

How to Rebuild

2 Samuel 2:1-7

January 10, 2010

Intro

We come now to the book of second Samuel. The book of first Samuel covers the time when Saul was king over Israel. We saw Saul's rise to power, his disobedience to the Lord, his being rejected by God as king after Saul had rejected God as king. We then saw Saul become jealous and fearful over David's meteoric rise after he had slain Goliath. And finally, in the final chapters of the book, Saul died along with three of his sons.

We also watched as David was anointed to become the next king of Israel in his youth. But he would not become king for many years. He spent those years on the run from Saul. These were years he spent in caves and in other hiding places, always looking over his shoulder.

But this was also the time when God was preparing David for the calling He had placed on his life. David most certainly wasn't perfect, so, as we saw last week, we learn both from the thrill of his victories as well as from the agony of his defeats.

It's interesting that as we come to the book of second Samuel, David was coming out of the darkest, most difficult time he had yet faced in his life. For 16 long months, David had been out of the will of God. He had become discouraged and weary from running from Saul and so he decided to go over and live with the Philistines. But things went from bad to worse and finally came to the point where he had lost everything, literally.

What's encouraging about this is that since none of us are perfect either, we can all learn from how David responded when his life got to the very bottom.

The title of the message is, "How to Rebuild." Since that darkest, most bleak point of discouragement, David has been rebuilding his life. Every one of us needs to pay close attention because either we ourselves need to rebuild our lives, or we most certainly know someone who does.

I. Rebuild Your Relationship to the Lord

- 1 From studying the life of David, it becomes obvious that David had been sliding backwards in his relationship to the Lord.
- 2 There is no question that he started out as a man of powerful faith. His confrontation with Goliath was clear evidence that David had amazing faith, faith that encouraged everyone who was there that day as well as all of us today.
- 3 But David became weary. His soul became discouraged by the relentless pressure of being on the run for so many years. Finally, David made the terrible mistake of seeking shelter amongst his enemies.
- 4 There's an old saying, "It's not the mountains ahead that wear you down; it's the

pebble in your shoe."

- 5 This reminds me of when the apostle Paul challenged the church in Galatia...

Galatians 5:7, You were running well; who hindered you from obeying the truth?

- 6 But when things came to their darkest, bleakest point, David began to rebuild his relationship to the Lord. He knew that was what he needed to do.

A. Strengthen yourself in the Lord

- 7 When we start from the point of David's darkest night, the point at which everything was lost; when even his companions were speaking of stoning him, and then watch the rebuilding process, what we must see here is that David responded by strengthening himself in the Lord.
- 8 This is what separated him from everyone else there. They had all wept, even to the point where there was no strength left in them to weep. But David did something that no one else there thought to do; he strengthened himself in the Lord.
- 9 There are several places in the bible where we are given this reminder. For example, when Paul and Silas were on their missionary journeys, at one point, they were arrested, falsely accused, and thrown into prison.

Acts 16:22-25 Paul and Silas strengthened themselves in the Lord...

Illus – When I was young and being worldly, it was the Psalms that I wanted to minister to my soul.

Isaiah 40:27-31 Wait for the Lord and gain new strength.

B. Take every thought captive

- 1 When we look at what went wrong for David, it becomes clear that he allowed his thoughts to get off track.
- 2 In other words, the words we speak to ourselves are the key both to our defeat and to our victory.
- 3 At the point where David had become weary and discouraged...

1 Samuel 27:1, Then David said to himself, "Now I will perish one day by the hand of Saul. There is nothing better for me than to escape into the land of the Philistines. Saul then will despair of searching for me anymore in all the territory of Israel, and I will

escape from his hand.”

- 4 These are the thoughts of someone who has become so worried and discouraged that he no longer trusts in God’s hand in his life. His faith had decreased along with his strength.
- 5 So the process of being strengthened in the Lord must include confronting our own thoughts of defeat, of discouragement, and of despair. We have to confront our own thoughts when those thoughts are the words of defeat.

2 Corinthians 10:5, We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,

- 6 There is a great example of this in Psalm 42...

Psalm 42:5, Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.

- 7 What we need at that moment is to have our faith increased. That means we need to have the words of faith in our heart and in our soul because these are the words which strengthen us in the Lord.

Romans 10:17, So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

- 8 Jesus said something very similar when he spoke to those who had believed in Him...

John 8:32, “If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”

C. Ask God what He wants for your life

- 9 What becomes obvious to us as we watch David’s meteoric fall is that at some point David no longer asked God what He wanted David to do.
- 10 Maybe it was all the stress that David was under. Maybe it was the discouragement of being considered an outcast. But for whatever reason, David wasn’t asking God what it was that God wanted him to do.
- 11 But when David decided to rebuild his life-- and it’s important for us to take note of it-- David immediately started asking God for direction again.

1 Samuel 30:6b-8 David inquired of the Lord

- 1 God takes him back because he comes back with a right heart.

Illus – God doesn't say to David, "Well, look who's back. I haven't heard from you for 16 months!" David comes with a right heart and that's the key.

- 2 When we come to second Samuel chapter 2, David is found again inquiring of the Lord. This is an absolute key to spiritual maturity because our thoughts and our ways are commonly what get us into so much trouble in the first place.

Proverbs 3:5-6, Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.

- 3 This absolutely is a key to rebuilding your life.
- 4 This is also what separates him from Saul. In 1 Samuel 28, Saul had also come to the darkest night of his life, when everything was falling apart.
- 5 But instead of coming to the Lord with the right heart, instead of renewing his faith, instead of strengthening himself in the Lord, he tried to force God's hand.
- 6 As unbelievable as it may sound, Saul tried to get Samuel to tell him what to do by going to a witch, a medium at En-Dor.
- 7 The problem is that Saul's heart was not right with God. David got his heart right with God first and then came to God for direction.

Illus – Unless the heart is changed it's like a rebellious youth hearing instruction from their parents. They have to want to change before any real change will happen in their lives. They're not going to *want* to do what they need to do without a change of heart first.

II. Rebuild Your Character as Well

- 1 When David's faith began to be compromised, his character became compromised as well.
- 2 When David was out of God's will he began to do things that were out of God's will as well.
- 3 But when we see David rebuilding his life, we also see him rebuilding his character.

A. Let go of bitterness

- 1 After David was made king over the tribe of Judah, someone came to him and told

him, "It was the men of Jabesh-Gilead who buried Saul."

- 2 So David sent messengers to them saying, "May you be blessed of the Lord because you have shown this kindness to Saul."
- 3 Oh how easy it would have been for David to have become bitter in his heart because of all that Saul had done to him.
- 4 What a great lesson for all of us when we see David letting go of bitterness, not holding onto a grudge, not becoming an angry and bitter person. It really is amazing when you think about how long Saul had been a problem in David's life.

Hebrews 12:14-15, Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble,

Ephesians 4:31, Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.

- 1 Bitterness poisons the well of our heart and then affects everything else in our lives.

B. Cultivate faithfulness

- 5 David said to the men of Jabesh Gilead that he asked that God show lovingkindness and truth to them for all that they had done for Saul.
- 6 Then he said that he also would show this goodness to them as well.
- 7 In other words, David has not only let go of bitterness he set his course to do good in their lives who were formally against him.
- 8 This will become the key in David's life. If he is going to rebuild his life he must walk in the faithfulness of God in his heart and character.
- 9 In other words, if you're getting your life back on the right path, then you must stay on that path. Keep walking in faithfulness and God will bless you because of it.

Psalm 37:3, 5, Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness... Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, and He will do it.