

2Samuel 18:33–19:8

“True Help for True Grief”

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How does God show mercy to David in his intense grief? Pastor leads his family in today’s “Hopewell @Home” passage. 2Samuel 18:33–19:8 prepares us for the second serial reading in the morning public worship on the coming Lord’s Day. In these nine verses of holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that when our grief is intense, we need to see that we still have the Lord Himself, so that we will not be blind either to all of the blessings that He continues unto us (Him Himself, most of all!), or to the pains of others to whom we ought to be ministering. For David, the Lord gives this sight especially by giving him a true friend who will remind him of this truth, and a soft heart to be able to listen to his friend.

Thursday, August 5, 2021 ▫ Read 2Samuel 18:33–19:8

Questions from the Scripture text: What effect does the Cushite’s news have upon the king (v33)? Where does he go? What does he do there? And what does he say as he goes? What does he say he wishes had happened? Who is told about this in 19:1? Who else were mourning (v2)? How had victory changed into that? What were the people doing as they returned (v3)? Like what sort of people? But what was their king still doing (v4)? And saying? With what sort of speech and voice? Who comes to the king in v5? What does Joab say he is doing to his servants? And what had the servants done for whom? In the beginning of v6, how does Joab summarize the king’s actions? What does he say David is not regarding? What does he say would have well-pleased David? What does Joab command the king to do in v7? By whom does Joab now swear? What does he swear will happen? With what effect? What does the king now do in v8? Who hear of it? What do they do? Why are David’s people free to do this (end of v8)?

What a gift an honest friend is! The Lord had given David and his men victory and vengeance over Absalom. But David’s sluggish heart threatened to undo them. His life had become about his own objectives, as he grieved over what he had to lose for the Lord’s kingdom to be preserved.

That should (probably?) sound familiar. How often, our priorities have been about those other things that we are unwilling to give up rather than about the glory of Christ’s Name in the salvation of Christ’s people.

Family can be the hardest of all. In Luke 14:26, Christ says, “If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.” For David, he couldn’t endure the loss of his son. So many of us have a hard time giving up entertainment, or wicked companions, sports team allegiances, property or possessions, etc. But some of us (many of us?) do actually have to suffer the loss of family (or at least their love).

When we are having a hard time clinging to the Lord and rejoicing over His goodness, it is a great mercy when He sends us a friend like Joab was to David. Absalom has been eliminated, and David’s power as king has been consolidated. But Joab stands up to him. Indeed, Joab gives him the rebuke of his life in vv5–6 and the warning of his life in v7. If we are ever in a situation where our hearts are paralyzed by a secondary allegiance like David’s was, may the Lord send us a friend with the honesty and courage of Joab!

And, if we have a dear one who needs heart and mind set back upon Christ, and Christ’s kingdom, may the Lord make us gracious by His Spirit, wise by His Spirit, and courageous by His Spirit to call our dear one back to Him!

What are you in danger of not being able to give up for Christ? Who is likely to be the one God uses to help you correct your priorities? Whom might you likely have to help some day?

Suggested Songs: ARP119W “Lord, Let My Cry Before You Come” or TPH446 “Be Thou My Vision”

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording referenced above)

Second Samuel. 18 verse 33, through 19.

And verse 8. These are God's words when the king was deeply moved and went up to the chamber, over the gate and whacked. And as he went, he said thus, oh my son, absolutely, my son, my son. Amazon, if only I had died in your place. So absolute my son.

My son, the job was told behold. The king is weeping and warning for absolute. So the victory that day was turned into morning for all the people For the people heard. It said that day, the king is grieved for his son and the people stole back into the city that day is people who are ashamed.

Steal away when they flee and battle. But the king covered his face and the king cried out with a loud voice. Oh my son. Absolutely. My son, my son, then Joe Ebb came into the house to the king and said today, you have disgraced all your servants who today have saved your life, the lives of your sons and daughters, the lives of your wives and the lives of your concubines and that you love your enemies and hate your friends.

For you, have declared today that you regard, neither princess nor servants for today. I perceive that if absent had lived and all of us had died today, then it would have pleased you. Well, now, therefore arise go out and speak comfort to your servants. If I swear, by y'all way, if you do not go out, no one will stay with you this night and that will be worse for you than all the evil that has before and you from your youth.

Until now then the king arose and sat in the gate and they told all the people saying there is the king sitting in the gate. So all the people came before the king for everyone of Israel had fled to his tent so far the reading of God's inspired and errant worked.

First thing that I think we need to notice as how great and real. The grief of David was here, we're going to see some dangers that face us. When we have grief, we're going to see hopefully right way of responding to and thinking about God in dealing with our grief.

But in order for you to be able to bring this home to your heart, you need to see that this is probably among the most intense grief or pain that you can ever have. Why? Because whatever you're dealing with in your life you need to not give yourself the excuse when you come to a passage like this and say, yeah.

But it really wasn't that big a deal. Yeah. David shouldn't have been such a crybaby, my pain. However, is a huge deal. No, is pain was as big a deal, as he says, it could get because absent, his son, his son, his son, his son, his son, his son, his son, okay?

So seven times in the passage, you hear David cry out my son? This was a son who had raised himself up against the Lord's. Anointed had raised himself up against the Lord's people and he had died in his sin. David is the sweet psalmist of Israel. David is the one who cares?

So much about what the Lord sees. In his in his own heart, David understands the importance of the spiritual condition of an eternal soul. And as far as he knows, his son has just perished in his sins. I would endure God helping me anything rather than have one of you go through the motions and fake it in our family and learn how to talk like a Christian but to secretly live for yourself.

And for your pleasure, and for your own praise, and not really treasure the Lord Jesus, as your Savior, from your sins. Your God who died for you. I'll give anything rather than have you turn out at last to be a false professor of faith that you would not be on the inside that new person whom God has given life to trust in Jesus.

The worst thing, I can think of the worst thing I could think of, in this life would be to for for all appearances. Think that one of you had perished in your sin? So what David is going through here is the you know as unimaginably painful and yet excellent had set himself as up as the enemy of God and the enemy of the Lord's.

Anointed the one who had to be shattered with that iron scepter with which Jesus will shatter. All those who raised themselves up against him according to Psalm 2, and we learned from chapter 17 in verse 14, the God had purposed to destroy to destroy Absalom. We have to be able to be like Job in the most intensive grief admit that the Lord is within his rights.

And humble ourselves under his hand. You know, Job had a similar, similar problem. Yes. His children appeared to be godly. But remember he would offer that sacrifice because he thought that maybe his children in their hearts were not as they appeared on the surface. And now all of his children had been killed and one fell swoop and he doesn't have secret insights to know why.

And certainly it must have occurred to him. Even as his wife is saying, Kurt's, God. And I it must have occurred to him that perhaps his children were not saved, we're not converted and yet. God blessed that man to have the grace to humble himself, under the Lord's, mighty hand, David needed to have the Lord, as first and we could see in part that he doesn't because of what Joe had to confront him with.

And so we moved from seeing the intensity of David's pain to that, which enables us to deal rightly and healthfully with our pain. So, the people are sneaking back into the city, David ascend, against them all. They said he had 10,000 of us aren't worth. One of you, we're willing to spend 10,000 of our lives in order to save just yours our king and he has come back and said, you know, I'd rather spend all of your lives and my life together.

In order to gain in order to gain absolves a horrible thing for him to communicate to them. And when Joe Ab confronts him with that, this is one of the great dangers of not dealing with our pain and well is that if we are absorbed with our own pain then we do not notice the pain of others and even if we are the ones causing that pain, which David was the one who was hurting all his people, Joe confronts him with that.

He says today you have disgraced all your servants who today have saved your life, the lives of your

sons and daughters the lives of your wife's, the lives of your concubine's. So he stresses to David all that all that David has all that the Lord has spared today, but we're saying in the question time, you may lose everything in this life, like the apostles lost in, Jesus warning them about it, and Luke 21 that those who are nearest to them.

Would betray them and turn them over and everyone would hate them and they would become prisoners. And yet it would be for them. The most precious thing and opportunity to give testimony for the Lord Jesus. And they would have him that would have his testimony. That would have the opportunity to serve him.

Jesus had warned the GD. And Christians that they might lose everything, and they should be willing to lose everything that they might have in. Then he tells us to take your hearts, don't waste your life. Either living for fun, or living for sin, or being anxious instead, be willing to lose everything because you have Christ, he is your Redeemer and he is your redemption when he appears in the youth.

The sky, your redemption will ever arrived. The arrival of his kingdom is more than anything to you. You want to be able to stand in the day of the Son of Man. And so right now in your life, you need to be counting Christ more than everything to you, even more than Mom and Dad.

So that if you lose everything else, you will bless the Lord Jesus for how you have had him and a mom and dad, he gave you and the time that you had with them and the fact that the best thing he gave you in, our house was to know him and to have him because you'll still have him known can take him away from you.

None of these things says the apostle separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus, and you may have the opportunity to testify him for him or to suffer well with him or to encourage new Christians, they that he brings you into contact with to be used to convert others, who become your new family in the Lord.

Jesus is the only one, the only thing you can ever you can never lose, but the one who clings to God, as his everything focuses, even though he may lose much. And David has lost much. And yet, he ought to focus on what he still has from the Lord.

And especially the Lord himself and Joab is sent goes to David and reminds him that the Lord has spared his life. It allies of his sons and daughters lives of his wife's lives is calculus have and it is a great blessing to David. The Lord has spared to him Joe at now, Joab has been a pain at times.

And what, what Joab does isn't always isn't always helpful. And yet in times, like, when David wants to take the, the sinful census and this time and others, Joab is a blessing to David because he's honest with him to the Lord, may send you a friend who is honest with you, who points out to you that you are not focused on what you should be.

That's a that's a gift that's a blessing from the Lord. And you may have some day to have to exercise the wisdom and have graced to understand when there's no one else, who's job it is. And who has the the insight and the courage to speak to someone. And you may need to confront them especially if you are one day, a husband or a wife, you may be in the position where you're the only one in the world who can say that face to your spouse or if you one day or in the position of a parent and is you're assigned job from God to tell his truth to your child, even though they, you don't know how it will be received, and you're praying that they will be soft.

Hearted like David was here to receive the rebuke from JOANN or if you're an elder and it's your job with the person in the church and you can't just sit around and hope that they will get it, but you have to go and tell them you looking for wisdom and grace, tell it in the right way.

And and so someone who will tell the truth is a gift from the Lord. The ability to receive that truth is a gift from the Lord gift, by which we pray that we would have our hearts turn back to you counting God, as our only ultimate good and receiving every other good as from his hand and receiving even our pain as from his hand, and crying out to him in it as he will deliver us out of it, okay?

So, so, Joab continues and that you love your enemies, and hate your friends. For you've declared today that you regard, neither princess nor servants for today. I perceive that violent had lived and all of us had died today. It would have pleased you. Well, now, therefore arise go out and speak, come go out and speak comfort to your servants, okay?

So remember, you're still a king and you need to realize what God has done for you so you can do your job, it's gate. And right now, you're job is to thank and encourage all these people who risked their lives for you today. There's no danger from Israel. Everyone of Israel had fled to his tent.

The king's servants are safe from Israel, but they need to be led by the king in being encouraged and Joab. Even threatens that if the king will not do this, then he'll do it himself to the king's detriment to the king's harm. So, he says for I swear by Yolly, you do not go out.

No one will stay with you this night and that will be worse for you than all the evil that has before in you from your youth. Until now then the king arose and sat in the gate and they told all the people saying there is the king sitting in the gate.

So all the people came before the king. So mercy from God that he gives David the soft-heartedness. The tender heartedness to receive this correction from Joe and mercy, not just for the nation. But for David may the Lord help us even with our most intense real pain be able to come to the Lord and receive comfort, and be able to see all that the good that the Lord has given us.

Most of all that. The one thing that we can never lose is the Lord himself is the Lord Jesus himself. The love of God in Christ Jesus. Nothing can separate us from that love, not any, not any trial, not any attack. Not any loss. In this life, there will be no loss in the next for those who belong to him.

In Christ spray. We thank you Lord for giving us yourself pray that when in your wisdom we have great and intense loss or grief that you would make our cry to come before you that your word would remind us that we have you that your word would call us back to yourself that your spirit would remind us of your work and call us back to yourself that we would be able to see the pain of others and to love them.

And that that you would keep us from sin. We pray. Lord that you would send to us friends and counselors like Joab who will be honest with us and serious with us. Pray that when we are in that position you would help us to be honest and serious with others.

We pray for soft heartedness towards you into your word that we would be correctable. We pray that you would be glorified by doing us this good, and ask all these things in Jesus name. Amen.