

Celebrated
June 17, 2018
Allen Power

2 Samuel 5:9-12; 6:12-19

Opening Question: **What are some examples of an event in life that would make even the most reserved person happy enough to dance with joy?**

Let's begin our study by reading in 2 Samuel chapter five verse one reading in the New Living Translation (I've underlined key points.)

¹Then all the tribes of Israel went to David at Hebron and told him, "We are your own flesh and blood. ²In the past, when Saul was our king, you were the one who really led the forces of Israel. And the Lord told you, 'You will be the shepherd of my people Israel. You will be Israel's leader.'"

³So there at Hebron, King David made a covenant before the Lord with all the elders of Israel. And they anointed him king of Israel.

- Two decades after Samuel anointed David, he is King of all of Israel.
- The leaders of the ten tribes spoke truth: "...*the Lord told you, 'You will be the shepherd of my people Israel.'*"
- God promised David would be king then for years Israel's king Saul tried to kill him. **What does scripture tell us about David's faith during those dark years? What can you and I learn from David's example?**
- Truth for us: When God makes a promise, He keeps it. David had exhibited tremendous patience and obedience and God honored that. Most of us would have thrown in the towel. David trusted God's promise.

David Captures Jerusalem

⁶David then led his men to Jerusalem to fight against the Jebusites, the original inhabitants of the land who were living there. The Jebusites taunted David, saying, "You'll never get in here! Even the blind and lame could keep you out!" For the Jebusites thought they

were safe. ⁷ But David captured the fortress of Zion, which is now called the City of David.

- God had commanded the Israelites to conquer the Jebusites (Ex. 34:11; Deut 7:1–2; 20:17) but it never happened.
- David’s army was setting this right.
- Jerusalem made strategic sense as David’s capital city! The hilltop fortress of Zion bordered on three sides by valleys was easily defended.
- It was so fortified that the Jebusites felt invincible. A clever “water shaft” plan was David’s tactic. God’s power ensured David’s success.
- Jerusalem wasn’t just strategically important; it was the geographical center of God’s amazing plan to save mankind. It’s still in the center of God’s plan today and will be for eternity.
- Taking Jerusalem was a daunting, but God gave Israel’s army the victory.
- Truth for us: If we will obey what God has called us to do, He will do what He always does – make a way when it seems there is no way!

⁹ So David made the fortress his home, and he called it the City of David. He extended the city, starting at the supporting terraces and working inward. ¹⁰ And David became more and more powerful, because the Lord God of Heaven’s Armies was with him.

- Verse ten summarizes the triumphant first part of David’s reign as king.
- Truth: As long as David was seeking God’s direction and obeying God’s instructions, the Lord strengthened David’s kingdom.
- God wasn’t building up David’s kingdom for David’s sake; God was using David to strengthen Israel and pave the way for the TRUE King, Jesus.

¹² And David realized that the Lord had confirmed him as king over Israel and had blessed his kingdom for the sake of his people Israel.

- Truth for us: When we do God's will in God's way He will bless allowing us to participate as He accomplishes His perfect purposes.
- As we'll see, David didn't get this right 100% of the time. Neither will we.
- Here's an example of David allowing his human nature to overrule his heart for God:

¹³ After moving from Hebron to Jerusalem, David married more concubines and wives, and they had more sons and daughters.

- Deuteronomy 17:17 commanded, "...*the king must not take many wives for himself, because they will turn his heart away from the Lord.*"
- David ignored this (lots of wives and kids was a status symbol for kings.)
- David and his whole family would pay the price for this for decades.

David Conquers the Philistines

¹⁷ When the Philistines heard that David had been anointed king of Israel, they mobilized all their forces to capture him. But David was told they were coming, so he went into the stronghold. ¹⁸ The Philistines arrived and spread out across the valley of Rephaim.

- When David was running from Saul he actually hid among the Philistines.
- There is an ancient proverb: "*The enemy of my enemy is my friend.*"
- David was still God's man and Saul's loyal subject, but since Saul was trying to kill David, the Philistines must have subscribed to that proverb. If Saul (their enemy) was trying to kill David, then David must have been their friend.
- Now that King David was the leader of all of Israel, the Philistines saw HIM as their mortal enemy and they had to destroy him.
- A truth for us: When God's King (Jesus) is in His proper place in our hearts and lives, the enemy will attack! We need to respond like David:

¹⁹ So David asked the Lord, “Should I go out to fight the Philistines? Will you hand them over to me?”

The Lord replied to David, “Yes, go ahead. I will certainly hand them over to you.”

²⁰ So David went to Baal-perazim and defeated the Philistines there. “The Lord did it!” David exclaimed. “He burst through my enemies like a raging flood!”

²² But after a while the Philistines returned and again spread out across the valley of Rephaim. ²³ And again David asked the Lord what to do. “Do not attack them straight on,” the Lord replied.

“Instead, circle around behind and attack them near the poplar trees.

²⁴ When you hear a sound like marching feet in the tops of the poplar trees, be on the alert! That will be the signal that the Lord is moving ahead of you to strike down the Philistine army.” ²⁵ So David did what the Lord commanded, and he struck down the Philistines all the way from Gibeon to Gezer.

- **How do those verses speak to you about dependence on God?** David was an experienced warrior who had won many battles against this same army; **why didn't he just pull out one of his old battle plans?**
- The Lord said wait until you hear a sound like marching feet in the tops of the trees. **What does that say about how God was working for Israel?**
- Truth for us: God will fight our battles for us but He expects us to show up.
- Another truth: God has fresh direction for us in every situation.
- The Lord helped David defeat the Philistines putting all potential enemies on notice that God's anointed king was on the throne in Jerusalem, but something was not in its proper place: God's manifest presence, which in that day hovered over the Ark of the Covenant.
- **What do we know about the Ark of the Covenant?**
- 1 Samuel tells us the Philistines stole the Ark of the Covenant.
- **Anyone remember how that worked out for the Philistines?**
- The Ark was moved from place to place but was NOT where it belonged.

- So, in chapter six we see that David gathered 30,000 “elite” troops to bring back the Ark. David had built a special tent in Jerusalem for the Ark, and being a pragmatic, “type A” man in a hurry, David decided to put the Ark on a new ox cart to get it to Jerusalem faster. That was a big mistake!

⁵ David and all the people of Israel were celebrating before the Lord, singing songs and playing all kinds of musical instruments—lyres, harps, tambourines, castanets, and cymbals. [So far so good]

⁶ But when they arrived at the threshing floor of Nacon, the oxen stumbled, and Uzzah reached out his hand and steadied the Ark of God. ⁷ Then the Lord’s anger was aroused against Uzzah, and God struck him dead because of this. So Uzzah died right there beside the Ark of God.

- The Ark of God was about to fall in the mud; any of us would grab it. **Why did God strike this young man Uzzah dead? What can we learn?**
- Uzzah paid the price but it was David who messed up by violating God’s specific instructions on how to transport the Ark (Exod 25:13–14.) Numbers 4:15 clearly states that the penalty for touching the ark is death.ⁱ
- Truth: Followers of Christ live under grace and not law. Still, God’s word instructs and warns us. We ignore His commands at our own peril!

⁸ David was angry because the Lord’s anger had burst out against Uzzah...

⁹ David was now afraid of the Lord, and he asked, “How can I ever bring the Ark of the Lord back into my care?” ¹⁰ So David decided not to move the Ark of the Lord into the City of David. Instead, he took it to the house of Obed-edom of Gath. [It stayed there three months]

¹² Then King David was told, “The Lord has blessed Obed-edom’s household and everything he has because of the Ark of God.” So David went there and brought the Ark of God from the house of Obed-edom to the City of David with a great celebration. ¹³ After the men who were carrying the Ark of the Lord had gone six steps, David sacrificed a bull and a fattened calf. ¹⁴ And David danced before the Lord with all his might, wearing a priestly garment. ¹⁵ So David and all

the people of Israel brought up the Ark of the Lord with shouts of joy and the blowing of rams' horns.

- David danced before the Lord worshiping God in a whirling, joyful dance.
- As far as I can find this is the only time in scripture David danced. (He talked about dancing in Psalms 33:11;149:3; 150:4)
- David didn't he dance when he was anointed king (three times.) We don't hear about him dancing after each victory in battle. When Saul was dead and no longer trying to kill David, he mourned, he didn't dance for joy.
- David danced because the manifest presence of God (the Ark) was back where it belonged.
- Truth for us: When God is where He is supposed to be (Jesus on the throne of our lives), our hearts will be filled with the joy of the Lord -- enough joy to make a Baptist dance!
- Not everyone was celebrating especially David's first wife Michal (Saul's daughter.)

¹⁶ But as the Ark of the Lord entered the City of David, Michal, the daughter of Saul, looked down from her window. When she saw King David leaping and dancing before the Lord, she was filled with contempt for him. [Then in verse 20:]

She said in disgust, "How distinguished the king of Israel looked today, shamelessly exposing himself to the servant girls like any vulgar person might do!" ²¹ David retorted to Michal, "I was dancing before the Lord, who chose me above your father and all his family! He appointed me as the leader of Israel, the people of the Lord, so I celebrate before the Lord. ²² Yes, and I am willing to look even more foolish than this, even to be humiliated in my own eyes! But those servant girls you mentioned will indeed think I am distinguished!"

²³ So Michal, the daughter of Saul, remained childless throughout her entire life.

- Fact: When we get a little too happy in Jesus someone will criticize.
- Truth: We need to be like David, worshiping God with unrestrained joy even if others think we look "foolish."

¹⁷ They brought the Ark of the Lord and set it in its place inside the special tent David had prepared for it. And David sacrificed burnt offerings and peace offerings to the Lord. ¹⁸ When he had finished his sacrifices, David blessed the people in the name of the Lord of Heaven's Armies.

So, What's the Takeaway?

There is a lot of TRUTH for us as we observe David setting up his reign as King of all of Israel. Here are eight truths we saw:

- Truth #1: When God makes a promise, He keeps it. David exhibited tremendous patience and obedience for years and God honored that. Most of us would have thrown in the towel. David trusted God's promise.
- Truth #2: If we will obey what God has called us to do, He will do what He always does – make a way when it seems there is no way!
- Truth #3: When God's King (Jesus) is in His proper place in our hearts and lives, the enemy will attack!
- Truth #4: God will fight our battles for us but He expects us to show up.
- Truth #5: God has fresh direction for us in every situation. That's why we need to spend time with His word and in His presence daily.
- Truth #6: Though followers of Christ live under grace and not law, His word instructs and warns us. We ignore His commands at our own peril!
- Truth #7: When God is where He is supposed to be (Jesus on the throne of our lives), our hearts will be so filled with the joy of the Lord it could make a Baptist dance in worship! We should worship God with unrestrained joy even if others think we look "foolish."
- Truth #8 summarizes David's example for us: When we do God's will in God's way He will bless allowing us to participate as He accomplishes His perfect purposes.

ⁱ Barry, J. D., Mangum, D., Brown, D. R., Heiser, M. S., Custis, M., Ritzema, E., ... Bomar, D. (2012, 2016). *Faithlife Study Bible* (2 Sa 6:7). Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.