

# Westwood Baptist Church *Grounded. Growing. Going.*

Worship Guide for November 12, 2023

## Sermon Notes

### **God's King & Man's Violence: God's Purposes Still Stand** 2 Samuel 4

Man's political maneuvering won't do it. His power-building ambitions won't do it. Man's unrighteousness – his conspiring deceit and destructive violence won't do it. None of these will hasten the coming of God's kingdom. Neither will they hinder it from coming in God's good time. This is the primary lesson we see in this section of 2 Samuel. God's anointed king will reign. Of this we can be certain. And in his sovereignty God uses the actions of men, both righteous and unrighteous, to bring those purposes about. But the unrighteousness of men is never condoned by God, and for those actions God holds men accountable.

2 Samuel 2-4 records a time of civil war in Israel as "David grows stronger and stronger, and the house of Saul becomes weaker and weaker". The brothers in chapter 4, like other men before them, assumed that David was like the other kings of the nations - that he was ambitious, power-hungry, and would reward anyone who furthered his cause, regardless of how it came about. But they were wrong, and that miscalculation was costly. "They have no idea that David lives in a God-alive world. This failure of imagination cost them their lives. Understanding God and his ways (theology) is practical knowledge—it can save your life." (Eugene Peterson)

As followers of Christ, our lives should reflect the joyful confident understanding that we do indeed live in a "God-alive world". In 2 Samuel, we see again what this perspective looks like - and what it doesn't. As in previous chapters, David is the central character in the narrative, but ultimately this story is not about David. The ongoing underlying plot line reveals the providence of God who is working all things "*according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.*" (Ephesians 1:9-10)

There is no security in the kings and kingdoms of this world;  
they will ultimately fail and fall. (2 Sam 4:1-4)

There is no limit to the depth on man's unrighteousness; regardless of the reason (or excuse)  
the end is never justified by unrighteous means. (2 Sam 4:5-8)

There is no escape from the righteous justice of God;  
yet there is a Substitute who takes the punishment for us. (2 Sam 4:9-12; Romans 3:21-26)

## 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  
& Discipleship  
**Deborah Rudd:** Children's Ministry  
Coordinator  
**Yvonne Hager:** Executive Assistant

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#### NOVEMBER

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