

Breaking the chain of sin

Acts 2:23–24 (ESV)

²³this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.

²⁴God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.

- There was nothing stopping what Jesus did to defeat sin. (So, what stops us? Sin)
- Sin had stopped David, but in **David's return to dependence, unstoppable!**)
- Why? Because of God's promise to take his kingdom to forever- through Jesus the ultimate king. (Sometimes it seems David forgets, but not God)

David had made some bad mistakes. (Ones that we can learn from.) David had to deal with what Nathan the prophet told him would happen, and it did. (**Sin had stopped him, and the chain of sin needed breaking.**)

David was fleeing Absalom because a civil war was brewing over a coup, and Jerusalem would have been decimated.

David was very good at "hiding out" after hiding from Saul so much. (This is not the way it would work had David not wandered from God out of pride, but...)

We many times hit bottom and turn back to break the chain and we start at a place that God will have to deliver us from.

1. Humility is the first step in breaking through- (The palace would be far better!) (When you are down, there will be people to celebrate your misfortune.) Humility is needed.

a.) The opportunists arrive! (Once had a call about is the church for sale?)

2 Samuel 16:1–4 (ESV)

¹When David had passed a little beyond the summit, Ziba the servant of Mephibosheth met him, with a couple of donkeys saddled, bearing two hundred loaves of bread, a hundred bunches of raisins, a hundred of summer fruits, and a skin of wine.

²And the king said to Ziba, "Why have you brought these?" Ziba answered, "The donkeys are for the king's household to ride on, the bread and summer fruit for the young men to eat, and the wine for those who faint in the wilderness to drink."

³And the king said, "And where is your master's son?" Ziba said to the king, "Behold, he remains in Jerusalem, for he said, 'Today the house of Israel will give me back the kingdom of my father.' "

⁴Then the king said to Ziba, "Behold, all that belonged to Mephibosheth is now yours." And Ziba said, "I pay homage; let me ever find favor in your sight, my lord the king."

b.) Remember Mephibosheth? (Jonathan's remaining son, Saul's grandson) David had been good to Mephibosheth.) **Ziba was lying, and thought David was done!**

c.) He should have checked with God!

Then... 2 Samuel 16:5–11 (ESV)

⁵When King David came to Bahurim, there came out a man of the family of the house of Saul, whose name was Shimei, the son of Gera, and as he came he cursed continually.

⁶And he threw stones at David and at all the servants of King David, and all the people and all the mighty men were on his right hand and on his left.

⁷And Shimei said as he cursed, “Get out, get out, you man of blood, you worthless man!

⁸The LORD has avenged on you all the blood of the house of Saul, in whose place you have reigned, and the LORD has given the kingdom into the hand of your son Absalom. See, your evil is on you, for you are a man of blood.”

⁹Then Abishai the son of Zeruiah said to the king, “Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? Let me go over and take off his head.”

¹⁰But the king said, “What have I to do with you, you sons of Zeruiah? If he is cursing because the LORD has said to him, ‘Curse David,’ who then shall say, ‘Why have you done so?’ ”

¹¹And David said to Abishai and to all his servants, “Behold, my own son seeks my life; how much more now may this Benjaminite! Leave him alone, and let him curse, for the LORD has told him to.

d.) Job had detractors, Nehemiah had detractors, Joseph had his brothers! **Most importantly, Jesus had detractors.** (Judas, Peter put away the sword.)

John 6:64–71 (ESV)

⁶⁴But there are some of you who do not believe.” (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.)

⁶⁵And he said, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.”

⁶⁶After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him.

⁶⁷So Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you want to go away as well?”

⁶⁸Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life,

⁶⁹and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.”

⁷⁰Jesus answered them, “Did I not choose you, the twelve? And yet one of you is a devil.”

⁷¹He spoke of Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray him.

- **David took his medicine because of his sin, Jesus took on betrayal because of the sin of mankind!**
- Sometimes a little humility in criticism helps expose our blind spots! (Meat, spit out the bones.)
- This is not one of the stories that David is lauded with, like Goliath!

Proverbs 16:32 (ESV)

³²Whoever is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.

2. Worship God always- (Easy when times are good, not so much in bad times.)

Philippians 4:11–13 (ESV)

¹¹Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content.

¹²I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need.

¹³I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

a.) Worship is living in submission to Christ

b.) This allows God to oversee every situation. (Seems crazy, but it is the way that will save us from ourselves.)

Psalm 3:title–8 (ESV)

A PSALM OF DAVID, WHEN HE FLED FROM ABSALOM HIS SON.

¹O LORD, how many are my foes! Many are rising against me;

²many are saying of my soul, “There is no salvation for him in God.” Selah

³But you, O LORD, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head.

⁴I cried aloud to the LORD, and he answered me from his holy hill. Selah

⁵I lay down and slept; I woke again, for the LORD sustained me.

⁶I will not be afraid of many thousands of people who have set themselves against me all around.

⁷Arise, O LORD! Save me, O my God! For you strike all my enemies on the cheek; you break the teeth of the wicked.

⁸Salvation belongs to the LORD; your blessing be on your people! Selah

Meanwhile back in Jerusalem- (reads like a spy novel from long ago!)

- Absalom, and the betrayer Ahithophel return to Jerusalem and the kingdom.
- Ahithophel advises Absalom to assert his authority in an ugly way. (Concubines, on the roof.) Nathan said this would occur.
- Hushai, an advisor like Ahithophel, but loyal to David infiltrates Absalom’s coup.
- Ahithophel advises a surgical strike, Hushai recommends a grandiose one with Absalom leading the way. (Which appeals to Absalom- pride.)
- Two spy’s with Hushai run to relate plan to David are spotted by Absalom’s spy and they set out to kill them, but they are hidden by a woman who was to relay the message with grain over a covering of a well! (She sent the men the wrong way)

2 Samuel 17:23 (ESV)

²³When Ahithophel saw that his counsel was not followed, he saddled his donkey and went off home to his own city. He set his house in order and hanged himself, and he died and was buried in the tomb of his father.

- He knew that Absalom would fail, not going with his plan.

Just like Jesus, David was betrayed by someone close to him. (This is why we stay true to God’s plan, God is faithful every time.)

2 Samuel 17:14 (ESV)

¹⁴And Absalom and all the men of Israel said, “The counsel of Hushai the Archite is better than the counsel of Ahithophel.” For the LORD had ordained to defeat the good counsel of Ahithophel, so that the LORD might bring harm upon Absalom.

- We live a life of worship unto God, and He fights our battles!

2 Samuel 18:6–10 (ESV)

⁶So the army went out into the field against Israel, and the battle was fought in the forest of Ephraim.

⁷And the men of Israel were defeated there by the servants of David, and the loss there was great on that day, twenty thousand men.

⁸The battle spread over the face of all the country, and the forest devoured more people that day than the sword.

⁹And Absalom happened to meet the servants of David. Absalom was riding on his mule, and the mule went under the thick branches of a great oak, and his head caught fast in the oak, and he was suspended between heaven and earth, while the mule that was under him went on.

¹⁰And a certain man saw it and told Joab, "Behold, I saw Absalom hanging in an oak."

- David did not want Absalom killed. (And the one who came upon him could have but obeyed David)

2 Samuel 18:14–15 (ESV)

¹⁴Joab said, "I will not waste time like this with you." And he took three javelins in his hand and thrust them into the heart of Absalom while he was still alive in the oak.

¹⁵And ten young men, Joab's armor-bearers, surrounded Absalom and struck him and killed him.

- This was the last of what Nathan the prophet told David would occur, due to his sin. (It came at an incredible cost) It always does! (Broken heart – David)
- There will always be people who have their own plans instead of God's plan.
- Sin allows us to be enslaved to detrimental things, we must break the chain that Jesus has delivered us from.
- There will always be opportunists that want to swoop in on a church, or you Christian when we are in our blind spots.
- Walking with God will always be our hedge of protection!

2 Corinthians 6:14–18 (ESV)

¹⁴Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness?

¹⁵What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever?

¹⁶What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

¹⁷Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you,

¹⁸and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty."