

Saul to David
Finding Light in the Darkness, Session 9
Slide Notations – Cere Muscarella

Author's note: Has someone ever entrusted you with something precious, only to come to the realization that you had temporarily misplaced or lost it? That's how I felt while downloading this message to you Wednesday night, March 10th. If you were there, you heard me say, a few times, that something had gone wrong. As I progressed thru the message, I became aware that the slides we were seeing were from an "older version." I had spent another four hours with the Lord Wednesday morning clarifying the thoughts He had given me late the night before, the older version. At that stage of a very draining day I was still capable of *framing* the things He was sharing with me, but early the next morning I sat listening to the *fullness* of His words and *filled-in* the slides for that night's presentation. I had been entrusted with His precious Word and, as the night progressed, I realized they were gone.

Some may be tempted to say, 'well maybe that was the version the Lord wanted us to hear.' It's a kind thought but too fatalistic. The Lord wanted you to hear the clarified version of a topic so very important to our spiritual health, and for my failure, I am so sorry. In the aftermath of the experience I know the Lord wants you to know these things: 1. At best, we are still living on the side where we see things through a 'glass darkly.' Though I loaded my presentation into the computer for Wednesday night's teaching I didn't 'see' that something was wrong. And I didn't 'hear' His voice regarding it either... He would have simply been saying, 'Cere, that's the wrong version!' I was far too caught up in the events of the day, of the entire week, and though I yearned to make His truth evident to you... I was blind and deaf at the moment critical to catching the error (Great lessons to be learned there!). I do not fear that He was able to make His truth abound in you, but I didn't deliver the *clarity* He had entrusted to me. 2. Though I have a deep desire to be able to say with Paul, 'follow me (into an intimate walk) as I follow Christ,' my greatest desire is that you would far exceed the experience I have with the Lord... and I have added notes to these correct presentation notes for the sake of clarity.

Last week... Made it thru Saul (1Samuel)... "head and shoulders above the rest!" **9.2** Small in his own eyes **9.21** *Am I not a Benjamite of the smallest tribe and my family the least?* The Spirit of the Lord will come on you and make you new! **10.2** And God gave him a new heart! **v9**

God equips those He calls... But doesn't override their will! You can have the calling and all the giftings and not do what is right and necessary!

11 Saul has a trouncing victory over Ammonites! **12** And the people are renewed by the Lord **13** He picks a fight w/Philistines; rashly operates in the office of the Priest... Now the kingdom is taken and God will give it to a man after his own heart! **v14** **14** Jonathan saves his dad but almost dies... and yet Saul remained at war all the days of his life!

15 Saul commanded by God to take the Amalekites! "I remember what Amalek did to Israel, now go and smite them and utterly destroy all that they have, everything!" **v2,3** "Saul smote them but kept the king alive, the best of the sheep, oxen and lambs and all that was good. What was vile and garbage they destroyed." **v7-9** I am sorry I set Saul up to be king for he is turned back from following Me! **v11**

Read: I'm turning the corner on Saul for he is turned back from following Me! v11

15.13 "Hey Samuel, see I have done what the Lord commanded me!" **v14** "then what is this bleating of the sheep I hear?" **v15** "the people did it!" **v17,18** "when you were small in your own sight I anointed you king... and sent you on a journey, why didn't you obey Me? You flew to the spoils and did evil..." **v20** "I obeyed... but the people didn't..." **v23** "You are rejected from being king..."

**Too late he realized and confessed... "I have sinned; I feared the people and obeyed them!"
From that moment he was living on borrowed time... the root had been cut... and he had been replaced!**

Quick Study... Jonathan! Jonathan's life is a bridge between two men: his dad, Saul, the King... his friend, David, God's anointed! Jonathan is natural successor/throne! David has been appointed by God/sees it! Saul challenges Jonathan's love for David and God asking, "Don't you know it's your throne he will be taking?" (Not entirely true! Thrones and dominion's belong to God!)

Jon chooses God's plan over family ties! He chooses to be a "Godly-second" over a "selfish-first!" Personifies Christ/and all His virtues!

David!

His story is so big that it covers **1Sam 16-31, 2Samuel, 1K 1&2, 1Chron 11-29** David is the original "man after God's own heart..." **1S13.14 A13.22** "who will fulfill all My will!" A little shepherd boy on the backside of the world... least of his family... **1S16** Anointed to be King... **v13** Anointed to kill giants... **17.32ff**

"Don't let anyone's heart fall into fear... I killed a lion... then a bear... all in preparation to kill this giant!"

Didn't say: "I survived a bear attack, to almost die in the jaws of a lion... this giant will be the end of me!"

Why don't we see that everything we face is conquerable... and everything we conquer pushes us forward!

David's is the blood line of the covenant of the promised Messiah! **2S7.4-16 R1.3** "Preeminence, a place, a throne, a rule!" Abrahamic covenant: "place, people, prosperity, prominence, provision, protection, purpose!"

With incredible history and intimacy we find David... like us... vulnerable sin!

2S11.1 David stays behind when he should be engaged in the battle! *Why are we always looking for rest when the battle is still raging?* One self-indulgence leads to another...

V2-5 His adultery! No guard on his eyes; sin entered in! Little brain overriding slightly bigger brain!

2S11.6-13 David cooks up deception! Bathsheba is pregnant; bring your husband home to sleep w/you – never know! No DNA testing/but what about genes? Looks him in the face as Commander and friend... go home for some R&R and sex! Thanks but my integrity prohibits it! Keeps him another day/gets him drunk! Still doesn't take advantage offer!

2S11.14-17 David plans a murder! Put him out front and draw back so he dies in battle! **V22-25** and he felt nothing! **V26,27** David marries Bathsheba and she bares him a son... **12.1** Enter Nathan and the Lamb Stealer! Thou art the man! **v7** And what you have done secretly you will endure openly... and the child will die... in your place! **V9-14**

David has broken half 10 commandments; False god, shall not kill, not commit adultery, shall not steal, shall not covet thy neighbors house, wife, goods... and dozens of other lesser known's... all in one sin! *If any man had done too much, too late, to not be forgiven, to not be useful... David would be him!* But he stands as the friend of God! (Where do you stand?)

How is it possible? "Have mercy on me; blot out my sins; I acknowledge my sin; against you alone have I sinned; I was shaped in sin; You desire truth in the inward parts; purge me, wash me and I will be whiter than snow; create in me a clean heart and renew a right spirit within me; cast me not away from

your presence and don't take your Spirit away from me; restore to me the joy of my salvation; a broken spirit and contrite heart You will not despise..." **Ps51**

Complete and total revelation of sin, penitence for what is done, and repentance!

13.1 David's heart-break, Amnon! *Cooks up a plot* his father would be proud (and part) of and rapes his sister Tamar! And after he had her he hated her... **15-18**

13.23 David's heart-attack, Absalom! Two yrs later Absalom *conceives a plot* and kills his brother Amnon, then flees! Absalom gone 3 yrs/brot home/separated. Absalom begins acting out/no response *Absalom plots* against David... sleeps w/David's wives... and then dies... leaves David behind mourning!

David Lessons... Sin may be sweet for a moment, but it goes sour/death dealing soon afterward! **Pr5.3-23 6.24-35 7.5-27** Be sure, sin will find you out! **N32.23** Sin transmits to next generation! Sin, not judged, spawns... God always receives the penitent, repentant sinner... He loves us!

David Lessons... "If you do well, won't you be accepted? And if you don't do well, sin is waiting at the door." **Gen 4.7** "Be abstinent and awake because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about, seeking whom he may devour." **1P5.8** Must stay dressed in the armor of God to be able to stand against the wiles of the devil! **E6**

David's Big Lesson! "The Lord struck the child that Uriah's wife bare unto David and it was very sick. And David begged God for the child with fasting and prostrated prayer and would not be consoled by anyone. After seven days the child died and the servants feared to tell David fearing his reaction to the news... but David heard their whispering and asked, 'Is the child dead?' And they said, 'he is.' Then David got up, washed and anointed himself, changed his clothes and went to the house of God and worshipped; then went home and ate. The servants asked, 'what is this? What are you doing? You fasted and wept while the child was alive and now when the child is dead you rise up and eat?' David said, 'while the child was alive I fasted and wept knowing it was possible that God would answer my prayer for his healing... but now he is dead... so why fast and pray? I will be going to him now, he will not be coming here to me.' **2S12.15-23**

David on life/death! 'as long as there is life there is hope that God is going to answer prayers for healing...' as long as it is a case/healing! And he prayed like life depended on him! Many Bible cases, healing came! 'But once death came...' David would not crossover into God's dominion...

Not destiny but foreknowledge...Not the means but the moment!

[Special slide insert: On the dark side, where we see through a glass darkly, there is all manner of sickness and disease... and where we see it, we are to pray fervently, with all kinds of prayer, because all sickness and disease is an enemy of the Cross!

[But if a person dies... they have crossed over the Sovereignty line reserved for God and them alone! They enter into life transformed, set free, knowing all things, in God's presence, with full rewards where there is no more darkness, sickness, pain, suffering or sin... and when we see that, we should rejoice and be glad for them – even though we miss them and mourn and shed our tears...

***But we do not sorrow as those who have no hope of being restored again unto them! 1Th4.13
And we do not allow death to have any victory over us! 1C15.54,55***

[That does not mean we do not pray for people because it "would be better for people to be absent from the body and be present with the Lord" – sickness and disease is our enemy! But if we are

praying and the person does die... they have met with the Lord *on an appointed time* and that is beyond our scope... so we trust the Lord and move on again!

The questions beg for answers:

What do you believe, not hope, is true about life and death?

How much do you love your loved one? Enough to see them there or have them near?

In case we missed it... It's not a matter of whether or not there is life after death our perspective is: **There was life before death!**

Enoch, taken up by God! Moses, Elijah taken by supernatural means, *returned from a place, alive!* Stephen looked up *saw Jesus standing next to God!* Jesus dying on the Cross, descending into the bowels of the earth *to talk to captives – living beings, every one!*

Whether we truly believe it or not, life after death, is really there, and we who believe are all on our way there!

If you were certain... There was a place called Disney World how would you feel if your loved ones went there without you? ...That your loved one could move from a nursing home to a mansion but would have to move out of state to have it would you let them go? ...Your loved one would have a better life, more love and training than you were capable of giving, w/opportunities to know the greatest of the world... How would you respond/absence?

Whether we truly believe it or not, life after death, is really there!

Can't miss David's counsel... While he was alive I prayed like crazy for my desire to be done... Now that he's dead, I acquiesce to God's will been-done! They will not return here...(Who would willingly do that?) But I will go to them, and I am going to make such an entrance!

We can stop living with fear/misery and start living with joy/jealousy!

Why is it so important? People/believer's who are uncertain of life after death cling to life here! "Want to live a real long time... more than a hundred years! I don't want to die!" Want to experience all this life has to offer! Become fearful/agitated at the thought or the talk of death! **Give the enemy "fear" to use against them/to destroy quality of life/faith! And they sorrow inordinately when others die...**

Why is it so important? People who 'lose' loved ones... Often tormented to breaking point!

(Misnomer: not lost! Know where they are in all cases: Saved, with God; Not saved, separated from God! Sad, until you come to the place of God's justice and righteousness. IF A PERSON DIES UNSAVED IT IS NOT FOR THE LOACK OF GOD'S APPROACH TO THEM WITH HIS GRACE!)

Recent news carried stories of parents lost children/predators/accidents, etc. Statistics tell us most of those marriages will not survive... Many of the surviving children will be neglected, and some lost, as unconsolated parents grieve/commune w/dead... All because the tormentor has not been silenced with truth/faith!

Lean toward the Principle... and practice it on the terminally sick, elderly... "Lord, I don't want to see them suffer anymore... I release them into your care!"

But truly tested when it comes to young people, babies, or the unborn!

[Special Author's Note: If we apply David's theology to the issue of miscarried and aborted children, it frees us to focus on the real issues of fallen society that we must face with the full force and weight of the kingdom of God! With most activity and activists focused on death, instead of the ones who are

alive, we never engage the full power of the revolution that can come to the living from the Word of God!]

What we really believe about death determines how well we live life! If we listen to David we will pray like crazy when people are suffering sickness (all sickness is a challenge to the Cross!) and if they die we will be free (because death is a sovereignty issue God doesn't share with us!) to live and accomplish His good purposes!