

# Tales of the Shepherd King

## 5 – The King in Worship

### 2 Samuel 6-7

#### Obedience

- God is the one who sets the terms in the relationship
  - Leeway isn't granted just because you're a king or a victorious conqueror
  - Exodus 25.10-14 – Poles and rings seem like little things, but little things matter in obedience (it's often in the little things that the state of our heart is revealed – we think we can do what we want because we're forgiven)
  - Why do we think we can do God's work without doing it God's way?
- His holiness tolerates no sin
  - Uzzah thought his hand was cleaner than God's dirt
  - What we think we're getting away with OR are doing with good intentions will not go unpunished
- Sin will always bring death
  - Result: anger, fear, and distance
    - Anger at ourselves, those who told us, those it affected, at God
    - Fear – not godly awe but worldly fright
    - Distance – we walk away or imagine Him elsewhere (relational distance, not physical)
  - Just because sin is deadly doesn't mean God isn't good – He blessed the house of Obed-Edom and often uses this kindness to bring us to repentance (Romans 2.4)

#### Freedom

- There's no freedom to worship when we're bound up in sin – get you some poles!
  - 1 Chron 15.13-15 – when we obey, we are free! When we disobey, we are enslaved (cf. John 8.34)
- Those who know forgiveness the best know freedom the best (Luke 7 – the one who is forgiven much loves much)
- God's Presence roused worship
  - Worship was joyful
  - Worship was sacrificial (sacrifices and ephod)
  - Worship was bodily (all his might – dancing)
    - If worship doesn't involve your body, it probably doesn't qualify
  - Worship was loud (shout)
  - Why were they so wound up? Because when the Presence of God comes, everything He is comes too
    - SIGN at Cherry Point Marine Air Station Havelock, NC – Pardon our noise, it's the sound of freedom

- To those who struggle with another's freedom and to those who experience judgment because of freedom, God says the same thing: keep your eyes on me

## Courage

- David was disappointed
  - He thought He had God's blessing to go forward, but ended up hearing No
- David sat with God
  - The urge in most of us is to run from God
  - This included being willing to struggle to believe a promise God gave
- David gained perspective
  - "It's better that You make a house for me than I make a house for You"
  - Psalm 73.12ff

## Questions for Discussion

1. Beginning with the broader picture of the sermon (Obedience, Freedom, and Courage), which one do you most identify with when you think about worship? Which do you identify with least? Why is that? What is in your spiritual history such that you lean that way?
2. What is one "little thing" (like poles and rings) that you consistently struggle with to bring into obedience to God? People may not even be able to identify it for you but you know you struggle with it (e.g. words to your spouse, shaming your kids, a substance, etc.).
3. How does God consistently link freedom and obedience? Read John 8.31-32 and John 8.34. How does God link forgiveness and freedom? Read Luke 7.36-47. How does that story help understand the concept?
4. In the sermon, we emphasized that when God's Presence comes, all that He is comes with it. That arrival often prompts worship in us. Read 2 Samuel 6.12-16. How did David react? How does your expression of worship line up with his?
5. Michal was embarrassed by David's freedom before the Lord. Do you more often find yourself embarrassed in light of other's freedom (like Michal) or free in ways that cause others some consternation (like David)? What is your typical response? How can you learn from both David and Michal to live in the freedom (particularly in worship) that God grants us?
6. When is a time when you had to come before God courageously instead of running from Him? What happened when you did? Have there been other times you have run from God instead of running to Him? What was the outcome for you in that?