

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF DAVID

PART III

STUDY NUMBER TWENTY-FOUR – 1 Kings 1:1-2:12

Money, sex, and power are three of the great ethical themes that have concerned human beings, throughout the centuries.

Virtually every major thinker and every great movement have wrestled with these issues.

The ancient monastic vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience were a direct response to the issues of money, sex, and power.

So in today's study you will see these three themes addressed.

1 Kings 1:v. 1 When King David was old and well advanced in years, he could not keep warm even when they put covers over him.

The scene of our story opens, with the king getting old.

We have come to the 40th year of David's reign, and the 70th year of his life.

David in his old age evidently, was beginning to have circulatory problems, and he could not keep warm even when they put covers on him.

His servants hit on a homely idea of how, they are going to take care of the old king.

v. 2 So his servants said to him, “Let us look for a young virgin to attend to the king and take care of him. She can lie beside him so that our lord the king may keep warm.”

David certainly doesn't argue or resist this suggestion of the servants, to solve his chill problem.

This is a picture I think that is very ironic.

It's helping people who live for sex to realize that you are not going to always have it.

It's going to leave and it's living for the temporary.

David has lived long enough to realize he has lost the temporary.

Money, sex and power all take wings when you die.

A lot of times the biggest problems in our lives are because, we are trying to make ourselves happy instead of being willing to do it God's way.

David is seventy, he has the shivers and shakes of old age, and the servants make an announcement throughout all of Israel.

v. 3 Then they searched throughout Israel for a beautiful girl and found Abishag, a Shunammite, and brought her to the king.

Can't you imagine, the servants ran a full-fledged MISS ISRAEL CONTEST, with candidates representing all the different cities.

Miss Shunammite won the contest and was crowned Miss Israel.

Miss Jerusalem was first runner-up, and Miss Beersheba was second runner-up.

v. 4 The girl was very beautiful; she took care of the king and waited on him, but the king had no intimate relations with her.

Girls in those days were characterized as beautiful but there were just a very, very few that were very beautiful.

Where have we seen that before?

2 Samuel 11:2

“One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful.”

David can you see that you made something so important that was temporary; now it's gone.

You don't have it anymore, you're leaving it all behind.

It's a tragedy when you come up to the end of your life and realize that you had boxed up priorities and you lived for the wrong things.

Then they are taken away from you and you have to suffer terrible depression and defeat, because you lived for these things and God never intended for you to make those, top priority in your life.

So the sex is gone!

Now what happens, when you have a little power and a little money left?

Your kids fight like crazy over it, is what they do. They are not concerned about you, they want what you have to give them.

v. 5 Now Adonijah, whose mother was Haggith, put himself forward and said, "I will be king." So he got chariots and horses ready, with fifty men to run ahead of him.

Adonijah is the 4th born son of David. He, by this time, is probably in his late thirties because David was in his early thirties when Adonijah was born.

Amnon, Kileab, and Absalom are all out of the way, so he is putting himself forward as the prime candidate to succeed the throne of King David. He said, "I will be king."

Adonijah is in line but the only problem is, David made some promises to Bathsheba back there, that her son is going to be king.

So Adonijah instead of being like David and waiting for God to open the door, he puts himself forward. He pulls a power play.

Now some of you may have been thinking, that I have been hard on David as a father but look at verse 6.

v. 6 (His father had never interfered with him. “Why do you behave as you do?” He was also very handsome and was born next after Absalom.)

It’s interesting that his father never interfered with him.

We have noticed in all of the relationships with the children, that David never really got involved with them except in a crisis.

It is also interesting that the verse says, “He was also very handsome and was born next after Absalom.” He obviously was a lot like Absalom.

He’s just a good looking kid who never lived up to his potential because David never had time for him.

v. 7 Adonijah conferred with Joab son of Zeruah and with Abiathar the priest, and they gave him their support.

Joab represents the military,
and Abiathar represents the religious.

These two guys were loyal to David during Absalom's shot at the kingdom.

I guess they thought David was dying so they wanted to get in on the ground floor of the new administration.

v. 8 But Zadok the priest, Benaiah son of Jehoiada, Nathan the prophet, Shimei and Rei and David's special guard did not join Adonijah.

The 8th verse starts with 'but' which forms the contrast. This is a list of the others who refused to join Adonijah.

v. 9 Adonijah then sacrificed sheep, cattle and fattened calves at the Stone of Zoheleth near En Rogel. He invited all his brothers, the king's sons, and all the men of Judah who were royal officials,

En Rogel is just outside Jerusalem and is easily reached from the city.

v. 10 but he did not invite Nathan the prophet or Benaiah or the special guard or his brother Solomon.

By contrast, these are the folks he did not invite.

Naturally you leave them off, he knows he doesn't want them around and he doesn't want old king David to know what he is doing here.

v. 11 Then Nathan asked Bathsheba, Solomon's mother, "Have you not heard that Adonijah, the son of Haggith has become king without our lord David's knowing it?"

v. 12 Now then, let me advise you how you can save your own life and the life of your son Solomon.

Nathan now is going to give Bathsheba some counsel so that she can save her life and of her son Solomon, and successfully thwart the power play of Adonijah for the throne.

v. 13 Go in to King David and say to him, 'My lord the king, did you not swear to me your servant: "Surely Solomon you son shall be king after me, and he will sit on my throne"? Why then has Adonijah become king?'

Nathan wants Bathsheba to ask two questions:

1. David, didn't you swear to me that Solomon would sit on your throne after you?
2. Why has Adonijah become king?

v. 14 While you are still there talking to the king, I will come in and confirm what you have said.”

Once Bathsheba is with the king and raises these two questions, Nathan will time his entrance and come in for the purposes of confirmation of the message that’s just been given.

v. 15 So Bathsheba went to see the aged king in his room, where Abishag the Shunammite was attending him.

Needless to say, this was quite an awkward situation.

v. 16 Bathsheba bowed low and knelt before the king, “What is it you want?” the king asked.

v. 17 She said to him, “My lord, you yourself swore to me your servant by the Lord your God; ‘Solomon your son shall be king after me, and he will sit on my throne.’

v. 18 But now Adonijah has become king, and you, my lord the king, do not know about it.

Because David does not get involved with his sons nor does he know what is going on in their lives, and he only operates in their lives during a crisis; he is not aware of what Adonijah has done.

- v. 19 He has sacrificed great numbers of cattle, fattened calves, and sheep, and has invited all the king's sons, Abiathar the priest and Joab the commander of the army, but he has not invited Solomon you servant.
- v. 20 My lord the king, the eyes of all Israel are on you, to learn from you who will sit on the throne of my lord the king after him.
- v. 21 Otherwise, as soon as my lord the king is laid to rest with his fathers, I and my son Solomon will be treated as criminals.”

With Adonijah on the throne, Bathsheba and her boy would be in real jeopardy.

I am sure Adonijah bears a lot of resentment toward Bathsheba, for coming into David's life in the first place, and all that went on.

- v. 22 While she was still speaking with the king, Nathan the prophet arrived.

Nathan is right on schedule, while Bathsheba is appealing to the king.

Watch him here, he makes a little statement that really, gets under David's skin.

- v. 23 And they told the king, “Nathan the prophet is here.” So he went before the king and bowed with his face to the ground.
- v. 24 Nathan said, “Have you, my lord the king, declared that Adonijah shall be king after you, and that he will sit on your throne?”
- v. 25 Today he has gone down and sacrificed great numbers of cattle, fattened calves, and sheep. He has invited all the king’s sons, the commanders of the army and Abiathar the priest. Right now they are eating and drinking with him and saying, ‘Long live King Adonijah!’

Here Nathan is describing all of the things that take place when a new king ascends the throne. On top of all of that, they are saying “Long live King Adonijah.”

- v. 26 But me your servant, and Zadok the priest, and Benaiah son of Jehoiada, and your servant Solomon he did not invite.

Giving David these three names helps him to understand Adonijah’s strategy.

- v. 27 Is this something my lord the king has done without letting his servants know who should sit on the throne of my lord the king after him?”

Nathan starts with a question and then ends with a question.

David, have you done this without letting us know who should sit on the throne of my lord the king after him?

v. 28 Then King David said, “Call in Bathsheba.” So she came into the king’s presence and stood before him.

When David decides to take action, he takes it fast. He is a great administrator and as soon as he knows that he has something to do, he does it.

v. 29 The king then took an oath; “As surely as the Lord lives, who has delivered me out of every trouble,

v. 30 I will surely carry out today what I swore to you by the Lord, the God of Israel; Solomon your son shall be king after me, and he will sit on my throne in my place.”

The sex is gone David is leaving the money and turning over the power!

You have to leave it all behind, so don’t live for position.

Don't live for money as your top priority. Live for those things, which are eternal because you are leaving all this other stuff behind and death becomes horribly traumatic, when you are leaving behind, everything you lived for.

But if you are laying up some treasure up there, it's a whole lot different.

v. 31 Then Bathsheba bowed low with her face to the ground and kneeling before the king said, "May my lord King David live forever!"

Bathsheba is thinking, "But I know you won't!"

v. 32 King David said, "Call in Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet and Benaiah son of Jehoiada." When they came before the king,

Bring in Zadok, get the rest of these fellows who are loyal, get Nathan the prophet, and we are going to have ourselves an anointing, of a new king.

v. 33 he said to them: "Take your lord's servants with you and set Solomon my son on my own mule and take him down to Gihon.

v. 34 There have Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him king over Israel. Blow the trumpet and shout, ‘Long live King Solomon!’

This statement “Long live King Solomon!” is in contrast to those that Nathan spoke about, who were saying “Long live King Adonijah.”

v. 35 Then you are to go up with him, and he is to come and sit on my throne and reign in my place. I have appointed him ruler over Israel and Judah.”

Solomon is probably somewhere around 18-20 years of age here in this encounter.

He is ascending to the throne at least ten years earlier than David, and David at the age of thirty was just king over the tribe of Judah. Solomon is going to be king over the whole country.

v. 36 Benaiah son of Jehoiada answered the king, “Amen! May the Lord, the God of my lord the king, so declare it.

v. 37 As the Lord was with my lord the king, so may he be with Solomon to make his throne even greater than the throne of my lord King David!”

- v. 38** So Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, Benaiah son of Jehoiada, the Kerethites and the Pelethites went down and put Solomon on King David's mule and escorted him to Gihon.
- v. 39** Zadok the priest took the horn of oil from the sacred tent and anointed Solomon. Then they sounded the trumpet and all the people shouted, "Long live King Solomon!"
- v. 40** And all the people went up after him, playing flutes and rejoicing, so that the ground shook with the sound.

I think it would be good at this point for us to go to 1 Chronicles 28 and 29 to hear David's words to his son Solomon:

"King David rose to his feet and said, "Listen to me, my brothers and my people; I had it in my heart to build a house as a place of rest for the ark of the covenant of the Lord, for the footstool of our God. And I made plans to build it. But God said to me, 'You are not to build a house for my name because you are a warrior and have shed blood. Yet, the Lord, the God of Israel, chose me from my whole family to be king over Israel forever. He chose Judah as leader; and from the house of Judah, he chose my family, and from my father's sons he was pleased to make me king over all

Israel. Of all my sons (and the Lord has given me many), he has chosen my son Solomon to sit on the throne of the kingdom of the Lord over Israel.

He said to me, ‘Solomon your son is the one who will build my house and my courts; for I have chosen him to be my son, and I will be his father. I will establish his kingdom forever, if he is unswerving in carrying out my commands and laws, as is being done at this time.’

So now I charge you in the sight of all Israel, and of the assembly of the Lord and in the hearing of our God be careful to follow all commands of the Lord your God, that you possess this good land and pass it on as an inheritance to your descendants forever. And you, my son Solomon, acknowledge the God of your father, and serve him with whole-hearted devotion, and with a willing mind; for the Lord searches every heart, and understands every motive behind the thoughts. If you seek him, he will be found by you; but if you forsake him, he will reject you forever.

Consider now, for the Lord has chosen you to build a temple as a sanctuary; be strong and do the work.”

David then gives Solomon the plans for the temple.

“All this is in writing,” David said, “because the hand of the Lord was upon me, and he gave me understanding and all the details of the plan.”

David also said to Solomon his son, “Be strong and courageous and do the work; do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you nor forsake you until all the work for the service of the temple of the Lord is finished. The divisions of the priests and Levites are ready for all the work on the temple of God, and every willing man skilled in any craft will help you in all the work. The officials and all the people will obey your every command.”

“Then King David said to the whole assembly, “My son Solomon, the one whom God has chosen, is young and inexperienced. The task is great; for this palatial structure is not for man, but for the Lord God. With all my resources I have provided for the temple of my God gold for the goldwork, silver for the silver, bronze for the bronze, iron for the iron, and wood for the wood, as well as onyx for the settings, turquoise stones or various colors, and all kinds of fine stones and marble; all of these in large quantities. Besides in my devotion to the temple of my God, I now give my personal treasures of gold and silver for the temple of my God, over and above everything I have provided for this holy temple: 3,000 talents of gold (gold of Ophir) and 7,000 talents of refined silver for the overlaying of the walls of the buildings; for the goldwork and the silverwork, and for all the work to be done by the craftsmen. Now who is willing to consecrate himself today to the Lord?”

(Fund raising affair for the temple!)

“Then the leaders of families, the officers of the tribes of Israel, the commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds, and the officials in charge of the king’s work gave willingly. They gave toward the work on the temple of God 5,000 talents and 10,000 darics of gold, 10,000 talents of silver, 18,000 talents of bronze, and 100,000 talents of iron. Any who had precious stones gave them to the treasury of the temple of the Lord in the custody of Jahiel the Gershonite.

“The people rejoiced at the willing response of their leaders, for they had given freely and wholeheartedly to the Lord. David the king also rejoiced greatly.”

“David praised the Lord in the presence of the whole assembly saying, ‘Praise be to you, O Lord, God of our father Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours; yours, O Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. Wealth and honor come from you. You are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. Now, our God, we give you thanks and praise your glorious name. But whom am I and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this. Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand. We are aliens and strangers in your sight, as were all our forefathers. Our days in earth are like a shadow without hope.

O Lord our God, as for all this abundance that we have provided for building you a temple, it comes from your hand and all of it belongs to you. I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity. All these things have I given willingly and with honest intent. And now I have seen with joy how willingly your people who are here have given to you. O Lord, God of our fathers Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, keep this desire in the hearts of your people forever, and keep their hearts loyal to you; and give my son Solomon the wholehearted devotion to keep your commands, requirements and decrees, and to do everything to build the palatial structure for which I have provided.'

“Then David said to the whole assembly, ‘Praise the Lord your God,’ so they all praised the Lord, the God of their fathers. They bowed low and fell prostrate before the Lord and the king.”

In 1 Chronicles 22:14 David says,

“I have taken great pains to provide for the temple of the Lord.”

David is letting go of sex, money and power, it is all part of dying and death is no respecter of persons, it comes to the rich and the poor, strong and the weak, young and the old.

The cameras switch from the palace, down to the party that Adonijah is having in verse 41.

v. 41 Adonijah and all the guests who were with him heard it as they were finishing their feast. On hearing the sound of the trumpet, Joab asked, “What’s the meaning of all the noise in the city?”

v. 42 Even as he was speaking, Jonathan son of Abiathar the priest arrived. Adonijah said, “Come in. A worthy man like you must be bringing good news.”

v. 43 “Not at all!” Jonathan answered. “Our lord King David has made Solomon king.

Jonathan makes it quite clear very quickly by a brief message: “Not at all! Our lord king David has made Solomon king.”

v. 44 The king has sent with him Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, Benaiah son of Jehoiada, the Kerethites and the Pelethites, and they have put him on the king’s mule,

v. 45 and Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet have anointed him king at Gihon. From there they have gone up cheering, and the city resounds with it. That’s the noise you hear.

v. 46 Moreover, Solomon has taken his seat on the royal throne.

You can just sense the silence and the fear and the tension rise as everyone strives to hear every word that Jonathan speaks.

v. 47 Also, the royal officials have come to congratulate our lord King David, saying, ‘May your God make Solomon’s name more famous than yours and his throne greater than yours!’ and the king bowed in worship on his bed,

v. 48 and said, ‘Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, who has allowed my eyes to see a successor on my throne today.’”

After this very sobering report given by Jonathan, we get the normal response in the next verse:

v. 49 At this, all Adonijah’s guests rose in alarm and dispersed.

v. 50 But Adonijah, in fear of Solomon, went and took hold of the horns of the altar.

v. 51 Then Solomon was told, “Adonijah is afraid of King Solomon and is clinging to the horns of the altar. He says, ‘Let King Solomon swear to me today that he will not put his servant to death with the sword.’”

v. 52 Solomon replied, “If he shows himself to be a worthy man, not a hair of his head will fall to the ground; but if evil is found in him, he will die.”

v. 53 Then King Solomon sent men, and they brought him down from the altar. And Adonijah came and bowed down to King Solomon, and Solomon said, “Go to your home.”

The conspiracy is put down,
Solomon is secure on the throne.
It is time for David to die, the death scene
is in the next few verses.

1 Kings 2: v.1 “When the time drew near for David to die, he gave a charge to Solomon his son.”

v. 2 “I am about to go the way of all the earth,” he said.
“So be strong, show yourself a man,

I am sure both of these commands are given
in light of the fact, that Solomon is such
a young man. “Be strong, show yourself a man.”

v. 3 and observe what the Lord your God requires; Walk in his ways, and keep his decrees and commands, his laws and requirements, as written in the Law of Moses, so that you may prosper in all you do and wherever you go,

**The key to your kingdom and prosperity
is the obedient heart. Stick to the book.**

**Does that come home loud and clear?
David has learned something in his three score
and ten and that is God blesses the obedient heart!**

**The miserable times in my life have been
when I've been disobedient to God and now
I'm telling you "Stick to the Book!"**

Joshua 1:8

**"Do not let this book of the law depart from your
mouth. Meditate on it day and night, so that you
may be careful to do everything written in it. Then
you will be prosperous and successful.**

Psalms 1:1-3

**"Blessed is the man who does not walk in the
counsel of the wicked, or stand in the way of
sinners, or sit in the seat of mockers; but his delight
is in the law of the Lord. And on his law he
meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted
by streams of water which yields its fruit in season,
and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does
prosper."**

1 Chron. 28:9

“And you, my son Solomon, acknowledge the God of your father, and serve him with wholehearted devotion, and with a willing mind. For the Lord searches every heart and understands every motive behind the thoughts. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will reject you forever.”

v. 4 and that the Lord may keep his promise to me; ‘If your descendants watch how they live, and if they walk faithfully before me with all their heart and soul, you will never fail to have a man on the throne of Israel.’

So this ends the charge of David to his son Solomon.

There are a number of personal matters that have been left unattended by David that now must be discharged by Solomon the new king.

v. 5 “Now you yourself know what Joab son of Zeruah did to me - - what he did to the two commanders of Israel’s armies, Abner son of Ner and Amasa son of Jether. He killed them, shedding their blood in peacetime as if in battle, and with that blood stained the belt around his waist and the sandals on his feet.

It is interesting that he doesn't mention Absalom at this point also.

v. 6 Deal with him according to your wisdom, but do not let his gray head go down to the grave in peace.

In other words put it to old Joab.
Even though I'm dying don't let him know I'm dead.

At this time it had become notorious throughout the whole land that the crimes of Joab and of Shimei were unavenged.

And this threatened to bring the law into great discredit.

And who was to blame for this?
David was fully conscious that it lay with him.

v. 7 "But show kindness to the sons of Barzillai of Gilead and let them be among those who eat at your table. They stood by me when I fled from your brother Absalom.

Now the king makes provision for these sons just like he has done for Mephibosheth, that they could eat at Solomon's table.

The reason for this provision: "They stood by me when I fled from your brother Absalom."

v. 8 “And remember, you have with you Shimei son of Gera, the Benjamite from Bahurim, who called down bitter curses on me the day I went to Mahanaim. When he came down to meet me at the Jordan, I swore to him by the Lord; ‘I will not put you to death by the sword.’

Shimei was the little creep throwing rocks and cursing at him.

v. 9 But now, do not consider him innocent. You are a man of wisdom; you will know what to do with him. Bring his gray head down to the grave in blood.”

v. 10 Then David rested with his fathers and was buried in the City of David.

v. 11 He had reigned forty years over Israel - - seven years in Hebron and thirty-three in Jerusalem.

v. 12 So Solomon sat on the throne of his father David, and his rule was firmly established.

2 Chron. 1:1

“Solomon, son of David, established himself firmly over his kingdom; for the Lord his God was with him and made him exceedingly great.”

Redpath says, “David’s lifework was over. His years of leadership and service at an end. At the conclusion of the journey, he had the opportunity of surveying his progress and asking himself how much of it had been permanent, vital and effective.

As he looked back, he recognized that he had only one thing to face: his accountability before God.

That was a tremendous moment in David’s life, and it will be an equally great moment in your life when it comes, as it surely will for us sooner or later.

Only God knows just when because our times are in his hands.

One day our last sermon will have been preached, our last testimony will have been given.

Our last piece of service will have been rendered.

But there is even now the opportunity to ask ourselves has my life been worthwhile.

Has it brought heaven any nearer?

Has it made the Lord Jesus more real and more precious to other?

How much of my work can stand the test of judgment before a Holy God?

Has any of it been gold, silver, precious stones, or has it been only wood, hay, and stubble?”

When money, sex and power are gone,
there is one thing left and do you know what that is?

That is your accountability to God.

You can't escape it, it's not going to leave you
and right now you are producing
a computer print out on your computer,
that is going to be read at the judgment seat
of Christ.

Your accountability before God is all that is left
when everything else is gone.

David has made his mistakes but he knew
where to run when he did it, and he got his heart,
right with God.

Lesson #1: God graciously provides for David's needs
even in his old age.

In essence in this last object lesson with Abishag he is
saying, "You know, I could have made you happy all
your life if you would just let me do it my way." I know
your needs and I can satisfy your needs.

Lesson #2: Adonijah put himself forward, and David
always waited for the Lord to promote him
(Psalm 75:6,7).

Lesson #3: David never really did know what was going on in the lives of his children.

I think every one of his kids were lonely. I think they felt bitter and resentment because dad never had time for them. I think they felt terribly misunderstood and short changed because they were children of a king of Israel.

Lesson #4: David takes immediate action so he can be faithful to fulfill his promise.

Right away on his death bed he takes the action necessary to keep his promise to Bathsheba. When I started thinking about Adonijah and what happened to him, I thought of Belshazzar in Daniel 5. An unseen hand wrote, ‘Mene,’ ‘Mene,’ ‘Tekel,’ ‘Parsin.’ you are weighed in the balance and found wanting- that is Adonijah.

Lesson #5: Adonijah found that he was “weighed in the balance and found wanting.”

He put himself forward but he was not God’s man. When the time came right down to it, he was weighed in the balance and found wanting. He was not going to be the next king.

Lesson #6: David focuses upon obedience to the word of God in his final charge to Solomon.

If you really want to learn something in the life of David, realize that most important priority in your life is obedience to the word of God. That is what this old man is telling you. Obedience is number one, it is critical, it's key.

Lesson #7: Prosperity results when we are obedient to his word.

God just blesses the obedient heart and he will yours too!

Lesson #8: David teaches us how to die.

He still is concerned over his son and the future. He accepts the fact that he himself is going away of all the earth.

Psalm 78:70-72

“He also chose David his servant, and took him from the sheepfolds, from the care of the ewes with suckling lambs. He brought him to shepherd Jacob his people, and Israel his inheritance. So he shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart, and guided them with his skillful hands.”

Psalm 79:13

“So we thy people and the sheep of thy pasture will give thanks to thee forever. To all generations we will tell of thy praise.”

Psalm 71:19

“For thy righteousness, O God, reaches to the heavens. Thou who has done great things, O God, who is like thee?”

Psalm 118:23,24

“This is the Lord’s doing. It is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day which the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.”

Psalm 126:5,6

“Those who sow in tears shall reap with joyful shouting. He who goes to and fro weeping, carrying his bag of seed shall indeed come again with a shout of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.”

Psalm 128:1,2

“How blessed is everyone who fears the Lord, who walks in his way. When you shall eat of the fruit of your hands, you’ll be happy, and it will be well with you.”

I think it would be altogether fitting as we conclude our series in the life of David to meditate upon the phrases of the 23rd Psalm:

“THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD”

Even when I fled into the land of the Philistines and lived in Ziklag.

Even when I tried to find my own happiness with Bathsheba on the roof of the palace.

“I SHALL LACK NOTHING”

He has abundantly met my needs at every turn!

“And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more.”

“HE MAKES ME LIE DOWN IN GREEN PASTURES”

You gave me a kingdom, a palace, a capital city, and the ark of God.

“HE LEADS ME BESIDE THE QUIET WATERS”

There would have been more of these times if I had just been more patient and let you lead.

“HE RESTORES MY SOUL”

When you sent Jonathan to me and sustained me in

the ashes of Ziklag, and forgave me of my sin.

**“HE GUIDES ME IN THE PATHS OF
RIGHTEOUSNESS”**

**“The steps and stops of a good man are ordered by
the Lord” and a lot of times I want to stray.**

“FOR HIS NAME’S SAKE”

**By doing this, you have made the enemies of the
Lord show utter contempt. To you be the glory!
Great things you have done!**

**“EVEN THOUGH I WALK THROUGH THE VALLEY OF
THE SHADOW OF DEATH”**

**I sure was here a lot with the deaths of four of my
children, and the desires of Saul and Absalom
to kill me. (Samuel, Saul, Jonathan)**

“I WILL FEAR NO EVIL”

**Because you “work all things together for good” in
our lives.**

“FOR YOU ARE WITH ME”

**And that should have been enough, but a lot of
times I felt all alone down here and didn’t**

realize your presence.

“YOUR ROD AND YOUR STAFF THEY COMFORT ME”

During the times I let you lead and sensed your guidance in my life.

“YOU PREPARE A TABLE BEFORE ME IN THE PRESECE OF MY ENEMIES”

It was so great of you to send Shobi, Makir, and Barzillai with all that food and supplies when we got to Mahanaim, fleeing from Absalom. (You sent Abigail with all those supplies!)

“YOU ANOINT MY HEAD WITH OIL”

Three times: When I was 16, by the hands of Samuel. At 30, by the elders of Judah. And 37(1/2) by both Israel and Judah.

“MY CUP OVERFLOWS”

Especially the day we brought the ark to Jerusalem and I danced with all my might before the Lord. (What can I say? You are wonderful! I am richly blessed! You are so good!)

“SURELY GOODNESS AND LOVE WILL FOLLOW ME”

They have for 70 years, and I know he won't stop now.

“ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE”

“So teach us to number our days and to apply our hearts to wisdom.” (I had my 3 score and 10!)

“AND I WILL DWELL IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD FOREVER”

This is where his road leads, and I sure want to go there.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read 1 Kings 1:1-2:12 several times and in your own words outline what is happening in the life of David.
2. What provision is made for David by his servants in his old age, according to verses 1-4?
3. Who tries to become king in David's place, according to verse 5?
4. What does Nathan advise Bathsheba to do, according to verses 12-14?
5. How does David respond to this crisis, according to verses 28-30?
6. What commands does King David give to Zadok in verses 32-35?
7. What is the charge that David gives to Solomon in chapter 2:2-4?
8. Who are the last three people that David speaks of before he dies in verses 5-9?
9. Which verse in the study has meant the most to you?
10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

LESSON #1: God graciously provides for David's needs even in his old age.

LESSON #2: Adonijah put himself forward, and David always waited for the Lord to promote him (Psalm 75:6, 7).

LESSON #3: David never really did know what was going on in the lives of his children.

LESSON #4: David takes immediate action so he can be faithful to fulfill his promise.

LESSON #5: Adonijah found that he was "weighed in the balances and found wanting."

LESSON #6: David focuses upon obedience to the Word of God in his final charge to Solomon.

LESSON #7: Prosperity results when we are obedient to His Word.

LESSON #8: David teaches us how to die.