

## Rise & Fall (The Journey is Just as Important as the Destination)

Andy Deane · 7/16/2023 · 2 Samuel 1-5

All of us have dreams, desires, and destinations that we aim for. Today we'll be reminded that detours, delays, and disappointments are parts of our journey we can thrive in, not just survive in. David knew his destination (he'd be king)—it was just taking forever! 15 years later he was still waiting for God's promises to come true.

*2 Samuel 1:1-23, 1 ...a man arrived from Saul's camp [and said]...Saul and his son Jonathan are dead...I happened to be on Mount Gilboa,...and there was Saul, leaning on his spear... 8 "He asked me...9 '...kill me!...'10 "So I...killed him, because I knew that...he could not survive. And I took the crown...on his head and... brought [it] here..." 11 Then David and all the men with him took...their clothes and tore them. 12 They mourned and wept and fasted...14 David asked..., "Why weren't you afraid to lift your hand to destroy the Lord's anointed?" 15 Then David said, "...strike him"...17 David took up this lament concerning Saul and...Jonathan, 18 and ... ordered ...the people of Judah be taught...23 "Saul and Jonathan, in life they were loved and admired, & in death they were not parted."*

### #1 It's on the journey that we learn **Christ-like CHARACTER:**

- I'm sure David was tempted at times to kill Saul and become king, but that shortcut would lack integrity.
- 1 Samuel 26:10–11, "As surely as the Lord lives," he said, "(1) the Lord himself will strike him, or (2) his time will come and he will die, or (3) he will go into battle & perish. But the Lord forbid that I should lay a hand on the Lord's anointed."
- His could only fight the impatience that erodes character, and embrace the patience that builds character.
- Psalm 37:7, *Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; do not fret when people succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes.*
- Waiting on the Lord is best learned during the time you still haven't arrived at your destination.
- What's the point of arriving at your goal, without Christ-like character?

*2 Samuel 2:1, In the course of time, David inquired of the Lord. "Shall I go up to one of the towns of Judah?" he asked. The Lord said, "Go up." David asked, "Where shall I go?" "To Hebron," the Lord answered.*

### #2 It's on the journey that we learn to have **COMMUNION with Christ:**

- David is so close to God that he hears His voice clearly.
- This is only possible with daily communion with God through prayer and reading the Bible.
- Psalm 5:3, *In the morning, Lord, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait...*
- John 10:27, *My sheep listen to my voice; I know them...*
- If the difficulties, monotony, and seasons of waiting, help you to hear God's voice, then they're a good thing.
- What's the point of arriving at your goal, if Jesus is not there with you?

*2 Samuel 2:2-11, 2 So David...settled in Hebron... 4 Then the men of Judah came...and...anointed David king over the tribe of Judah...8 Meanwhile, Abner...the commander of Saul's army, had taken Ish-Bosheth son of Saul and...9 made him king over...all Israel. 10 Ish-Bosheth...was forty years old when he became king..., and... reigned two years...11 The length of time David was king in Hebron over Judah was seven years and six months.*

### #3 It's on the journey that we learn to have **CONTENTMENT in Christ:**

- David was anointed king, but only partially. Do you think he was disappointed? Maybe, or maybe not, because a small kingdom was better than no kingdom!
- This is a reminder to pause and celebrate how far God has brought you in life, even though He'll take us further.
- We have to learn to be able to enjoy day-to-day normal life, not just weekends, holidays, vacations or retirement.
- Learn to have joy with God (Psalm 16:11) and learn to have joy from spiritual blessings (Ephesians 1).
- What's the point of arriving at your goal, if you won't be happy anyway?

### David finally becomes king over both Judah and all of Israel, just like God promised years earlier:

*2 Samuel 3:1; 5:1-5, 1 The war between the house of Saul and the house of David lasted a long time. David grew stronger and stronger, while the house of Saul grew weaker and weaker...5:1 All the tribes of Israel came to David*

...and said, "...2 In the past, while Saul was king..., you were the one who led Israel on their military campaigns. And the Lord said to you, 'You will shepherd my people Israel, and you will become their ruler.'" 3 [so]...the king made a covenant with them...and they anointed David king over Israel. 4 David was 30 years old when he became king, and he reigned 40 years. 5 In Hebron he reigned over Judah 7.5 years...and in Jerusalem he reigned over all Israel and Judah 33 years.

**What rhythms can you add to each day to grow in your character, communion and contentment in Christ?**

- Character: Try repenting of any ungodly shortcuts you've taken and commit to walking in integrity from now on.
- Communion: Try starting each day in prayer before you even look at your phone.
- Contentment: Try thanking God daily for the normal parts of life you aren't appreciating as much as you should.

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If you've put your trust in Jesus for salvation today, text JOURNEY to (951)425-4425 so we can support you!