



A BETTER KING

A SERIES IN 2 SAMUEL



2 Samuel 10 – Resisting The King

May 28, 2023

Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate. Psalm 127:3–5 (ESV)

Background

1. The Ammonites rejected David's kindness.

*After this the king of the Ammonites died, and Hanun his son reigned in his place.
2 Samuel 10:1 (ESV)*

And David said, "I will deal loyally with Hanun the son of Nahash, as his father dealt loyally with me." ... 2 Samuel 10:2a (ESV)

So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith. Galatians 6:10 (ESV)

*...but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone.
1 Thessalonians 5:15 (ESV)*

*...So David sent by his servants to console him concerning his father....
2 Samuel 10:2b (ESV)*

...And David's servants came into the land of the Ammonites. 2 Samuel 10:2c (ESV)

But the princes of the Ammonites said to Hanun their lord, "Do you think, because David has sent comforters to you, that he is honoring your father? Has not David sent his servants to you to search the city and to spy it out and to overthrow it?"
2 Samuel 10:3 (ESV)

- If you think the worst of other people, you will wrongfully assume they think the worst of you.
- Those who assume the worst of others reveal the darkness of their own heart.
- In the church, with brothers and sisters who have the Holy Spirit in their hearts, it is sinful to assume the worst of motives instead of the best.

So Hanun took David's servants and shaved off half the beard of each and cut off their garments in the middle, at their hips, and sent them away. 2 Samuel 10:4 (ESV)

When it was told David, he sent to meet them, for the men were greatly ashamed. And the king said, "Remain at Jericho until your beards have grown and then return."
2 Samuel 10:5 (ESV)

2. Assuming the worst of people and trying to get even leads to hostility.

If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.
Romans 12:18 (ESV)

When the Ammonites saw that they had become a stench to David,...
2 Samuel 10:6a (ESV)

...the Ammonites sent and hired the Syrians of Beth-rehob, and the Syrians of Zobah, 20,000 foot soldiers, and the king of Maacah with 1,000 men, and the men of Tob, 12,000 men. 2 Samuel 10:6b (ESV)

And when David heard of it, he sent Joab and all the host of the mighty men.
2 Samuel 10:7 (ESV)

And the Ammonites came out and drew up in battle array at the entrance of the gate, and the Syrians of Zobah and of Rehob and the men of Tob and Maacah were by themselves in the open country. 2 Samuel 10:8 (ESV)

When Joab saw that the battle was set against him both in front and in the rear...
2 Samuel 10:9a (ESV)

...he chose some of the best men of Israel and arrayed them against the Syrians. The rest of his men he put in the charge of Abishai his brother, and he arrayed them against the Ammonites. 2 Samuel 10:9b–10 (ESV)

And he said, "If the Syrians are too strong for me, then you shall help me, but if the Ammonites are too strong for you, then I will come and help you."
2 Samuel 10:11 (ESV)

Be of good courage, and let us be courageous for our people, and for the cities of our God... 2 Samuel 10:12a (ESV)

"...and may the LORD do what seems good to him." 2 Samuel 10:12 (ESV)

So Joab and the people who were with him drew near to battle against the Syrians, and they fled before him. 2 Samuel 10:13 (ESV)

And when the Ammonites saw that the Syrians fled, they likewise fled before Abishai and entered the city.... 2 Samuel 10:14a (ESV)

...Then Joab returned from fighting against the Ammonites and came to Jerusalem.
2 Samuel 10:14 (ESV)

3. It is our pride that won't let hostilities end.

But when the Syrians saw that they had been defeated by Israel, they gathered themselves together. 2 Samuel 10:15 (ESV)

And Hadadezer sent and brought out the Syrians who were beyond the Euphrates. They came to Helam, with Shobach the commander of the army of Hadadezer at their head. 2 Samuel 10:16 (ESV)

And when it was told David, he gathered all Israel together and crossed the Jordan and came to Helam... 2 Samuel 10:17 (ESV)

...The Syrians arrayed themselves against David and fought with him. And the Syrians fled before Israel, and David killed of the Syrians the men of 700 chariots, and 40,000 horsemen, and wounded Shobach the commander of their army, so that he died there.
2 Samuel 10:17b–18 (ESV)

And the LORD gave victory to David wherever he went. 2 Samuel 8:6b (ESV)

And when all the kings who were servants of Hadadzezer saw that they had been defeated by Israel, they made peace with Israel and became subject to them...

2 Samuel 10:19 (ESV)

...So the Syrians were afraid to save the Ammonites anymore. 2 Samuel 10:19 (ESV)

Applications

- 1. There are three ways people responded to the kindness of David, God's chosen king.**
 - A. Mephibosheth embraced it and was richly blessed because of it.
 - B. The Ammonites resisted the king's kindness and were ultimately destroyed because of it.
 - C. The Syrians resisted the kindness of David and suffered, but they repented. They made peace with David and were blessed.
- 2. There are three ways we can respond to the kindness of Jesus, God's chosen king.**
 - A. Like Mephibosheth, we can embrace God's kindness through Jesus and be richly blessed. We will even be adopted as brothers and sisters of Jesus, God's eternal king.
 - B. Like the Ammonites, we can resist the kindness of Jesus. That always leads to judgment and destruction.
 - C. Like the Syrians, we can move from resisting the kindness of Jesus and suffering because of that to embracing the kindness of Jesus and being blessed by Jesus the King.

Life Group Questions

1. **Read 2 Samuel 10.** What did you learn in this chapter that you didn't know before?
2. David went out of his way to show kindness to an evil Ammonite king. What does this teach us about the importance of showing kindness to people around us that are far from God? Who are the evil Ammonites of our time? In what practical ways can we be like David and show them kindness?
3. **Read Psalm 2.** This Psalm speaks of the futility of the kings of the earth resisting David, God's chosen king. As we learn in verse 12, the only way forward is to take refuge in God's chosen king instead of resisting him. While this Psalm is about David, it is ultimately about Jesus. How do verses 7 to 9 of this chapter reveal that this Psalm is ultimately about Jesus? While is it futile to resist Jesus instead of taking refuge in Jesus?
4. **Read 2 Samuel 10:12.** What does this verse teach us about the importance of doing our best? What does this verse teach us about leaving both the painful and good results in God's hands?
5. This chapter concludes with David at the height of his powers. Why are we most vulnerable when things are going well?