

SERMON NOTES

MARCH 7, 2021

Start by praying and asking for God's help as you seek to grow as authentic followers of Jesus.

LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

1. Read 2 Samuel 19:1-10. Make a few observations. What do we discover about David in these verses? How does Joab respond? Why is there so much tension amongst the people?
2. This section of 2 Samuel sometimes feels like one story is being repeated over and over. What does this say about sin, human nature and human society?

Note: If it helps, have someone in the group summarize what happens in 2 Samuel 19-21.

3. In David's return to Jerusalem and his attempts to bring people back together, how does pride keep God's people from finding unity?
4. In chapters 19-21, what is something positive that stood out to you (a person you really liked, a phrase or statement that rang true, an experience you admire, a character trait you appreciate, etc)?
5. How do these chapters help you understand God? How do they exalt Jesus and his atonement for our sins?

LIVING IT OUT

6. How would you describe the differences between a relationship with King Jesus that is merely self-centered and pragmatic versus a relationship with King Jesus that is deeply loyal and faithful?
7. Are you tempted to take the authority of God's Word seriously when it affirms your view and less seriously when it contradicts your preferences? Why or why not?
8. Why is it important to trust God's word about both the judgment of sin and the atonement for sin? Why are both necessary teachings of Scripture?
9. The cross of Christ and the atonement should bring us both wonder and horror at the same time. Do you think we risk minimizing the severity of the atonement in our Christian culture: wearing crosses around our neck, singing songs about the cross, taking weekly communion, etc? While there is certainly nothing wrong with these things (they are generally good things!), how do we honor the painful sacrifice and serious nature of Jesus' cross in our worship?
10. How does the truth of the gospel give us hope as we trust Jesus with our sin and walk through the consequences of sin? What is a promise of God you will hold onto this week to encourage you and give you hope?