

Westwood Baptist Church *Grounded. Growing. Going.*

Worship Guide for February 18, 2024

Sermon Notes

Sin's Sad Consequences

2 Samuel 14:1 – 15:12 (pew Bible pgs. 265-266)

In His Word, God declares, *“I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose...I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass; I have purposed, and I will do it.’”* (Isaiah 46:8–11)

In His Word, God also says, *“So then each of us will give an account of himself to God. Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.”* (Rom 14:12, Gal 6:7)

In our study of 1 and 2 Samuel, we have seen these truths play out in the life of David. As a result of David's sin with Bathsheba, God declared that evil would rise up against David out of his own house (2 Sam 12:11). This is what we see unfolding through the actions of David's son, Absalom. Absalom's actions will bring about the judgment that God declared. For this, Absalom will be accountable. We may struggle to see how these seemingly contradictory truths can be reconciled. God's Word sees no conflict or contradiction. Sin brings sad consequences. But God purposes stand, and He is merciful and gracious to us through David's eternal Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Schism: David's family in shambles (2 Sam 13:39)

The Not-So-Subtle Scheming: Joab's attempt to bring unwanted reconciliation (2 Sam 14:1-24)

The Shadow of Saul: Absalom's similarity to Saul – good looks, but godless (2 Sam 14:25-27)

The Reluctant Kiss: David's acquiescence sets the stage for a serpent (2 Samuel 14:28-33)

The Serpent's Coup: Absalom plays the crowd as he conspires to steal the throne (2 Sam 15:1-12)

Applications:

The thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy. Jesus comes to give life. Trust him.

The wisdom and ways of God are not the wisdom and ways of this world; be discerning in this.

Charisma and public approval mean nothing, and are in fact, dangerous without character and integrity. Be discerning in this.

God's purposes stand through Christ our Lord. Rest in this.

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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FEBRUARY

23-24 AHG ExPiPa Lock-in

MARCH

10 Daylight Saving Time begins
14 Life Choices Banquet
15-17 TL Campout @ Falls Lake
20 Member's Meeting @ 6:30pm
21 Blood Drive - 10:30am-3pm
28 Maundy Thursday Service @ 7pm
29 Good Friday - Church Office Closed