up to reinforce something we made pretty clear as we walked through 1 Samuel - there is a lot of good we can learn from David. There **ARE** things he does and ways he walks with God and with people that we should learn from and apply. **BUT** the bible tells us there is a more foundational meaning of King David's life. He is a good model, but there's a deeper meaning for us than just being like him.

And here it is - The bible makes the case that every soul has a throne. We are wired up, created by God, to give honor to and to serve something. Each of us has a throne. I'm gonna have a little fun today and illustrate that for you with some drawings I



learned from my bible study leaders when I was in a college campus ministry called cru. This helped me understand my faith and helped me share it with others. And I hope it will help you!



Show first pic. Circle with chair

What makes David's life, specifically his time as KING so powerful is that the bible says just like the people of God in David's day had a throne...one David sat on...each and every soul has a throne.

And something sits on that throne as king. We are created to give ourselves to something beyond ourselves, so we put different things on that throne and then we celebrate it, and we serve it. And the visible evidence of what sits on that throne - is **what we give our time, talent, and treasure to**. It's

what we deep down stress about, it's what we are always thinking about in idle moments, it's what we get most excited about when it's going well. Every soul, every heart, has a throne & a king that sits on it. Now a **king's job is to give peace, purpose, and fulfillment to those he rules over**. Whose reign helps an individual find meaning to all the things in their lives. A king brings order & peace to his kingdom. But without the right king on the throne, your soul (your kingdom) is ultimately dysfunctional. The things in your life that should be small become big and big things are small & forgotten. That's what these bubbles represent. The general disorder & dysfunction in our lives that come from the wrong thing on the throne.



CIRCLE WITH CHAIR & BUBBLES



And what 2 Samuel is going to point us to and what really the whole point of the bible is saying - is that there is only one king who can actually give lasting peace & fulfillment to our souls. In other words, there is only one who can occupy the throne in a way that actually is for our good & can bring peace & purpose to our lives. Only one who can put our lives in order. And he has to sit on the throne to do it.

And as our main character David finally claims the throne of Israel...it's a picture. A picture of every single soul in this room. We are going to see 4 different reactions to David's coronation. And each one is going to come with a self-assessment moment for each of us.

Because the pretty offensive but true and good announcement of the bible is that Jesus has made a claim not just to the throne of heaven, but to the throne of your soul. What are you doing with that claim? How are you responding? We'll keep coming back to that over the next few weeks because I don't know if there is a better picture of Christ in the whole OT than David.

Here's what we'll see today - David's rise to the throne of Israel has been some time coming. And now that it's here - not everybody has the same reaction. We are going to see a few different responses to the announcement that "David is the king." There are 3 ways people reject David...that we will see today...and one exaltation of David. All 3 that reject David...do

so to their own destruction. They do it for different reasons, but they all reject him and in the end their rejection of David as king leads to their own destruction.

And in them, I think we'll see pictures of how people today respond to the claim of Jesus as king of their lives. And if you are like man, I'm not a Christian I'm just investigating...GOOD! I believe today will offer you wonderful clarity on where you stand with God. I actually think it will be that for all of us in the room. Sometimes that's hard to hear but ultimately leads to our good! Ok let's get to work because we are going to make it through chapters 4 and 5 today.

4.1 When Saul's son Ish-bosheth heard that Abner had died in Hebron, he gave up, and all Israel was dismayed.

Ok quick catch up since we've jumped from Chapter 1 to Chapter 4. King Saul, the first king of Israel, is dead. Well, his commander Abner survived. While Saul's SON, who lets just call BO, gets the official title as king...it's clear from chapters 2 & 3 that Abner is the guy with the power. And Abner leads a civil war against David. Really only against David's army and David's army is winning and chapters 2 & 3 say several times the house of David is getting stronger and the house of Saul getting weaker. SO, after a pretty significant defeat...but one he survives...Abner decides it's time to make peace with David. And he does make peace with DAVID but...Abner had killed some guys. And some relatives of those dead guys came



looking for blood. And they killed Abner right after he left David's palace.

What you are seeing is David's rise to power is not peaceful. It's some blend of tribal warfare and an all-out civil war. Well, now ole Ish-BO has lost his dad in battle and his chief advisor in a revenge hit. But he's the king. What does he do? He "gave up." Throws up his hands in despair. And listen in this first verse I see one reaction to David's rise to power. **See Ish-bo had the most to lose out of anyone else we are going to see today.** He was the heir to Saul's kingdom. BUT, instead of this news leading him to deal with the situation. **To make a decision on what to do about David...he chooses to do NOTHING.** To give up and hole up while David's house continues to grow stronger, and he KNOWS David is making the claim to the throne. He does nothing. **And ya'll...doing nothing...is doing something.**

This is true in all areas of life and its true when it comes to the announcement of the gospel. The announcement of the gospel is that Jesus has made a claim for the throne of your soul. Just like **David had made the claim for Ishbo's throne in Israel. Ishbo tries to avoid it.** And what happens? Two of his own men betray him.

2 Saul's son had two men who were leaders of raiding parties: one named Baanah and the other Rechab, sons of Rimmon the

Beerothite of the Benjaminites.

5 Rechab and Baanah, the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, set out and arrived at Ish-bosheth's house during the heat of the day while the king was taking his midday nap. 6 They entered the interior of the house as if to get wheat and stabbed him in the stomach. Then Rechab and his brother Baanah escaped. 7 They had entered the house while Ish-bosheth was lying on his bed in his bedroom and stabbed and killed him. They removed his head, took it, and traveled by way of the Arabah all night.

We'll talk about these two guys in a second. But I want you to see Ish-bo's pretty tragic demise. He thought he would avoid the problem. But in the end avoidance is action. He KNEW what he should have done. He should have done what his father failed to do. He should have been the one to go to David and say hey man, God has anointed you the next king. HERE IS THE THRONE. But he had a lot to lose. **And I find when someone feels they have a lot to lose, a common response to the gospel is to avoid making a decision about Jesus.** And inside whether they say it or not they would be grieved by what they would lose authority over.

21 Looking at him, Jesus loved him and said to him, "You lack one thing: Go, sell all you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." 22 But



he was dismayed by this demand, and he went away grieving, because he had many possessions. -- Mark 10:21-22 (CSB)

Ya'll here's the point I want to leave up on the screen for you to write down.

Avoiding Jesus leads to your destruction.

To avoid Jesus IS TO MAKE A DECISION ABOUT JESUS. Avoidance is ACTION. And Avoiding Jesus is the same as rejecting Jesus. Once you hear the gospel announcement, you cannot pretend like you didn't. You made it to church today. SO, just like ish-bo you are accountable to what you are going to do about the news of the king claiming your throne. **I've found people in the south are REALLY good at avoiding Jesus. Because if you deal with him...you have to accept him or reject him. And accepting him means de-throning yourself. And you want to be POLITE, so you try the new-phone-who-**

dis method. This is the picture of one who is avoiding Jesus.



SELF ON THRONE, JESUS OUTSIDE THE CIRCLE

Maybe it's because you think he will rob you of fun or pleasure or achievement or change your plans and you are like nah I can't hear about that. Because if you avoid it maybe it's not real. Friends there really is a throne on your soul and to avoid the rightful king will lead to your ultimate destruction just like it did Ishbo. You will likely not be assassinated in your sleep.

But as hard as it may be to believe, the stakes are greater. Because at the end of all things the Christian claim is that only one road leads to God. Only one road leads to heaven. John 14.6. And if you are avoiding Jesus...my question is to what end? Are you presuming his grace? Are you thinking you have



more time, and you'll deal with him later? Or maybe you are a little sad & frustrated at losing your kingdom to him. **The proof that he's not out to take from you but to give to you...as your king...is in the cross & resurrection. He proved that like a good king he is ready and willing to die FOR his people. He doesn't take, he gives.** And he has the power and wisdom to know what to give you when so that under his reign you actually flourish in his world.

The reality is

1. **all your stuff is really God's stuff.** He just gave it to you anyways. The idea that your stuff is yours is an illusion.
2. **And the idea that tomorrow is promised to you is an illusion.** let Ishbo be a warning to you. Instead of throwing your hands up in despair & avoiding him, turn towards him. And he will bring you in as a son or daughter in his kingdom. And his reign on your throne will be better for you than yours ever was.

Ok now let's finish chapter 4. Because in it we see the next response to David's claim to the throne. It's Ishbo's two traitors.

¹ Dale Ralph Davis, *2 Samuel: Out of Every Adversity, Focus on the Bible Commentary* (Great Britain: Christian Focus Publications, 2002), 53.

8 They brought Ish-bosheth's head to David at Hebron and said to the king, "Here's the head of Ish-bosheth son of Saul, your enemy who intended to take your life. Today the Lord has granted vengeance to my lord the king against Saul and his offspring."

See what they were doing...they were reading the situation and thought...we need to do something brave and daring to show David how valuable we are. That way he will keep us around even though we used to be on the other team. They are trying to put David in their debt through their work. And they are trying to slap God's name on it. See what it is? That's manipulation wearing religious robes.

They come with blood on their hands but theology on their lips, expecting that the latter will magically bleach the former¹

Manipulating Jesus leads to your destruction.

Church folk listen up. Some of you want to perform for Jesus so he will be indebted to you. But at the end of the day, you expect Jesus to pay homage to YOU for all the things you've



done for him. I see this a lot in churches and it's because a crucial part of the gospel has been missed. You profess Jesus as savior but not as Lord. Here's what that looks like.



PICTURE OF SELF ON THRONE & JESUS INSIDE CIRCLE

Manipulating Jesus invites Jesus into your life, but not onto the throne. That right there is a false gospel, and it is RAMPANT in the evangelical church in America. **At the end of the day, it when unmasked it says Jesus is here to serve ME.** Ya'll that's not the claim Jesus makes. This is why I don't like the phrase "ask Jesus into your heart" because it sounds like ask him to be in YOUR kingdom. It should be...Surrender to Jesus as the king of your life.

9 But David answered Rechab and his brother Baanah, sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, "As the Lord lives, the one who has redeemed my life from every distress,

David is saying You cite the Lord, but you don't know how he works. I know how he works. He doesn't need your help.

10 when the person told me, 'Look, Saul is dead,' he thought he was a bearer of good news, but I seized him and put him to death at Ziklag. That was my reward to him for his news! 11 How much more when wicked men kill a righteous man in his own house on his own bed! So now, should I not require his blood from you and purge you from the earth?"

12 So David gave orders to the young men, and they killed Rechab and Baanah. They cut off their hands and feet and hung their bodies by the pool in Hebron, but they took Ishbosheth's head and buried it in Abner's tomb in Hebron.

Avoid Jesus and Manipulating Jesus is the same as rejecting Jesus and it leads to the same ends. Your own destruction. Both in this life and the next. Now let's talk about the third response to David's kingship. To do that I want to go to the second half of chapter 5. Where two different groups of people have the same response to David's claim to the throne of Israel. The Jebusites who are a part of God's people & The Philistines who are not.



6 The king and his men marched to Jerusalem against the Jebusites who inhabited the land. The Jebusites had said to David, "You will never get in here. Even the blind and lame can repel you" thinking, "David can't get in here."

These guys thought they were stronger than David. They didn't need David they didn't want David and they DEFIED his claim to their throne.

In his book Lord of the Rings Tolkien put a position called a "steward" in charge of the kingdom until the true king came back to take the throne. When the true king came, the steward was to hand the scepter to him. Well, as the story goes when the true king came, Denethor the steward refused to release control. He had gotten comfortable in a chair that never belonged to him anyway. And he defied the king. Ultimately to his ruin and the ruin of many under his watch. That's what's happening here. The Jebusites are mocking David. Defying him. And it was their defiance that led to their destruction.

7 Yet David did capture the stronghold of Zion, that is, the city of David. 8 He said that day, "Whoever attacks the Jebusites must go through the water shaft to reach the lame and the blind who are despised by David." For this reason, it is said, "The blind and the lame will never enter the house."

Now it should be noted that this is David turning the phrase back on them. He's not saying people that can't see or walk...are not allowed in the kingdom. Proof of that is that he cares for Jonathon's crippled son Mephibosheth by inviting him into his very house. It's David trash talking. Calling even their mightiest warriors...blind and lame.

9 David took up residence in the stronghold, which he named the city of David. He built it up all the way around from the supporting terraces inward. 10 David became more and more powerful, and the Lord God of Armies was with him.

That is David's MO. That last line. The Lord God of Armies was with him. Been with him against every enemy he's faced. And sure enough, The SAME thing then happens to the philistines. These guys have a rich history with David. He was their enemy, then friend, then frenemy, and now enemy again. You gotta assume no philistine generals ever took a history class. Cause David has destroyed these guys EVERY TIME he faced them. And TWO times the same thing happens:

17 When the Philistines heard that David had been anointed king over Israel, they all went in search of David, but he heard about it and went down to the stronghold. 18 So the Philistines came and spread out in Rephaim Valley.



19 Then David inquired of the Lord: “Should I attack the Philistines? Will you hand them over to me?”

The Lord replied to David, “Attack, for I will certainly hand the Philistines over to you.”

20 So David went to Baal-perazim and defeated them there and said, “Like a bursting flood, the Lord has burst out against my enemies before me.” Therefore, he named that place The Lord Bursts Out. 21 The Philistines abandoned their idols there, and David and his men carried them off.

Keep reading and you’ll see basically the same thing happens again. For both the Jebusites and the Philistines their response to David’s claim to the throne is defiance. They just flat out defy him. And THAT is the third response today.

Defying Jesus leads to your destruction.

They defy the one the Lord has anointed to be king and because the Lord is with him, he destroys his enemies. And listen at the heart of the other two responses is the same thing as this. You either bow the knee to Jesus or you defy him. And I promise you will never have peace in your soul, peace in this world, until you bow the knee to the true King.

That’s what we see at the opening of chapter 5.

All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, “Here we are, your own flesh and blood.

2 Even while Saul was king over us, you were the one who led us out to battle and brought us back. The Lord also said to you, ‘You will shepherd my people Israel, and you will be ruler over Israel.’”

3 So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron. King David made a covenant with them at Hebron in the Lord’s presence, and they anointed David king over Israel.

That language...your own flesh and blood. The covenant between the king and his people...Chronicles goes on to say more about this moment saying It was a 3-day celebration. Ya’ll this coronation celebration has the feeling of a wedding. Where the groom is the king and the bride that he is making a covenant with is the people. It’s not exactly that, but it’s probably the closest thing we know of to it. The king has come to his throne. And the people of God receive him and anoint him as their king. And in their response to David, we see our response to the gospel.

Exalting Jesus leads to your salvation.

Only when we give Jesus the throne of our soul will we find salvation. See when we put Jesus on the throne of our soul, we finally find peace, purpose, and fulfillment. Peace with God



that leads to peace in our own lives. Purpose - Ephesians 2.10. Fulfillment John 10.10. You were made for eternity and yet you are finite. Your soul needs the eternal king. And Christianity proclaims Jesus is that king.

15 "But you," he asked them, "who do you say that I am?" 16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." 17 Jesus responded, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but my Father in heaven. 18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will have been loosed in heaven." -- Matthew 16:15-19

Only a king can give the keys of the kingdom. He is the messiah. The one true king. And the good king has sacrificed

himself for you so that you might find life.



JESUS ON THRONE SELF SUBMITTED TO JESUS IMAGE

And when you put him on the throne, HE brings order to the rest of your life. That's not something you can do, only he can do it. I'm not saying the Christian life will be easy, I never say that. But I'm saying it will be purposeful, fulfilling, and peace filled.

He's made the claim to be your king. And my question is...is he your king? Is he in charge?

Now what do we do with all of this? Well, I think my question to you for you to take to the Lord is...where are you right now?



SHOW ALL 3 AT SAME TIME Ask yourself: Where are you?