

April 9

1 Chron. 16-18; 2 Sam 6-9

Hello every body. My name is Klint Bitter, I'm the Middle School Pastor at Christ Community church. Today, I have the privilege of bringing you the Project 4:4 daily accelerator for April 9<sup>th</sup>.

Today, you read sections from the book of 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel chapters 6 through 9; writings which are – again – almost identical to those found in 1 Chronicles chapters 16 through 18. This section is rich with interesting stories, exceedingly difficult-to-pronounce-names and powerful theology. I'll do my best to hit the high points.

Where we pick up is after a long Psalm of David, having just returned the Ark of the Covenant to its rightful place with the nation of Israel. The party has just ended and it's down from the "mountain top" experience and on with normal life.

The first thing I'd like you to note in the reading from today is that David wasted no time setting up the personnel and rhythm of regular worship. We have, recorded here, whom David appointed to the specific tasks of worship. I love this picture of David's heart, that immediately following the momentous occasion, it's immediately to the regular rhythm of obedience and honoring God. David was diligent; he got right to setting up the regular rhythm of worship. He was careful to appoint people to see that God's laws were properly followed.

It's easy for us to ride the "spiritual high" and avoid the every day life that can often feel mundane. I'm encouraged to follow David's example and embrace the marked change in life's seasons. Enjoy the high, celebrate it fully and return to the faithful, regular rhythm of obedience in daily life with Christ.

In today's reading, we also get this short exchange between David and Michal, a daughter of Saul married to David. She calls him out – utilizing her spiritual gift of sarcasm – for his actions in worship. David's response is a beautiful articulation of a right heart – attitude in worship. He says, "It was before the LORD, who chose me...I will celebrate before the LORD. I will become even more undignified than this, and I will be humiliated in my own eyes..."

David just got it, and again we can learn from his life. Proper worship isn't about anyone, for anyone or to anyone but the LORD. I presume that if we had witnessed the worship celebration on the day in question, we may have joined in on the rebuke. But the simple fact is that God was pleased.

Another powerful story captured here is that of Mephibosheth. Yeah, say that 10 more times...it'll turn your face to mush.

Mephibosheth is the son of Jonathon, who is now dead. David made a vow to his friend long before this all takes place. It's a beautiful picture of unmerited favor.

There's nothing Mephibosheth has done to earn the goodness David shows him. He's simply a recipient of a blessing that's far bigger than him. For us followers of Jesus, that's certainly a position we can identify with. We can see the grace of God pouring through David's character in a truly touching and powerful way.

But consider this: the vow David was upholding was an old one. There was almost no one around to hold him to it. And yet, how does the section begin? Two words, "David asked...". No one brought it to his attention; no one chased him down to hold him to an agreement. David asked...

As striking an example of blessing that this story is, it's perhaps an even more striking story of loyalty. An illustration of honor, character and moving integrity. David didn't have to keep this vow. No one would have held him to it. There were likely few that even knew about it. Yet David fulfills his promise and not just casually. He extravagantly fulfills his promise, blessing generations to come.

It's a great opportunity for you and I to check our integrity. Of what value is our word? What about when no one is looking, or when it doesn't make a whole lot of practical sense to hold fast to it? This reading challenges me to be a person of fierce loyalty, holding true to my word regardless of what the tides of life may bring.

As if that weren't enough to chew on for a day, our reading concludes with a significant exchange happening between David and God – through Nathan. David starts thinking, "God needs a house!" he concludes.

It seems that his heart is in the right place, but God, through Nathan, re-directs. You see, it was never God's idea to build a temple. God eventually allows a temple to be built, but nothing in the Old Testament suggests that it's God's plan or intention. This idea will come to bear later on as we walk through the New Testament and the concept of the church. We'll find it has more to do with Tabernacle than it does Temple. Something to keep in mind for later.

God's response to David is a little humorous. It sounds a bit like God saying, "Really, David? You're going to build *ME* a house?" It's a tone that's quickly subdued. God's message to David is, "you're not building me a house, I'm building you a legacy..." (my paraphrase)

This is one of the major covenants recorded in Scripture. Right here, we see the establishment of what's often called the Davidic Covenant. In this covenant, God promises that through David's son a temple would be built. Beyond that, God promises that David's dynasty would last forever. In time, that promise would be fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ.

I'm reminded that our God is good. As believers, we have many promises from our Father to hold to. Our God is faithful; he's worthy of our trust. What promise from God do you need to cling to today?

This is Klint Bitter encouraging you to embrace the season of life you're in, let your integrity stand firm and cling to the promises of our faithful God.