

I. The Illustration of Imputed Righteousness

The book of Romans is built around two men in the Bible who truly illustrate the concept of imputed righteousness: David and Abraham. We have been looking at the life of David, and in time we will cover Abraham as well. Abraham is a man who receives God's righteousness purely based on faith. He did absolutely nothing to merit it; God gave it to him by faith, without works. When you and I receive God's righteousness, there is nothing we can do to earn it. God gives it to us without works.

David is the great example of a man receiving God's righteousness imputed to him when he does not deserve it. These two examples are paramount to understanding the book of Romans. The last couple of weeks, we have been examining David. Understanding their relationship with God is truly the key to the book of Romans.

We have looked at David in three aspects, or rather, we are in the process of doing so. I told you that when you study David's life, you should study him as a shepherd, which we have already done. Then you study David as the king, which we will do today. And then you will study David as God's man. The lives of these men in the Bible are often very lengthy. The life of David is a very lengthy study, as is Abraham's. I think the lengthiest study in the Bible is probably Moses. You have to be able to break it down and see it in a composite way to put it all together.

Years ago, when I began to study David and look at his life, it was obvious to me that David's life fell into three concepts. First, you study him as the shepherd. These were the young years of his life. That is where so many of you are today. So many of you are just getting into the Bible and getting your feet wet. So many of you are in those formative years where, like David, you are truly learning to develop the heart that God wants you to have. We find that in David as the shepherd.

II. David's Heart and God's Eyes

Today, we are going to study David as king. When you study David as king, I think you will find that it is something that will help you in every aspect of your life today. When you think of David, there are two verses that truly sum up his life in the Bible. The first one, which we have already talked about, is Acts 13:22.

Acts 13:22

I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will.

The second verse that sums up his life is found in a little more obscure place, 1 Kings 15:5.

1 Kings 15:5

Because David did that which was right in the eyes of the LORD, and turned not aside from any thing that he commanded him all the days of his life, save only in the matter of Uriah the Hittite.

Now, those two statements are pretty amazing. The most incredible thing about those two statements, especially the last one, is that it isn't entirely true. The Bible says in 1 Kings 15:5 that David did what was right all the days of his life except in one matter. However, when you go through the account of David, that is not true. You will find that David numbered the people, and God punished him for that. You will find many places where David loses faith in God. As I said a couple of weeks ago, when we studied how David got into the problems he got into, you find David losing faith in God, running into the wilderness, and all kinds of situations in his life.

This is what I am talking about when I speak of imputed righteousness. God looked past everything he did except in one matter, and obviously, that one matter is because there was no covering under the law for it. God dealt with that in His own way, and we will talk about that next week. But here is a classic example of God imputing righteousness to someone who did not deserve it, and at the end of the day, God saying he did what was right all the days of his life except in one matter, when obviously he did not.

If you are saved this morning, that is how God looks at us. That is one of the greatest concepts of imputed righteousness right there. Even after we are saved, we have our struggles, our problems, our trials, and our failures. Yet, in spite of all of that, in God's sight this morning, you and I are sinless in Christ Jesus. Now, some might say, "Wow, that means I can do what I want to do." We also learn from the life of David that even though God imputes His righteousness to us, it does not mean that God does not hold us accountable for what we do when we do wrong. Obviously, David's life is a great example of that.

You have two things here. I want to read these two verses again, and I want you to see these two keywords.

Acts 13:22: "I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine ownheart."

1 Kings 15:5: "Because David did that which was right in the eyes of the LORD."

The eyes of the Lord and David's heart. You know what that tells me? God is always looking at your heart. It was not what David did right or wrong that God saw; it was what God saw in David's heart. That always comes down to the bottom line. Of course, man looks on the outward appearance, but the Bible says God looks on the heart. In those two verses, you have the picture of God's great doctrine of imputed righteousness: God looking beyond what you and I do. And oh yes, many times we will pay the price for it. Many times, the condemnation in this world for the mistakes we made comes back and bites us. But as far as God is concerned, He imputed His righteousness to us, and we stand before God in that righteousness.

III. The Shepherd's Heart and Spiritual Foundation

As I said, last week we studied David as a shepherd. We saw a great example, or the last time, of developing those formative years. This is what my job is: my job is always looking for men and women who want to serve God. My job basically is to let God bring people in here and give you the time and space to find out where you are at and what you want to do. Then, let the Word of God weed you out as far as who will do what and who will not. I cannot see your heart. I do not know what you think down inside. I do not know where your heart is at. But that is okay. The Bible says that out of the abundance of the mouth, the heart speaks. Your actions in time display

what is going on in your heart. You cannot say, "Well, I love God," when you are out in the world. You cannot say, "Well, I love God," but I do not read His Bible. Those are games that we play in our minds. It does not work that way.

My job is always on the constant. I told somebody last week, "I am like the Marine Corps; I am always looking for a few good men." I am always looking for somebody out there that has the attitude of heart and the ability by which God can do something with. Because the job of this church is to keep raising up men and women who help take over the mindset of overseeing the flock. We talked about what a shepherd does: he oversees the flock. We talked about how important your foundational years are in your life, how those young years where you begin to build the shepherd's heart, it starts on the inside and goes to the outside.

His early years as a shepherd, where he was alone with God, where God did not have a lot of competition. This is a true statement: when you first get saved, and I do not know if you can look back into your own life and remember that, when I first got saved, that first probably couple of months was the greatest time of my life. In those first two months after I got saved, I cannot speak for you, but I can speak for me. I know I see it in some of you. The first couple of months after I got saved, there was no question in my heart who I was going to serve. I was so out of the darkness into the light; I was so glad to be saved and have a new life in Christ Jesus. For those first couple of months, you could not have gotten me anywhere to do anything against God. I was transfixed on what God had done in my life. But then came the third month. In other words, the longer you go from that point of change in your life, the easier it is to forget what God has done, and the easier it is to take for granted what God did in your life.

That is why I am saying those early years as a shepherd, you have to find a way to keep that vision, keep that freshness, keep that excitement that lasts 30 years since the day you got saved. Because if you do not, it will be just like most of God's people: you are excited today, but in time, competition comes in. When he was out there alone watching the flocks, he did not have a TV, he did not have an iPod, he did not have all the things that we have, not that any of those things are bad. All he had was God and a bunch of sheep. All he had out there was the starry nights, the opportunity to look up at God's creation. I promise you, in those early years as a shepherd, that is where he built the foundational years of his life that got him through the rest of his life. There was no competition. The first couple of months I was saved, there was no competition. Nothing, nobody could take what I had from God. But as time goes on, when you lose that excitement, when you lose that freshness, competition comes in. It comes in in many forms. It does not matter what form it comes in; it matters that now it starts taking precious time from what you have with God. Suddenly, you start to say to yourself, "Well," you start to break down. Where once you said, "Oh, I am staying away from that," now you say to yourself, "Well, a little bit is okay." Very slowly, the devil begins to erode that excitement in your life, and those foundational years begin to crack, and the crevices begin to get filled with things of this world. Suddenly, you find that this whole world has now taken and robbed you of that precious joy.

Let me ask you a question, and answer this yourself: What is it in this world? Is there, name me one thing that really now, I know how it looks, but in this world, name me one thing. Most of you, at some point in your life, have experienced that exhilaration with God. But what in this

world compares with that, that you would allow that to be taken out of your life? I do not understand. Yet, I can say to you young Christians this morning that that is exactly what you have to guard against. You look at David as shepherd; you see a man who, alone with God in those precious times, those formative years, right where you are at now spiritually, he found a way to keep that excitement about the Word of God.

I want to tell you some things about David today that maybe you did not see. I want to show you a man who, through his relationship with God, started out as a shepherd of his father's flocks and wound up being the great shepherd of Israel over God's flocks. You know that is what God has for you today. God wants you to grow to the place that you can be an overseer in the work of God, that you too can be trusted with somebody else's soul and somebody else's life in what you teach them with the Word of God.

IV. David as King: The Victorious Christian Life

Today, we are going to look at what is probably, to me anyhow, the most important study of David's life. Next week, I will probably say the next one is also the most important study in David's life. I just cannot make up my mind; it depends on which one I am preaching on at that particular time, I guess.

When we see David as king, here is what we have, just to put it in context for you. We know that Saul was the first king that Israel ever had, but we also know that Saul was not God's choice. Saul was the people's choice. What happened was that the people wanted Saul over the king that God wanted them to have. Now we have come to the point where Saul has turned out to be what God told them he would be: he is the wrong guy; he is not God's man. Historically, God is going to replace Saul with David. That is the historical side of it.

When you look at David as king from a doctrinal standpoint, you will find that David, in almost every account in his life as king, is a picture of Christ coming back in the second coming of Christ and defeating the antichrist and all of his enemies. That is basically what David does. In his life, he reigns for 40 years and accomplishes that great task.

But inspirationally, here is where we are at today. This is what you want to get down, and this is what we want to focus on today. Inspirationally, David as king is a picture of what your life and my life should be: the victorious Christian life. I have never seen a time in my life where God's people, who ought to have the victory, have completely broken down and lost the victory. The reason is because they do not understand many of the things that I am going to talk to you about today. You need to understand that as a Christian, you need to always live above the circumstances. How do you do that? How do you get through some of the tough times that life throws at you? How do you get above the things of life that keep wanting to pull you down?

First of all, if you are going to put it into context, take those formidable years and let me give you a shepherd's heart. Let me teach you those basic things like David got. The second thing is David as king. David's life as king, inspirationally, is a picture of a man who was never defeated. He stands over every foe. He stands head and shoulders above every attack. During his years in reign, other than when he got messed up, and we will talk about that next week, but when he was

at his prime, when he was at his peak, when he and God as king were right where it needed to be, no nation, no enemy of God, no anybody, anywhere, any place could stand up to him.

You know what that is a picture of? That is a picture of when you get to that point in your life after you build the formidable years, that you get at the top of your game spiritually, where Christ is king of your life, where you understand the circumstances and perspective of the Bible. When you look at the things that are thrown at you and the things you have to deal with, and you do not see them as somebody in defeat, you see them as somebody in victory. You understand that as long as Christ is king of your life, as long as you and Him are reigning on the throne of your life together, no enemy will ever be able to defeat you. That is what you get from David as king. It is an incredible story. David is the warrior king. He reigns 40 years. As I said, he fights and defeats the last of God's enemies. David represents the victory that I have in the midst of the conflict and the battle that you and I have to face every day.

Now, when we come to Solomon, Solomon is the king of peace. He reigns for 40 years. Solomon represents doctrinally the millennial reign of Christ. Inspirationally, Solomon represents the millennial inheritance I will get after the battles that I have to fight down here on this planet. A study of David as king is a picture, very basically and very simply, of what your life and my life should be: victorious in the face of constant struggle. Solomon was the wisest man that ever lived, and he knew what he was talking about in the book of Ecclesiastes when he said, "There is no discharge from this war."

I understand why some of you struggle, and I am sympathetic to your struggles. I realize that everybody, including myself, we are faced with things sometimes that want to defeat us. Notice I said, "want to defeat us." There should be nothing that ever should defeat you. Nothing. Not if you are at the top of your spiritual game. Not if you have got your foundation built with a shepherd's heart, and now you are on the throne of your life with the Lord Jesus Christ. Every battle, every enemy, everything. There are scores of events in the Bible where David is up against this or up against that. In every case, it shows me how I am to conduct myself in the midst of this battle to always have the victory.

We go down to the mission. Let me ask you a question for those of you who go down. I do not know if you picked it up yet. What is their favorite song that we sing out of that hymnal? "Victory in Jesus." Did you ever notice that? Did you ever notice that of all the things? You have to learn to read between the lines with people. Did you ever wonder why when you go down there that their favorite song is "Victory in Jesus"? I will tell you why: because they so desperately want that victory. Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks. I can hear those men week after week, and somebody either gets up or Danny gets up, and they sing, "Let's turn to Victory in Jesus." They do not sing most songs; they will sing that one. Why? Because everybody in that room wants that victory. It has eluded them all of their life. Unfortunately, probably in many cases, it will elude them forever.

The study of David as king is a picture of whatever our life should be: victory in the face of constant struggle because you and Christ are reigning on the throne of your life together, and you are at the top of your spiritual game, and no one will ever knock you out. You may get knocked

down, but you never get knocked out. Everybody gets knocked down. Everybody. There is never a person that walked this planet outside the Lord Jesus Christ that did not get knocked down. The key is, do not get knocked out. That is what happens.

David reigns for 40 years, and yet Psalms 90:10 says that man's life is going to be three score and ten, that is 70 years. When you look at that thing from a practical application, that is just about what our life is. Most of us get saved in our late teens or twenties, and then you fool around for a little while, and probably the bottom line is when you have got your life all sorted out, you only have 40 years left to give God anyhow. When I come through David's life and his study of him as king, every battle, every foe, every adversary, everybody, everything he faces will show you and I how you and I are to have the constant victory in our lives, that we are not to be defeated people.

I have come to this conclusion. I have watched David's life, as almost every major character in the Bible. I have detailed it out to my own satisfaction, and I have come to this conclusion about David: I have come to the place that I realized that David knew more Bible out of fellowship than we do in fellowship today. I have certainly come to that conclusion. I remember a place over there in 2 Samuel 11. Keep in mind, he has already killed Uriah or is getting ready to, and he has already committed adultery with Bathsheba. They come to him in 2 Samuel 11:18-21, and they are saying to him, "Well, how did the battle go?" He is saying, "Well, the battle went this way and this way, but so-and-so got killed because they got too close to the wall, and somebody threw something down from the top of the wall and killed him." David immediately calls him into contrast and says, "Did you not read in Judges 9 where that happened with Abimelech when he got too close to the wall? Why do you guys let your people get so close to the wall when you know that is in the Bible?" He was formulating his battle attack from the Bible even when he was out of fellowship with God. David as king shows me how to wage my spiritual warfare and always, always, always be victorious.

V. David and Goliath: The Courage of a Shepherd

I have a couple of examples here I want to give you, and there are so many. I wish we had time to do them all, but we do not. If we did, we would be here for three years and never get back to Romans. I just have to give you a capsule of these men. I cannot get into their lives. That is something that you will have to do, or I can help you do, or whatever.

Our first example is found in 1 Samuel 17, and this is really the first victory in David's life. This is why I picked this one, because this is where he goes up against the story of David and Goliath. I call this story "The Courage of a Shepherd that Leads to Being God's Warrior King." I look at things like this, and not only do I put them in my own life, but I have to be honest with you, I put them in your life. I try to evaluate where you are at. Many of you have committed to me that you want part of this ministry. Many of you are along for the ride. You know where you are at. I know where you are at. We all know where we are at. I am good with that. That should be a song, but anyway, it could be a good country western song. But the bottom line is this: many of you have said to me, "Bob, I am taking this thing seriously. I do not want to waste the rest of my life." When I get that kind of commitment, I view you totally differently. I view you in the light

of how I can best help you to do that. Every time, I do not know how many times, I have talked to somebody, and they have told me that, and my mind goes back to this great story: the courage that a shepherd boy has that leads him to being God's man in the face of all adversity.

1 Samuel 17:1-8

1 Now the Philistines gathered together their armies to battle, and were gathered together at Shochoh, which belongeth to Judah, and pitched between Shochoh and Azekah, in Ephesdammim.

2 And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered together, and pitched by the valley of Elah, and set the battle in array against the Philistines.

3 And the Philistines stood on a mountain on the one side, and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side: and there was a valley between them.

4 And there went out a champion out of the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span.

5 And he had an helmet of brass upon his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail; and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of brass.

6 And he had greaves of brass upon his legs, and a target of brass between his shoulders.

7 And the staff of his spear was like a weaver's beam; and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron: and one bearing a shield went before him.

8 And he stood and cried unto the armies of Israel, and said unto them, Why are ye come out to set your battle in array? am not I a Philistine, and ye servants to Saul? choose you a man for you, and let him come down to me.

Now, that makes him, depending on how you figure this, anywhere from 13 to 18 feet tall. That is a pretty good size guy. Obviously, he was not a beanpole, so add to that, he probably weighed about 900, maybe 1,000 pounds. Big guy. He would revolutionize the WWE. I am just telling it right now. You thought Andre the Giant was big. He had a helmet of brass upon his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail, and the weight of the coat was 5,000 shekels of brass. That is pretty heavy; that is about 400 pounds. He had greaves of brass upon his legs and a target of brass between his shoulders. The staff of his spear was like a weaver's beam. A weaver's beam is like a square, about an 8x8 or 9x9. It is incredible. It probably weighs a couple hundred pounds itself. His spear's head weighed 600 shekels of iron, and one bearing a shield went before him. Well, I guess so. Carrying all that, you need somebody. He stood and cried unto the armies of Israel and said unto them, "Why are you come out and set your battle in array? Am not I a Philistine, and you servants to Saul? Choose you a man for you, and let him come down to me."

Now, Father, we ask you to pray, your Lord, that you will help us today. Lord, we just ask you, Father, to take what we have here, help us to see this and apply these things to our heart. Lord, there are some good men and women here who really want to serve you. Lord, it is up to me to get them ready. You have charged me with that task to help them to work through their issues and

to help them get their lives on track and to be to them exactly what they need to be. I ask you today, Father, that you will help us in all that we do. We will thank you and praise you. In Jesus' name, for His sake, we ask it, amen.

Everybody knows the story of David and Goliath. This is no new story. Your kids know the story of David and Goliath. But I want to talk to you about this story in a different light. I do not want to deal with a little shepherd boy going out and whacking a big guy as it is historically. I want to show you how this fits into David as king. This is his first battle. We are going to study that life of David as king as what your life should be and my life should be: totally victorious. That is what his life as king represents. I think there are some things that we can learn here.

The first thing I want you to see is verse 2.

1. Israel is on guard. They are on guard. They know the enemy is out there. So they pitched their tents. They put out their perimeters, and they are on guard. But the second thing I want you to see is that Israel does not attack them. Israel does not attack the Philistines. The Philistines attack Israel. That is the second thing I want you to see.

Then I want you to see this. Look at verse 2 and 3 again.

1 Samuel 17:2-3

2 And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered together, and pitched by the valley of Elah, and set the battle in array against the Philistines.

3 And the Philistines stood on a mountain on the one side, and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side: and there was a valley between them.

This whole thing is a masterpiece of how we fight this battle. The first thing you see: Israel is on one mountain, Philistines on another, and there is a valley in between. You know what that tells me? As the children of God, if you are going to have the victory in your life, you have got to separate yourself from the Philistines. God's people were on one mountain, the Philistines were on the other mountain, and there was a valley in between. No separation between you and the world, there will be no victory of Jesus Christ in your life. You have got to stay on your mountain. They stay on their mountain, and the valley is between. If you do not get that, if you are such a nimbly-minded Christian that you think that you can serve God and the world at the same time, you are already defeated. The first thing I see in this great story about David's first victory is that Israel is on this mountain, and the devil's people are on this mountain, and the two are separated. God's people have put their battle in array. What does that mean? They put out their perimeter. They have their lookout set. They are watching what is going on, but they are content to stay where they are at, separated from the Philistines.

The next thing I want you to see, after you get that great concept that there is no separation, there is no victory. There has to be a natural separation with God's people from the world's people. I was talking to somebody this week, an unsaved guy, and we were going back and forth, and he was trying to say this, and I was just letting him talk, and I did not want to argue with the guy. I came down at the end because I did not want to shut the door in his face and not have a chance to

talk with him. I just simply said, "You know what our problem is? We live in two different worlds." That is the problem. I believe the Bible is the absolute Word of God.

A number of years ago, I got asked to do a debate with a psychologist in a college class, and there were about, oh, I do not know, 200 kids in. I still have a video of it. They introduced me, and they introduced her as a woman, a doctor, so-and-so, and he introduced me as a pastor. The kids were all down there, all college kids. The debate was over whether the Bible or secular psychology is the right way to go. She got to go first, and she went up and introduced herself. I made up my mind that I was going to be smarter than she was. I was not going to attack her, but I was going to put it in a context that really drew the line, and everybody in there had to make a choice right out of the box. I did not want them waiting until the end and saying, "Well, who did you like better?" because that would not have been fair to her. I did not want to wait that long. I wanted to run out and snatch control of this from minute one. So she got up, and she talked about who she was and what she did. Then it was my turn, and I got up, and I simply said this: "I appreciate being able to be here today, and I appreciate so-and-so. Let me just say, shall we all make it clear that we have two different worlds here? This is what this is about. You are going to hear some things that are controversial between the two of us." I said, "I would rather explain that. We come from two different worlds. My position is that the Bible and the Bible alone has the answer to every man's problem." When I said that, I got two amens out of the crowd, so I knew I was on my way. I said, "Dr. So-and-so over here, she believes that the Bible is of no effect in your life. She believes that man in psychology and man in his thinking, in his rational mindset, has the ability to solve all of your problems." I said, "So wherever this goes, you need to remember that I am representing God's camp and the Bible as the absolute final authority. I believe there is no other truth outside this Bible." I had to present my whole case and put her at a disadvantage because I got two amens. She did not get nothing but an "Oh, no." Then I said, "So thank you for that time." She gets up, and she says, "Oh, oh." Immediately, I had her. She comes up, and she says, "Oh, well, I want you to know I go to church too." From that point on, it was a run, kicking, and I had her. Wherever she went, I had laid down that she is in one world, and I am in another. She had nowhere to go because everything that she would try to say, now I had the foundation of bringing it back, "Do you believe that is in the Bible?" When she said no, she just made herself look foolish. There was nothing she could take me and say to me because I already declared myself as standing on that book.

You are in two different worlds with an unsaved person. If you are saved, I do not understand it. I see some of God's people, you know, they will get hooked up with some gal or some guy, and the last thing on their mind is, "Is that person saved?" It is the fact that, "Woo, look at her, boy. Look at him. He is a dreamboat." It never even enters your mind, "Are they saved?" That never even comes down the long, long way, "Is this going to work? Is this compatible?" No, you are in two different worlds. But you see, that is the difference between looking at it from God's standpoint and looking at it from your own standpoint. That is what happens. That is the problem. We live in two different worlds from this unsaved, ungodly situation that we find ourselves in. If there is not a natural separation between God's people and the devil's crowd, the world, and all that it stands for, you are defeated before you ever get going.

Then I want you to see the second thing in here. Look at verse 8.

2. Israel did not go looking for a fight. The fight came to them. Now this is a great lesson that some of you young Christians need to learn. I am all for, and I think, do not get me wrong now, I think that as a young Christian growing up, you need to spar with many people as you can, get your nose bloodied, and all those things. I think that is good. But the older you get, you learn how to choose your fights. You learn how to pick your battles. As a Christian, one of my favorite verses is, "I want to live godly in Christ Jesus and be at peace with all men." I will never go out looking for a fight. I never do. There are people who will say things against me and do this or that, and I never go after them. I do not ever go looking for a fight. You know why? Because you only have so much energy to expend in a fight, and why waste your intercontinental ballistic missiles on mosquitoes? Why expend all that energy on stuff that does not make any difference? There are enough real battles that will come your way that you will have to fight, rather than waste your time fighting battles that at the end of the day mean nothing. I want you to notice that they were content on staying on that side of the mountain. They were content. It was not until Goliath and his big mouth came out and said, "Hey, you want to fight?" But I want to say this: there will be a time in your life, Christian, when the Goliath of this world will come, and you will have to fight. When that takes place, you better know how to fight. You better be exact in your tactics. There is some time that you just have to fight. I think the real concept of getting discretion and discernment in the Bible as a young man, as the book of Proverbs says, is that one concept: knowing when to fight and knowing when not to.

Look at verse 25 and 26. There is the next thing.

3. You have to have the right motive in the fight. Everybody says, "Who is going to go out and fight Goliath? Boy, the guy who does, the king is going to enrich him and give him all kinds of money." You see, you can be in the fight and have the wrong motive. David did not care about the money. Because David had a shepherd's heart, because David has everything lined out in his life the way he needs to, David is concerned about God's honor, not what he is personally going to get out of it. This thing is a masterpiece.

Then I will show you something else. Not only do you have to have a valley, a separation between you and the world, not only do you have to learn how to choose your battles, not only do you have to have the right motive. Look at verse 38.

4. Here is where they try to arm him with Saul's armor. I will tell you something else: you cannot fight this battle in somebody else's armor. What does that mean? What are you saying? That means, you know what? You have to grow up spiritually to be God's man or God's woman in your own spiritual worth. You cannot just go out and tell somebody what you got on Thursday night about the Bible if you want to say, "Look at me, look at what I know." You will get your tail waxed every time. The thing that makes Christianity laughable to me is God's people who get one little truth, try to go out and tell everybody else the truth, and they could not explain it to themselves if their life depended on it. What a sure way to get. I always look at the battles. I always look at the battles that we get into. You know that

movie on the History or Military Channel? I love it. It is called "Dogfights." Have you ever seen that? They go back and recreate all the great to get this guy who is still alive and this guy who is still alive, and they recreate the great dogfights of either Korea or World War II, or sometimes even World War I, though everybody is dead from there. They will show you all the different aspects. To me, I have always thought of the battle of Christianity as like that because in most cases, both planes are even. You take a MiG-15 or a Super Sabre. They are both, the main planes are both the same. Maybe one dives a little faster, climbs a little higher, turns a little tighter. But on an even day, they are the same. You know what makes the difference in the fight? The man flying it. You know what makes the difference in the battle between God and God's enemy? The man fighting it. Knowing the tactics, knowing when to fight, knowing when to cut and run, knowing to roll and dive, knowing to pull out, knowing to think he has got you, and you do a high-speed scissors on him and then shoot his tail off. You have to find your own armor.

David says in 1 Samuel 17:39, "I cannot wear these." Saul was probably seven feet tall. He is the guy that should have fought Goliath. David is about 5'6", maybe 5'5", probably weighs 112 pounds soaking wet. Can you imagine a little 5'4" guy that small putting on a guy's armor? He looked like a little piece of corn in a tin can. That is a picture of, you need to have your own armor. You need to have your own armor.

Have you ever looked at Goliath's weapons of war? Verse 5 through 7 says he has a helmet. He has a coat of mail. He has brass greaves on his legs. He has brass on his shoulder. He has a spear. He has a shield, and he has a sword. Have you ever looked at what David had?

1 Samuel 17:40

And he took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag which he had, even in a scrip; and his sling was in his hand: and he drew near to the Philistine.

Do you ever analyze what he has got? When he went to fight this battle, he took a shepherd's staff with him, because you never lose your shepherd's heart wherever you go. He went down to the brook and got five smooth stones. Those stones represent the smiting stone of Daniel 2. He had a sling. He could have had anything at this stage of the game. What he had in his hand did not matter. He could have picked up a rock and just thrown it and put him in a non-arena, but he had a sling. I know that tells me, you know, you guys, when you grow up, new kids growing up, and some of you, every kid when I was growing up had a slingshot. What you did is went out and found you a good tree, an oak tree, and found you a branch that naturally goes into a Y. You want it real thick because you want something strong, but you want to be able to whittle it down so you still keep the core strength. Then you get you something. What we used to do is get inner tubes. You do not even know what an inner tube is anymore; they do not even have them in cars. You would go get a pair of scissors, and you would cut a piece of inner tube out about that big. Then you would get and you would wrap it around on one end and cut you another piece and wrap it around and tie it real tight with wire string so it did not come off. But let me tell you something, the worst thing you ever want to happen is when you think you are going to whack a

guy, and you pull that back, and that thing does not hold, and you get two whacks when it comes back and hits you in both eyes. You are wired down tight on both prongs. You get that thing going, and then you get yourself a piece of leather. This will get you in trouble, especially as I did when you cut your father's belt into, because that is the only piece of leather that you could have. You fix that on there, and then you get yourself. We used to use marbles. We called them steelies, not because we stole them, but because they were steel steelies. You had to be there. You take that thing and pull that back, and that sucker would go out of there about 600 feet a second.

In the Bible, the sling was a formidable weapon. Back there in Judges 9, it says there were 700 men who could take a sling, and they could hit a target at a hair's breadth. You realize, I mean, they were so good at it that they could hit anything running anywhere. When you have a battle, and you have 700 guys behind you, and you know everybody, the army is coming at you, and they are marching, and I do not care how big they are. I do not care if Goliath was eight feet. I do not care if it was 20 feet. The bigger you are, the bigger target you are. He comes, they come lumbering down there, and those guys standing on there, and behind them are 700 men with those slings. I will tell you what, they will have a trunk of troops fall down. When they get about a hundred yards away, everybody just collapses on the ground, and 700 slingers are ready to go and let those slings go out about knee-high at about 600 feet a second. If you get one of those things in the kneecap, you are done for the day. Wipe out the whole front line. How hard is it to put another rock in? You could probably fire 10 a minute, wipe out the whole line. All you have to do is go over there and say, "Hi, boy, that hurt. What about this?"

But you know what that sling represents? It represents that in this battle, God uses you as God's man and God's woman. He will use whatever you have in your hand. One time, Moses went in before Pharaoh, and he was scared to death. His first confrontation, you have to read through the Bible, the great men of God, and see how they reacted in their first confrontation with somebody bigger than them. Moses and God are out there, and Moses is saying, "Well, what am I going to do? If Pharaoh is not going to listen to me, I mean, who am I? He is Pharaoh. I am Moses. The best I am going to ever do is become Charlton Heston. How am I going to go up against Pharaoh?" God said, "Now calm down, Moses. Just calm down. Do not have a heart attack." He says, "Moses, what do you have in your hand?" He says, "Well, I have a shepherd's stick." He says, "Then that is what I will use." He walks in before Pharaoh. You want a good case study on faith in God in the battle? He walks in before Pharaoh, puts his staff down there, and he says, "Hey, let my people go. I told him to the Lord." Pharaoh says, "I am not going to let them go." Moses says, "Now what are we doing?" God says, "What do you have in your hand?" "Well, I have this staff." "Throw it down." He throws it down on the ground. That big old staff turned into a big old 12-foot cobra. Can you see Moses then? Look at old Pharaoh. You see those guards dance? When that snake came up, you know what Pharaoh did? He called in his magicians. They threw down their sticks. Their sticks turned into snakes. Now what do you do? You think it looks like you have been countered. Never panic. You know what happened at the end of that story? God's snake ate their snakes. Then a real test was when Moses is standing there saying, "Oh Lord, we showed him." God says, "Yes, time to get out of here. Now this, this boogie." He said, "Okay, let's go." He says, "Pick up the stick." He says, "He ate a stick as a snake." He says, "Pick it up." You see Moses, "Okay, God, you get his head this way. I will catch him by the tail." He

walks down, picks that snake up, and puts it back there, and it turns into a stick again. But you know what God did? When God wanted to do something mightily for the nation of Israel and wanted to do something mighty with Moses, He just used what Moses already had in his hand. When He sent out David to fight Goliath, He said, "David, I will take, you have a sling. That is what we will use. Bring your shepherd's staff, bring your stones, bring your sling." Oh, and then put them in a scrip. Our word for scripture. Everything David had to fight Goliath was bound up in a scripture. What a picture. How the great victory that God gave David.

Goliath mocks him in 1 Samuel 17:43.

1 Samuel 17:45

Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied.

David did not care about how big he was. David did not care about what all he had. David had learned as a young shepherd when he fought the lion and the bear that all he needed on his side was God. When God sent him out, he was perfectly content against an 18-foot guy who weighed 60,000 pounds, who had all kinds of armor that was impenetrable, that all David had was a shepherd's staff and five stones and a sling. But he had put them in a scrip. I wonder what that scripture was. It had to be out of the first five books of Moses or maybe Psalms. I bet it was one of the Psalms that David had written that when he wrote that, he said, "You know what, I am going to tuck that away, because someday I am going to have to get into something way over my head. And that scrip, that scripture, that song will be what I need." Oh yeah. You know what is the problem with you and me? Oh, we have the stones. Oh, we have the sling. Oh, we have all that stuff. What we do not have is it was not wrapped in the scripture by which we claimed that promise. That was his first battle, and we see it as a victory. Your life and my life ought to be one of victory. What an example David is to us as King and in the battles that we have to face.

VI. David and Saul: Battles with God's People

Now, where Goliath is a picture of the world, this next one is a picture of the battle that you have sometimes with God's people. I know, I know, in a perfect world, we all get along. So much for the perfect world. I mean, you would think if anybody would be able to get along against the world, it would be God's people, but you know that is not true. You are going to find as you move up the ladder in ministry and you grow spiritually, you are going to find that it is not the Goliaths of life that you really have to worry about. It is some of God's people in life you have to worry about.

Let us look at this one. As I said, where Goliath is a picture of the world, this next one is a picture of the battle you sometimes have to face with God's people. David said in Psalms 119:97, "There are no truer words ever spoken." He says that you and I ought to be wiser than your enemies, for they are ever with me.

Did you ever notice the chronicle of David as King? We talked about early on in our first lesson about David, or maybe it was the second lesson, I am not sure. We talked about how God went through the process by which He found David. That takes place, if you are paying attention, in 1 Samuel 16, and that is where David is anointed King. But if you study the account and you are up on your Bible, you know that David does not take the throne until 2 Samuel 2. Whether you know it or not, that is probably about, when you look at it and figure it all up, about eight to ten years. Eight to ten years between when he was anointed King and when he became King. You know what he has got going for him or not going for him in those eight to ten years? Saul is still King. Saul did not do what is right, and God said, "I am going to take the kingdom from you." But He did not take it right away. You know why? Because David had some things he had to learn before he could become that King. Yes, David had fought some great battles out there as a shepherd. Yes, he just fought Goliath. But you know what? He still was not ready to be King yet. So God left a wicked King in place while He trained up the young King who was going to take his place.

Oh my goodness, my friend, you want a great study? Study what happened when King Saul recognized and understood that King David was going to take his place, and he did not want him to. God used a very wicked King that was against everything that God did to make the man David the King that God wanted him to be. See, God does not always take the bad things out of your life. He leaves those in there. Let me read you something here. If you are a young man or young lady in this ministry down a place who really want to do something for God sometime, pay attention to this. This is worth whatever you have to do to understand it.

1 Samuel 18:6-9

6 And it came to pass as they came, when David was returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women came out of all cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet king Saul, with tabrets, with joy, and with instruments of musick.

7 And the women answered one another as they played, and said, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands.

8 And Saul was very wroth, and the saying displeased him; and he said, They have ascribed unto David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed but thousands: and what can he have more but the kingdom?

9 And Saul eyed David from that day and forward.

Now, here is the first problem you have. Saul is the king. The king is the one that should have gone out and fought him, but he was too much of a coward. So David goes out and fights him, the little nobody guy. But when they come back in the city, I guarantee you, Saul is riding in the head chariot, like he had this great victory. His knees were knocking behind the portable potty over here when Goliath first started yelling. But all the women come out with their songs and their dances and their timbrels and all of that stuff. What are they singing? "Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands." Do you not know that bothered Saul? Do you not know he is riding through there saying, "Hello, I am back. I am King Saul, boy, we whipped him. I am

Saul. I am the mighty man. I am the one who runs this poor land." And then he hears it. He fainted first, fainted first, but it gets louder. "Saul has killed his thousands. David has killed his... David, whoa, whoa, whoa. Yeah, yeah, yeah. Saul has killed his thousands. I like that part. David has killed his ten thousands." Ugh. Let us see what happens. "Saul was very wroth and the saying displeased him. And he said, 'They have ascribed unto David ten thousands and to me they have ascribed but thousands. And what can he have more but the kingdom?'" Now let me just put God's answer in there: "He is going to get that too."

Here it comes, boys and girls. Young man, young lady, here is the thing you better write in your heart when you understand what I am about to say to you today, and maybe you cannot get it. I have been in this business 35 years. I understand it. I understand it greater than probably anybody in this room. But you better get it down because this next verse is the key. Here it comes. Verse 9: "And Saul eyed David from that day forward."

Listen, kid, this is a rough world. I try to grow you up, try to put steel in your backbone, try to put all kinds of titanium in your legs to get you to stand for God. But the bottom line is this: if you are going to stand for God and you are going to make up your mind that you are going to be the man God wants you to be, God will move you, and you begin to grow. It is just a matter of time. In any church, whether it is this one, that one, this one, this one, any one you pick, this one is not as bad as most of them out there. But I will tell you what, wherever you have got people, you have got problems, and you have got this kind of problem. You always have people in any church that have been around for a long time, or they have been around, and they grow to a point, and then they stop growing right there. That is where they are going to stay. They are going to live on their reputation. They are going to live on my armor. They are going to live on my relationship. They are going to live on this and live on that. Then some of you hot dog guys come out, or some of you guys that really get plugged in. You really get going. You are really going to fire. Suddenly, they eye you as a threat. They eye you as somebody that is going to take their job. They eye you as somebody that is going to get farther along than they are. Just like Saul eyed David in the ministry. I am telling you, kid, you better learn it.

My first experience with this was in 1977. I just moved to Kansas City and became a youth pastor. We had our first camp. Some of you were at that camp. See, Bracken was there. I think you were there. Your dad was one of my counselors. Some of you were there. We had our first camp down at old Beth Haven outside of Springfield. We had a great revival. I was wondering what was happening in the first couple of days. I thought this was not church camp; this is the epitome of hell. Everybody is killing everybody, fighting everybody. This thing is an absolute mess. About Wednesday night, God got a hold of the camp and broke the camp's heart. We had probably 120 kids. I guarantee you, 65 of those kids got saved. Now that is the good side. Thank you, Shelly, for shedding those tears. Now you are all bubbly. I have a bad side of the story. They were all deacons' and pastors' kids. Now I was dumb, stupid, and naive back then. I had not been battle-hardened. You say, "What does that mean?" I had not had my rear end shot off yet. So I am happy. I mean, what a great camp. We are driving back into camp where they were coming down in cussing and smoking and screaming and yelling. Now we are coming back to church in the old church bus. Everybody is singing, "I got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart." Wow. God gave

us a great victory. That was Saturday morning. How does something go to hell in a handbag so bad from Saturday morning to Sunday morning? Easy, when the 65 kids that just got saved ruffled the feathers of moms and dads who do not like their position as deacon being shaken by the fact that their kids were lost and they were deacons. Now whose fault do you think that became? I will wait for an answer. Yes. Yes. I got called in the office. The pastor had already got, I do not know how many phone calls, Saturday night because the deacons' kids who were lost and now saved wanted to get baptized Sunday night. Now you know how embarrassing it is for you to be a deacon in your church and your kid to be lost? Here it is, a situation where, who are they going to blame? From that moment on, I was eyed and blacklisted by the leadership because of the fact I had it public. One of them said it, "You have publicly embarrassed my ministry." Oh, I am so sorry. Next time I will just let your kid die and go to hell. I learned my lesson all the way back in '77. I was a picture of the older Christians who stopped growing with God, and now the new kid steals the show. The new kid has the fire. The old Christian lost the fire. The kid has the passion. The old Christian does not have any more passion. He has time and gray hair, but he has no passion. He has no purpose. He has no desire. That is what happened with Saul and David. That is what happens in every church in this country. That is what squashes young Christians.

But here is better yet. You have to learn the whole thing. Saul is not stupid, like most older Christians are not stupid. They are just dumb. Saul calls David in. He must have saw "The Godfather" because the original Corleone statement, "Keep your friends close and your enemies closer," applies to Saul and David. Saul calls David in, and he says, "What a warrior you are. What an asset you are to this kingdom. What a soldier. I want you to know, David, I am so proud of you. You brought honor to God and to this kingdom. David, I want you to know that you are just like my son." All the time, Saul was plotting to kill David. All the time. All the outward admonishments were only covering up an inward perverseness that Saul had been rejected by God, and God was no longer using him. Now He was going to replace Saul with David, and Saul says, "I will get that kid. I will fix that kid." We do not have time to get into this, but the study in itself is how God protected David in all of that. It is another whole study. How Saul was against David and wanted to kill him, and God was for David and wanted him to be king. So you know what God did? He always does this. He took Jonathan, Saul's own son, and lined him up with David in a relationship that they just loved each other like two brothers. Jonathan protected David from his own father. I do not have time this morning to go into that study. That is a study in itself of how God protects you in the midst of adversity when other people, other Christians, want to hurt you. You have something here, ladies and gentlemen. I am telling you.

Of course, in time, Saul dies, and we see David coming to the throne. It is a great lesson. You know what the rule is? Sooner or later, you will find yourself in that situation. Maybe you have already. I have watched things around here where somebody tries to sandbag some young Christian. I have seen it happen. This church is not immune from it. Wherever there are people, there are Christians. They are going to try to cut down somebody else and say to a young Christian, "You cannot trust this person," or "You cannot trust this and that." Hey, let them make that up for their own mind. But it happened. I have had Christians, younger Christians, I told them to do something, and some old Christians sandbagged them right in front of them and thought, I guess, thought I did not see it.

Now here is how you do it. You are a young man, and you are a young lady, and you really want to serve God, and your heart is right, and you have the whole thing. Let me tell you how you deal with this: you do nothing. You stay focused in what God has called you to do. It never pays for you to act just like the person who is trying to hurt you because that makes you just like them. If I have learned anything in 35 years of ministry, I have learned that the Sauls of life will always self-destruct in time. They always will. You know what? Go back there to 2 Samuel 1 and 2 Samuel 24. You realize that David had a chance a couple of times to kill Saul? Here is one example I remember where Saul is sleeping in a cave, and David hid in a cave, and he is way in the back of the cave. It is about 7:30, and he says, "Oh, I am stuck," because the only way out was out, and Saul and his guys were all there. So he is back there, and about midnight, he hears the snoring. So he peeks around the cave, and there are all Saul's guys sound asleep, and there is Saul. Saul is lying right there. Now he was running from Saul because Saul wanted to kill him, and David could have just as easily pulled out his dagger and slit his throat, put his hand over his mouth, blocked off the air passage, and cut his throat and left him to believe and been 100 miles away. But he did not do it. You know why? Because David operated under the principle that even though he was a bad king and he had been rejected by God, God had not officially taken him out yet, and David says, "I am not going to touch God's anointed." Even at that part in his life, he is following what the Word of God says, even when he could have ended the peril.

But you know what David knew? That Saul, with all the intentions that he had. This is what you have to learn. It does not matter wherever you go to church or wherever you are at in life, whether it is your job, whatever it is, whether it is here, whatever. It does not matter who is against you and who wants to knock you down. As long as you and God are where you need to be, you do not have a thing to worry about. I always tell people, you know, you are better off on a railroad track crossing with the car stuck and dead and the doors all jammed and locked, and the train 50 feet away with that big light coming down on you in the rural end and shaking the car, and you cannot get out, and you cannot get off the tracks. You are better off in that situation in the will of God than you are at home in your bed out of the will of God. Some of you cannot grasp that. I know that. But in time, you will understand what I am talking about. The lesson is simply this: he weeps at the death of Saul. He had no animosity in his heart because he did not take it personal. He weeps at the death of Saul. He feels bad that Saul died. In fact, when the guy comes in, here is how it works. Here is another little twist to it. This is another story. We do not have time to get into this. A guy comes running down the road. He comes into the king. He knows David is trying to be killed by Saul, and he comes in there bearing the good news. "Saul is dead." See how he wants to play it? He plays this way: "Saul is dead." David says, "Saul is dead?" "Yes, my lord, he is dead." "Well, how did he die?" "Ah, great opportunity. He is David's enemy. He is David's enemy. He tried to kill David. I see a good opportunity here. Your majesty, I killed him for you." David said, "You killed Saul?" "Yes, sir." He called two of those other boys over and says, "Kill this guy. Kill him right on the spot." You know what David held to the line? All of his life he says, "He was the Lord's anointed. You had no business killing him." You see what the rule is? Saul was David's enemy, but David never became Saul's enemy. Stay pure, kid. Do not stoop to their tactics. Do not get out of focus. Do not lose your focus. If you are right with God, and you are God's man, and you are God's woman, and you work on the shepherd's heart, and you let me build the formative years of your life, God will defend you in His time. I mean,

let me ask you a question. Did Cain get away with killing Abel? I think not. Did Israel get away with beating up on Isaac? I think not. Did Ahab get away with slapping around Elisha? I do not think so. Did Saul get over David? No, he did not. Did the scribes and the Pharisees get around Christ? No, they did not. Did Israel ever get ahead of God? No, they did not. You see, these people are idiots. They think the fact that they hate you. Well, let me tell you something. If you hate another Christian, listen to me. If you hate another Christian, and that person is a true Christian, and you are a true Christian, you might as well just say, "I hate God," because that Christian is one with God. You cannot hate them without hating God. See where the problem comes in? Most of you, that just goes over your head.

VII. David and the Jebusites: Breaking Satanic Strongholds

Now the last one here. We have time to do this one real quick here. The last one here. I mean, there are scores of them. The last one here is found over here in 2 Samuel 5. There are so many. All I can do is kind of whet your appetite today, but I want you to see that David as king represents you and I always having the victory.

Here is the story in 2 Samuel 5:6-10. I am not going to read this for the sake of time, but you can read it on your own. I am going to tell you the story. This one is how you and I as a child of God break a satanic stronghold in our lives. Let us talk about that for a moment. What is the definition of a satanic stronghold? I know it sounds like it is Satan with his arms around you. No, it can be your boyfriend or your girlfriend with their arms around you. It does not necessarily have to be something bad. We often think of a satanic stronghold as pornography, drugs, or this or that. I am not saying that that is not, but the bottom line is a satanic stronghold is anything that has more control over you than God does. It can be your boyfriend. It can be your girlfriend. It can be your job. It can be your career. It can be the money you want to make in life. It does not have to be something that we all know is bad. It can be pride. It can be the ministry. It can be anything out of balance in your life. So you are going to have to constantly face this. Here is a case that, and this is one of the key concepts in counseling and dealing with people, because many people you are going to deal with, and we are not going to get into the great depth here, we will when we get through it in counseling, but many people will be up against a, one of the things you have got to break in their life is a satanic stronghold. Somebody says, "How do you do that? How do you break that satanic stronghold in their life?" Well, the motto is David as king, who has victory over all of God's enemies in God's life and his own life. That is how you do it. This is another story.

Here is the storyline: The Jebusites, who by race are God's enemies, therefore they are David's enemies. The Jebusites, they are of the line of Cain. The Jebusites have now taken control of Jerusalem. Let us talk about that for a moment. What is Jerusalem? Jerusalem in the Old Testament was absolutely necessary for the Jews to have control of Jerusalem. Why? Because Jerusalem was the seat from which God's ministry reigns through Israel. For them, for the Jew, not to have Jerusalem is exactly that God not having control of your life. Where God wanted to work out of a literal temple, in a literal city, in a literal place in the Old Testament, God has made your body the temple now, and He wants to reign and work out of you. When you come into a

story like this, that the enemies of God, the Jebusites, have taken the nation of God, it is a picture of you and me being nullified in our work for God. Israel cannot do one thing for God without Jerusalem. You cannot do, and I cannot do, one thing for God if we do not have control of our own lives. That is the picture. In this story, we see a picture of a child of God breaking this, a standing stronghold in his life.

Obviously, when I think about this, in counseling, there are probably a hundred of these that are main things that you find that you build your basis on counseling on. You do not just whip up something in your mind. There are principles and stories and concepts about everything in this book that helps you understand not only how people get into it, but biblically walking them out of it. There are probably 200 lesser ones. But it is the key to biblical counseling and dealing with people and helping people with a problem. When you read this story, you will find that David represents you and me. He also represents Christ. This city, Jerusalem, represents the place of God. As long as Israel is out of the city and the Jebusites have it, Israel is done. As long as you are not in control of your own life, if there is anything, anybody, any circumstance that controls you more than God does at this moment, you are not going anywhere. You are not going to do anything. Because every time you start, the devil is just going to pull that chain and rip you back.

Five things David does very quickly. Five things David does in breaking this stronghold:

5. David leads the battle. In other words, it is a picture of you giving yourself over to Christ and you saying, "I cannot do this on my own." David leads the battle. You know the difference between you as a saved man or woman and an unsaved man or woman? They have no power to get out of what they are under. They have no power at all to stop the oppression in their life. Absolutely none. They may clean themselves up. They may get out of the gutter. They may find a job. They may get married. They may have a family. They may die and go to hell at the end of their life. They have absolutely no power. You as a Christian have every power to break whatever you have got to break in your life. But it starts when you put Christ number one in your life. It starts with you putting Christ number one in your life. You cannot change your life without changing you. You cannot change your action without changing your attitude about that action. You have to change your life, not just make an adjustment in your life. You have to solve the problem, not just continually treating your symptoms. Christ has to become the focus of your life, not you, not your girlfriend, not your boyfriend, not your job, not your education, not your sin. It has to be Christ. It has to start with David as a type of Christ leading this battle for you because you and I cannot do it on our own.
6. In verse 9, we find where David does something that is quite incredible. He changes the name of that city from Jerusalem to the City of David. You know what that represents? That represents the change in your life that you now claim. Claim what is God's for yourself. It represents you putting your name on a dotted line. It represents you recognizing now who you are in Christ. A number of months ago, maybe even a year or so ago, we talked about the seven things that changed. The reason I did it and did it at great length is because we have been using it in dealing with people and counseling and ministry ever since that day. The seven things that changed about you the day you got saved, the seven things you must recognize in yourself, the same thing that if you are going to change the name of your city

and see who you are and claim that for yourself, you must see yourself as God sees you, not as you see yourself. We have talked about those seven things, but basically they come down to you have to change your purpose. You have to change your passion, and you have to change your perspective.

7. The next one is in verse 4, and I think this is great. We have two more to go, but this is the best one of the bunch as far as I am concerned. When you read that verse, you know what it says? That verse takes you ahead. The battle has not even been fought yet. It has not even happened yet. The Bible in that verse tells you that as far as God is concerned, the city was defeated, and the battle is won as soon as David was made king in his life, and they have not even fought the battle yet. There is the absoluteness of the promises of the Word of God. You start to put God in your life, and your battle is over as far as God is concerned. We just have to mop it up. The victory starts the moment. That is the great thing. You get in a foot race; you do not win until you get to the end. You get in some kind of competition; you do not win until you get to the end. In God's book, in God's world, when you say in your heart, "God, it is yours. I am going to whip this thing," you have the victory. You have not even fought it yet. I think of the book of Joshua. You know what he said in Joshua 1-2? He said, "Surely, I have given it to you." They were not even in the land yet. But in God's mind, they were. You know where you are at in God's mind today? You are already victorious when you have not even won the victory yet. You know why? Because in God's mind, you are a sure bet, kid, if you just do what the book says. You do what the Word of God says in your life, and you are a sure bet. You will do everything and accomplish everything that God wants you to accomplish. God always sees the victory. We always focus on the defeat. You do what the book says, and you have won.

I heard somebody in a Bible study a couple of months ago, not our Bible study, but one that I was at, a guy talked about, one question about what does it mean in the Bible when it says, "Jesus my hope"? They were kind of befuddled about it, because it is kind of a misleading thing. The guy was trying to work his way around it, and he said, "Well," he says, "it because it sounds like Jesus my hope, like if I get saved, that I hope Jesus saves me." I told him, "You know what, that is not what it is saying, kid. It is not saying that you get saved and you hope you are saved. It is saying Jesus is the only hope you have got. There is no other hope." But it is all how you read things. It is all how you get your perspective on it. I hear silly excuses about people not wanting to get their lives straightened out. "Well, it is too far to drive." Somebody said one time, "Well, you know what, I like to go talk to Bob, but you know what, I do not, I do not, it is too far to go, and you know, I really do not know him, and I am really not comfortable talking with him." You know how stupid that sounds?

Let me ask you a question. If you went to the doctor, and the doctor said to you, "Wow, you have cancer, you are going to die, but boy, bless God, we found it quick enough." Well, I probably would not say "bless God." You would say, "Bless medicine, we found it quick enough." We found it quick enough. Now here is the deal: you have cancer, but we got it in the early stages. Now here is the deal: I am going to set you up with a doctor over here that specializes in your kind of cancer. He is going to set you up with, I talked to him on the phone, he is going to set you up with, we are going to, he is going to set you up with 28 radiation treatments. He tells me that

because we caught it so quick, and though it can move into a deadly form of cancer, we caught it so quick, he tells me that you have a 99% chance of recovery, almost 100% if you go through these things. Now let me ask you a question. Listen to me, let me ask you a question. Would you walk out of there and say, "Wow, that was a close call. I am only, I am only, I am only 29, dying of cancer. I have my whole life again, man. Boy, I will tell you what, boy, I will tell you, I mean, I am going to be okay. I am so thankful. I, I am mom, mom, I just got out of the doctor, and the doctor says I am going to be okay. Dad, dad, dad, I am going to be okay. Honey, honey, honey, I am going to be okay. Oh, kids, I am going to be okay." And then you walk out of there and you say, "Wow, I feel better." The guy says, "Well, when are you going to go?" "Well, you know, I do not think I am going to go take the radium treatments. I do not really know this doctor." Can you see yourself doing that? When your life is on the line, and you are going to die, and you have got to get radiation treatments, if it is 35 miles, are you going to say, "Well, that is just too far to drive. I think I will just, you know, there is a lot of, there is a lot of similarity between radiation and the sun. I think I will just stand out in the sun." You are laughing at that, but that is exactly how a lot of God's people deal with their problems. Let me show you, some of you have some problems. You are going to die spiritually. You are going to lose your marriage. You are going to lose your family. You are going to lose this. You are going to lose that. The bottom line is, you know what? The doctor has said, "You can fix this." There is a way to fix it because the Bible has everything, but all these silly excuses that we have. Then we wonder why we never get the victory. I tell you what, God's people are crazy.

8. Look at the next one, verse 8. I love this one. David defeats this city stronghold. Look how he does it. He goes up through a gutter. Let me tell you what this is. The city had walls around it, but the walls around it had big holes in them where the water ran out. It felt like a sewer system. So David says, "Instead of us spending a lot of guys and knocking down this wall and putting a siege to it for three or four years, let us just be smarter than they are. See those big holes in the wall? Let us wait until midnight and just sneak up in those gutters." The interesting thing about that is that this city is a picture of your spiritual breakdown and stronghold in your life. We are looking at David and his life of trying to get the victory on it. The bottom line is this: when the victory finally came and the battle came, I want you to understand that David brought the victory about by going into a water system. Water is a type of the Word of God in the Bible. It stands in Ephesians 5:26.

Ephesians 5:26

That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

Titus 3:5

Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

The Word of God in your life, breaking down, casting down imaginations, and bringing into captivity every thought, the immediate cry, washing out your mind. Now let me give you a practical understanding so you are all grasping. When I was a kid growing up, my mother used to give me all kinds of what for because I would get grass stains in my pants, in the knees. You are

again with clean water, and then it agitates it some more. Then it dries up, and then the end result, it spins you to death. You come in here. We all have dirt in our jeans. You sit down. Holy Spirit does His work. I push the button, the water comes in. Then in the middle of the sermon, we get agitated. We kick your six ways from Sunday. We make you think about things you do not want to think about. We force you to think about things you have hidden in the back of your mind. We force you, oh, you do not like it. Your jeans do not like getting beaten senseless in there either. Ask them next time. I mean, they open up sometime. It is "boom, boom, boom, boom." But you know what you see in the top when it is being agitated? All the dirt comes up to the top. Then it drains out. Then you wash them up. That is the process that God does in your life. You know what is wrong with churches? We have machines. We have Holy Spirit. We have water. We are lacking agitators. Nobody wants to tell you what you do not want to hear. You do not ever fix anything in your life by just hearing what you want to hear. You fix your life, and I fix my life by hearing what I do not want to hear. He defeats this city through a water system. If you ever get your life where it needs to be, and you ever break a satanic stronghold or something that has got control over you, you are only going to do it through a system of water that cleanses you and washes you and puts you and gets the stains out of your mind just like your mama gets the stains out of your jeans.

9. The last thing, verses 9 and 10. David made the city. He claims it for God, and he makes the city his home, his capital from which he lives and reigns. We say it a lot of different ways. We say that if Jesus is not Lord of all, then He is Lord not at all. We say Christ being number one in your life. He talks about Christ sitting on the throne of your life. Let me tell you something. It is simply this: you live your life by the principles of the Word of God. That is all there is to it.

My daughter was telling me about a Bible study she was at a couple of weeks ago, and the question came up, "Could Jesus Christ sin if He wanted to?" One of those questions like, "Can God make a rock bigger than He can pick up?" She called me on the way home, and she said, "Dad," she said, "this was the question tonight." She said, she is not kind of got it figured out, but I want to see what you said is even right. "Could Christ sin if He wanted to?" My answer was, "Who cares? He did not." But that is, you know, but the bottom line is this. Whether He could or He could not is immaterial. Now I know He was tempted on all points like we are, yet without sin. But the bottom line is this. The reason why Jesus was a man, and He probably could have sinned, because to be tempted on all points, He probably had to have the possibility of sinning because I do. But the great, they missed the whole point. Listening to the discussion was like a bunch of four-year-olds trying to talk about an atom bomb. They missed the whole point. Whether He could have sinned or He could not have sinned is immaterial. The bottom line is He did not sin, and they missed the point. Why did He not? Because the two favorite expressions that He uses, one with the devil and one with the scribes and Pharisees. With the devil, when the devil tried to come and get Him to sin, He simply looked him in eyeball and says, "It is written." When the scribes and the Pharisees came to Him, His favorite expression was, "Have you not read?" In other words, whether He could or He could not is immaterial; He did not, and the reason He did not is because He did what we do not do. He made the book a capital of His life, and He lived every day of His life by those principles of the Word of God.

VIII. Conclusion

David's life as king, what a great study. I wish that I had the time this morning to walk you through it all. But you have got a little capsule view of it. When we study David as king, we are studying a man who, by his life reigning, when he reigns, defeating the enemies of God that are the last ones in the land of Palestine. We are looking at your life and my life and what it should be. Do we get knocked down? Yes, we do. But we never should get knocked out. We always ought to have the victory in Christ Jesus. We ought to live above the circumstances. The reason we can is because of the fact that He is on the throne of your life and my life as king, and everything we are doing, we are doing through the Word of God.

Next week, we will come up, and we will look at David as God's man. Let us have a word of prayer, and then we will be dismissed this morning. Do not forget the golf sign-ups up here if you want to get in the league, and thank you for being here today. I hope it has been a blessing to you, and I will keep you posted on everything, and I will see you, Lord willing. I will see you Thursday night. Father, we...