

Westwood Baptist Church *Grounded. Growing. Going.*

Worship Guide for November 5, 2023

Sermon Notes

God's Kingdom & Man's Ambitions

2 Samuel 3

In our current Life Group study (*The Gospel* by Ray Ortland), we recently saw how the world's culture leads and governs by a different set of standards (different beatitudes) than those taught by King Jesus. These worldly 'beatitudes' include:

Blessed are the entitled, for they get their way.

Blessed are the pushy, for they win.

Blessed are the vengeful, for they will be feared.

Blessed are the winners, for they get their way.

After Saul's death, David continues to exemplify patient submission to God, prayerful dependence on God's direction, and grace towards those who could be considered his enemies. This stands in stark contrast to the rival regime of Abner and Ish-bosheth, who refuse to accept God's decreed will to have David as Israel's king.

In 2 Samuel 3, man's politics, pragmatism, personal ambition, and revenge seem to rule the day. Even David resorts to problematic policies that will have tragic consequences. Yet despite all these flaws and failures, God is at work fulfilling his purposes. The story of David and his reign continues to point us to the righteous King who is to come – the promised son of David, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Personal ambition & cultural compromise:
recipe for division today and future devastation (3:1-11)

Politics, rivalry & revenge:
worldly methods and motivations that do not further the kingdom (3:12-30)

Guilt, honor and gentleness:
the attitude and actions of David point us to the good and gentle King to come (3:31-39)

Life Group Preparation Guide

"Let the *Word* of Christ *dwell* in you(all) *richly*
teaching and *admonishing* one another in all *wisdom...*"

- *Colossians 3:16a*

Focus #1: GOD

1. What does this passage reveal about the character or nature of God?
2. What does this passage reveal about God's eternal plans and purposes?
3. What does this passage reveal about how God interacts with his creation?

Focus #2: ME

4. How does this passage reveal sin in my own mind, heart, or life?
5. In what ways does this passage help us to see how we need to be aligned with God's will?
6. What is one tangible and measurable way that the Spirit is leading me to respond to his Word?

Focus #3: OTHERS

7. What is one truth that I can share meaningfully with someone, and with whom?
8. How can I specifically encourage someone or everyone in my Life Group from this passage?

Three contributions (reflections, questions, observations, etc.) I plan to include in our next Life Group discussion:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Westwood Staff

Gerald Hodges: Lead Pastor
Jonathan Taylor: Associate Pastor
Jason Engle: Pastor of Students
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Deborah Rudd: Children's Ministry
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NOVEMBER

6-7 NC Baptists Annual Meeting (GSO)
13-15 NC Baptist Ministry Assistant's Conf.
16 Red Cross Blood Drive - 10:30am-3:00pm
20 GriefShare: Surviving the Holidays @ 6:30pm
21 Thanksgiving Dinner & Service @ 6:00pm
23-24 Thanksgiving: Church Office Closed
26 Church Christmas Decorating