

Success and Failure in II Samuel

Text: II Sam 1-24(Overview)

Introduction:

- 1- This morning we will take a lesson out of the pages and life of King David. This lesson will consider what I believe to be one of the main themes of the book –
 - a- **Faithfulness=success and unfaithfulness=failure.**
 - b- By surveying David's reign as presented in that book.
- 2- But this lesson is more than a survey; it will explore a fundamentally important theme throughout the Bible.
- 3- So many of the messages God presents emphasize the importance of faithfulness in the Bible in such abundance that we must ask ourselves why He included it so often.

Transition:

- 1- The answer, I believe, is obvious – we all struggle with our faithfulness and we see this in the lessons of this two part book.

Discussion:

I- A two-part book.

A- Although God anointed Saul as Israel's first king, David was the king God wanted to lead the nation. God chose David because he was "a man after His own heart" (*I Samuel 13:14; 16:7*).

- 1- Because David was a man after God's heart, God gives him a lot of attention in the books about Israel's kings.
- 2- The book of II Samuel, for example, chronicles David's reign as king.

B- In narrating David's reign, the book divides into two parts; **part 1 – David's faithfulness, part 2 – David's unfaithfulness.** The unusual focus on David's failings as king (*II Samuel 11-20, 24*) should cause us to pay careful attention – God wants us to learn a valuable lesson from David's life.

II- In Part 1, David's faithfulness brought success (II Samuel 1-10).

A- David's **passion for God** manifested itself throughout the first part of his kingship. Why? Because David sought God's will: (**Note 4 Instances here**).

- 1- He punished those who disrespectfully treated Saul (*II Sam 1:1- 16*). Abner (*II Sam 3:1-30*), and Ish-bosheth (*II Sam 4:5-12*).
- 2- He honoured his covenant with Jonathan at great personal expense, (*II Sam 9:1-13*).
- 3- He restored the Ark to a place of prominence (*II Samuel 6:1-19*).
- 4- He sought to build God a permanent and glorious temple (*II Samuel 7:1-2*).

B- Because of such faithfulness God blessed David's reign (*II Samuel 5:10*); "So David went on and became great, and the LORD God of hosts was with him."

- 1- For example, God gave David: A united kingdom (*II Samuel 5:1-5*).
- 2- Decisive victories against his enemies (*II Samuel 5:6-10, 17-25; 8:1-6; 10:1-19*).
- 3- A special covenant (*II Samuel 7:12-17*).

III- Part 2, David's unfaithfulness brought failure (II Samuel 11-20).

A- In II Samuel 24:10, despite David's heart for God, he sinned.

- 1- God singles out David's sin with Bathsheba (*I Kings 15:5*).

- 2- This sin gets special attention because David tried to hide it (*II Sam 11:6-27*).
- 3- Because of the high-handed nature of his sin, God punished David, the effects of which play out in II Samuel 13-20. For example:
 - a- Ammon raped his half-sister Tamar and David did nothing (*II Samuel 13:1-22*).
 - b- Absalom murdered Ammon and David did nothing (*II Samuel 13:23-39*).
 - c- Absalom attempted to steal the kingdom away from David and David did nothing (*II Samuel 15-18*).

B- So what does all of this mean for our lives?

- 1- Faithfulness involves more than just actions, it also involves our hearts (*I Samuel 13:14; II Kings 15:5; II Samuel 24:1-10; Matthew 23:23*).
- 2- Faithfulness does not mean perfection (*II Kings 15:5; II Samuel 24:1-10; I John 1:7-8; 5:13*).
- 3- The danger of unfaithfulness is greater than we might realize and closer to us than we might understand (cf. *I Corinthians 10:12*). ***“Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.”***
- 4- Most of all God is faithful; He **will** bless faithfulness and **He will** punish unfaithfulness (*II Samuel 5:10; 12:10; Romans 14:10-12*).

Conclusion;

- 1- II Samuel shows us the successes and failures of King David. But the book’s purpose seeks to do more than tell David’s history; it sets out to teach us about faithfulness in our lives.
- 2- Let’s therefore use the lessons from David’s life to remind ourselves of real and everyday consequences of our choices.

AllanNply feb 14 /10.