

2 Samuel 5:1-25

SI: Back on February 5, 2017, I preached on 1 Samuel 16.

That’s the chapter where David first appears and is anointed by Samuel to be king over all Israel. Now today, in 2 Samuel 5 it finally happens.

It took us two years to get here, but keep in mind it took David 20 years.

INTRO: The best things in life are often a long time coming.

Our dreams and aspirations appear as a vision in our minds.

We think about them and imagine them and work for them,
but often they take a long time to mature into reality.

And in the meantime, during that waiting time, things can be hard and discouraging.

My first experience of this that endless stretch of school from spring break to summer vacation. I loved summer. I dreamed of summer.

But week after week, as the weather got warmer and the days got longer teachers would be going on and on about math. And then, finally, the last day.

I would walk out of school and into the kingdom of summer.

That’s what heaven will be like. Every day will feel like the first day of summer.

The best things in life are a long time coming.

About 15 years ago my mother started trying to sell some land in Louisiana that she had inherited. But it was owned jointly by her siblings and cousins.

John owns an eighth, Martha Jo owns a half of a fifth cause she had sold half to her sister, but she retained the mineral rights. It was all convoluted.

Plus some of them were estranged and would not talk to each other.

So my mother had to get it all sorted out and be the go between and find a buyer.

Had buyer, one of the relatives wouldn’t agree to the sale and it all fell apart.

But my mother wanted that money because she had a dream.

About two years ago she pulled it off. Got money, bought a condo in Florida.

The best things in life are a long time coming.

This chapter is one of the most important chapters in the Bible.

Here the great promise is fulfilled and the dream comes to reality.

Twenty years earlier God tells Samuel to go to Bethlehem and anoint one of Jesse’s sons king. So after meeting the first seven sons and hearing God say each time

No, not that one, Samuel asks, are these all your sons?

And Jesse says, well there’s one more, but he’s number eight.

He's the gofer around here. He's busy watching our sheep.
Samuel says, Go get him. I won't sit down until he arrives.
David comes in from the fields. God's tells Samuel, he's the one. Anoint him.
So David is anointed. Then there is an amazing statement.
"And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward."

We think. Ok, this is it. He's been anointed.

He's been Messiah-ed. He's Christ-ed. Messiah and Christ mean, anointed one.
So it's going to be a smooth and swift upward path to the throne.
But it's not. David's dream is unfulfilled through lots of hardships—
running, hiding, fighting, accusations and misunderstandings,
spears—both verbal spears and literal spears—are hurled at him.
On and on it goes, until this morning.

This chapter through chapter 10 is the high water mark of David's career.

David is at last made king over all Israel and all the highlights are here.
All the great things David dreamed of doing are recorded.

You may wonder how this applies to your life right now.

Here's how. This is not just about David, it's about Jesus.

David is a vivid OT picture of how all God promises are fulfilled in Jesus Christ.
So if you trust Jesus and follow him, he will give you encouragement and hope
during the hard and discouraging waiting and in between times, as you dream
about what God is going to do, but you aren't there yet.

I know someone who just now is in the early days of dealing with a wrong that was
done to her that had a negative impact on her in some significant ways.

She can imagine what her life will be like when this no longer dominates her
emotions, but right now she's struggling.

I know someone who right now is in the middle of a long search for a new job
that he wants and needs. He dreams of how effective he would be for God
if he can make that change, but right now there aren't many prospects.

We pray every Sunday for believers in the middle of long-term medical treatment.

Read the letter from Tobi and Hana Daum in bulletin, because of their medical
system, she has to wait until July just to get crucial test, not to mention treatment.

We pray for persecuted Christians where things haven't changed for decades.

This passage gives you hope as you wait for God to do good things.

Look at this under three headings: When you are discouraged remember . . .

1. David is king 2. in Jerusalem 3. victorious over his enemies!

MP#1 When you are discouraged remember David is king

The elders of all the northern tribes come to David at Hebron.

Hebron was David's capital in the south. It was out of their comfort zone. They come because they've lost the civil war between north and south. Their strong man Abner is dead. Their figurehead king Ishbosheth is dead. They're under threat and domination by the Philistines. They're basically coming with their hats in their hands and saying: David, please, rule over us. They don't have any bargaining chips. But they make three appeals.

1. We are your own flesh and blood, actually said your own bone and flesh. They're not saying biologically related. Language of bone and flesh is covenantal. It goes all the way back to Adam and Eve. God made woman from the man's rib and brought her to him and Adam says, this is bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh, and they enter covenant of marriage. Covenant is a relationship under God. When these elders from northern Israelite tribe say to David, you are our bone and flesh, the covenant they have in mind is God's covenant with Abraham. They are saying, We are bound together in relationship because we're all sons of Abraham and the patriarchs. We have this common father in the faith. We share the same family and the same history and our God is the LORD.

2. Then their second appeal: When Saul was king, you were the one who led Israel on their military campaigns. David, we've come to realize it was you all along. You were our true champion. It wasn't Saul who had the big wins, it was you. They had to be thinking first about David killing Goliath. And then that short time after killing Goliath, when David was the commander of Saul's army and scored many victories, until Saul got jealous and tried to kill him. So the elders say: We should have seen it all along. You're our champion.

3. Then their third appeal: And the LORD (Jehovah, Yahweh) said to you, You will shepherd my people Israel and you will become their ruler. When did God say that? It was when Samuel anointed David in his father's house in Bethlehem. That was private, but people talk and word got out. So they say: We know the Lord wants you to be king of Israel. It's the ultimate spiritual argument. We know this is God's will. Now the big question is: If they believed that, why did they wait until they were desperate and out of all options and backed into a corner before coming to David? There's an insight here into the human heart. And our hearts. We often resist God and resist Jesus Christ as long as we think we have control. The Bible calls it suppressing the truth.

Yeah, I know what God wants from me, but I've got it all under control. So God uses crises and losses to get our attention. And when we do turn to Jesus, usually we have mixed motives and usually we're desperate and out of options.

These elders from the north had to know David would see this about them.

They had to wonder how David would receive them, if he would say,

Oh, so now you think I'm God's anointed King. What about the last 20 years? But he doesn't say that. He doesn't treat them like second class citizens.

He accepts their arguments because they are all true.

He is their flesh and blood, he is their only champion, the Lord did anoint him. So he makes a covenant with them.

He enters into a relationship with them under God and is anointed for the third and final time as king over all the tribes of Israel.

All this is an Old Testament picture, a foreshadowing of Jesus Christ.

David is Jesus, we're the desperate elders of the northern tribes.

We can see some pretty bad things on the horizon, but we also have this dream and hope put in our hearts, if God will only have mercy and intervene and help. So this account of David's anointing is a beautiful and powerful picture of how Jesus deals with us in those situations.

We come to him with no bargaining chips, with mixed motives, sometimes only after we've exhausted all of our attempts to run our lives sometimes wondering how he will receive us.

And he says: Yes, I am your bone and flesh, through Abraham and my incarnation.

Yes, I am your champion. I beat sin and death and the Devil on the cross.

Yes, I am God's Christ, the anointed Savior of the world.

I will make a covenant with you and be your king.

And what kind of king Jesus for you?

This is the very first time in the Bible where shepherd is combined with king.

A shepherd leads, feeds, guards, nurtures, protects, and cares for the sheep.

David understood this because he had been a shepherd.

He blends this into poetry when he writes the 23rd Psalm, the Lord is my shepherd.

That leads to Jesus called the Good Shepherd, Great Shepherd, Chief Shepherd. If you're in a season of your life where you're in a long, discouraging wait, and the resolution is far off, be encouraged, Jesus is your shepherd King.

So, David is King, Shepherd King, and he is king . . .

MP#2 in Jerusalem

This is the second important detail of chapter 5,

David captures Jerusalem and makes it his capital city. Why Jerusalem?

When Abraham followed God's call and went to the land of Canaan,
he and his family seemed to be the only people there who knew and worshipped
the true God. All the Canaanites worshipped idols.
But right in the middle of Canaan was this city Jerusalem, called Salem back then,
and it was community people who followed the Lord.
The King of Salem was a priest of the Lord named Melchizedek,
He and Abraham met each other and Abraham gave Melchizedek a tithe,
and Melchizedek gave Abraham bread and wine.
That should sound familiar to you. We're going to have bread and wine shortly.
Melchizedek is another Old Testament Christ figure.

God made Abraham a promise. I will give your descendents this land, all the lands
of the Canaanites. God names the Canaanite tribes, including the Jebusites.
So fast forward 800 years. The people of Israel had come to the Promised Land.
They had conquered most of it. But right in the middle, was this city Jerusalem.
Melchizedek's influence was long gone. It was a Jebusite city.
Canaanites right in the middle of the Promised Land.
And the Jebusites were so confident in the defense of their city that when
David came to conquer it they said, even our blind and lame can ward you off.

But David's men got in through a water shaft, which, by the way has been
discovered by archaeologists, and some people have tried to climb it to see if
it could be done—and it can—so Jerusalem was taken.
It was the ideal capital city because it is close to the center of the country,
and it had never been claimed by any tribe of Israel, so it was a city everyone
could identify with and be proud of and claim as their own.
And it's been that way ever since. God's people love Jerusalem.

The Israelites wrote worship songs about Jerusalem.
Our feet are standing in your gates, O Jerusalem.
Pray for the peace of Jerusalem, May those who love you be secure
As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds his people
May the Lord bless you from Zion (Zion highest hill, Temple mount, name for city as whole)
May the Lord bless you from Zion all the days of your life, may you see the prosperity of Jeru.
Jerusalem is where Solomon would build the Temple.
Jerusalem is where some of the great prophets would preach.
The Israelites exiled to Babylon would pray facing Jerusalem until they returned.
Jerusalem is where the Son of God was circumcised as a baby eight days old.
Jerusalem is where the boy Jesus came at age 12 and amazed elders with wisdom

Jerusalem is where Christ did great miracles and spoke words of life.
This is where he bled and was crucified outside the city walls.
In Jerusalem he rose from the dead from the mount of Olives, overlooking
Jerusalem he ascended into heaven.
On Pentecost the Holy Spirit came upon believers assembled in Jerusalem
In Jerusalem the first Christian church was established, the mother of all churches.
God's people, the church, is called Jerusalem and Zion—
and the ultimate description of Jesus finishing his work of redemption and making
everything right is the New Jerusalem coming down from heaven like a bride.

Do you know what Jerusalem is for us as Christians?

It's our real home. It's our true address.

For me there are a few addresses that I'll always remember and love.

401 E. 5th St, Tusculum, Ala—my boyhood home

651 Bamboo Ct. Marco Island, Fla—where we had two little girls

And of course 1736 Woodland St NW, Cullman, Ala, where I've lived longer
than any other place in my life. Woodland Heights best neighborhood.

But life changes, doesn't it? Home and houses aren't ours forever.

Sometimes that's part of the difficulty of those long difficult periods of life—
you feel unsettled, or maybe you do have to move.

I remember once talking to our missionaries Johan and Stephanie.

We're from South Africa, we have family there, but we'll never live there again.

We have American citizenship, but we've barely lived here.

We've spent most of our lives in Chile, but someday we'll leave it for good.

Where is our home?

If you believe in Jesus you have a forever home and a forever address, Jerusalem.

Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, the city of the great king.

The dwelling place of God with men where he will wipe every tear from their eyes, and
where the river of life flows clear as crystal and the tree of life has leaves for healing nations.

That's lovely. That's wonderful.

And it all began when David, after 800 years of Canaanite occupation
took that city back and claimed it for God.

Be encouraged, David the Shepherd King is in Jerusalem, and here's third point. . .

MP#3 Victorious over his enemies

When David became king over a united Israel,

the Philistines were still the dominant power in the region.

Their territory was the coastal plain on the Mediterranean Sea.

The Israelite tribes were in hill country in the interior.

As long as Israel was divided into northern and southern tribes fighting each other the Philistines controlled the lucrative trade routes through the area.

It says when the Philistines heard David had been anointed king they went up into the hill country with a full force to search for him.

The Philistines weren't overconfident like the Jebusites.

They knew about David. They knew about his reputation as a fighter.

So they didn't take any chances. They went up in full force.

David asked the LORD what to do and the Lord said, attack them directly, head on, hit them like an ocean wave. David does and defeats them.

They come again and David asks the LORD again what to do.

God says, don't hit them straight on this time, circle behind them and then wait until you hear something, when you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the balsam trees, that means I've gone out before you. Attack.

So David does and he's victorious again.

I listened to a sermon on this passage by a famous old British preacher named Stuart Olyott, Belvidere Road Baptist Church, Liverpool, England.

He used these battles to draw some parallels and faith lessons for our experience in spiritual warfare.

The Philistines attacked right after all these wonderful things had happened, the capture of Jerusalem and the anointing of David king over all Israel.

The Devil sometimes attacks us right after important spiritual events and decisions in our lives.

It almost always happens, for example, when a person prays to receive Christ, that there are immediate attacks of discouragement and doubt.

The Philistines attacked in the very same place they were once beaten back.

They came a second time to the Valley of Rephaim.

If you could see a map, you would see why. Valley cuts a gouge into the hill country of Israel. It was a weak spot for them, hard to defend.

Olyott said the Devil usually continues to attack us in the same place over and over. That's our vulnerable point. Sometimes that surprises us, think have it beat.

So be prepared for attacks at that same spot throughout your life.

God told David once to hit them head on, but next time to circle behind.

God wants you to always seek his wisdom and help, not to trust that you've got it all figured out and can win the battles through previous experience.

I thought those were all good applications.

Sober reminders of the common experiences of spiritual warfare.

During the waiting times of life and the discouraging time it may feel like you're under more spiritual attack than usual, so this is helpful.

But I want to make one more point that Stuart Olyott didn't make.

We're told at the very end that David struck them down from Gibeon to Gezer.

Gibeon is a town near where battle started, deep in Israelite territory,

Gezer a town on border of Israel.

The point is that David drove the Philistines out of Israel for good.

There were more battles with the Philistines, but this was the last battle with them on Israelite soil. From this time on, they were on the defensive.

David broke them here. Eventually they were completely subjugated.

So when David went back to Jerusalem after this second battle there were still Philistines, there was still fighting to be done, but his ultimate victory was inevitable. King David was in Jerusalem victorious.

That's what the New Testament tells us about Jesus Christ.

Colossians 2:15 And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

Powers and authorities Satanic forces, in the cross Christ triumphed. Broke back.

1 Corinthians 5:25 For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.

So Jesus has triumphed and he's reigning in the heavenly Jerusalem, there's still some fighting to do, but his ultimate victory is inevitable.

Last verse, Romans 6:20, this one's for you.

The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.

The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

That's saying: If you're in Christ, if you're following Jesus, you will participate in his victories, you will share in his ultimate victory, you will celebrate with your Shepherd King in the New Jerusalem.

So don't be discouraged when the wait is long and the fight is hard.

Keep your eyes on Jesus.

The best things in life are a long time coming.