

The Life of David Part 3

Sermon: We All Want To Be Loved.

Speaker: Nelson Nyman

Old king David and Abishag the Shunammite.

Then Adonijah the son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, "I will be king"; and he prepared for himself chariots and horsemen, and fifty men to run before him. 1 Kings 1:5

This was one of David's sons...

"Then he conferred with Joab the son of Zeruah and with Abiathar the priest, and they followed and helped Adonijah.

But

Zadok the priest, Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, Nathan the prophet, Shimei, Rei, and the mighty men who belonged to David were not with Adonijah."

1 Kings 1:7-8

What do we have here?

Self-promotion.

This is the way of the world, but is it the way up in the kingdom of God?

Remember how David became king...

Unknown shepherd to King of Israel.

"God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble." James 4:6

Adonijah caved in to the temptation for.

1. popularity
2. position
3. power

Temptations, not virtues.

These are also temptations for the people of God.

Why are these temptations so strong?

Because they're counterfeit expressions of love.

And everyone wants to be loved.

The world loves (and rewards) people who have these things.

And people, including the people of God, want to be loved.

Henri Nowen explains this in his book,

In the Name Of Jesus.

The "first love".

"We love because he first loved us." 1 John 4:19

Unconditional, not dependent on us, unlimited, whole, strong, peaceful.

The "second love".

"The love that often leaves us doubtful, frustrated, angry, and resentful is the second love, that is to say, the affirmation, affection, sympathy, encouragement, and support that we receive from our parents, teachers, spouses, and friends.

We all know how limited, broken, and very fragile the love is. Behind the many expressions of this second love there is always the chance of rejection, withdrawal, punishment, blackmail, violence, and even hatred." - Henri Nowen

Why might Adonijah have put himself forward as king?

"(And his father had not rebuked him at any time by saying, "Why have you done so?" He was also very good-looking. His mother had borne him after Absalom.) 1 Kings 1:6

Adonijah might have been looking for the love he didn't get from his father in the form of discipline when he put himself forward as king.

Maybe even a little bit of the, "Now you will notice me, Dad!"

Example: Neglected kids will take attention in any form, even negatively.

Bathsheba came to David and pleaded with him to rescue her and Solomon.

Then she said to him, "My lord, you swore by the Lord your God to your maidservant, saying, 'Assuredly Solomon your son shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne.' So now, look! Adonijah has become king; and now, my lord the king, you do not know about it. He has sacrificed oxen and fattened cattle and sheep in abundance, and has invited all the sons of the king, Abiathar the priest, and Joab the commander of the army; but Solomon your servant he has not invited. And as for you, my lord, O king, the eyes of all Israel are on you, that you should tell them who will sit on the throne of my lord the king after him. Otherwise it will happen, when my lord the king rests with his fathers, that I and my son Solomon will be counted as offenders." 1 Kings 1:17-21

And King David said, "Call to me Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada." So they came before the king. The king also said to them, "Take with you the servants of your lord, and have Solomon my son ride on my own mule, and take him down to Gihon. There let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him king over Israel; and blow the horn, and say, 'Long live King Solomon!' Then you shall come up after him, and he shall come and sit on my throne, and he shall be king in my place. For I have appointed him to be ruler over Israel and Judah." 1 Kings 1:32-35

Now Adonijah and his party of people heard the shouting when Solomon was anointed king and feared when a messenger came with news that David had given him the kingdom.

He took hold of the horns of the altar because he feared for his life, but Solomon had him brought down...

Then Solomon said, "If he proves himself a worthy man, not one hair of him shall fall to the earth; but if wickedness is found in him, he shall die." 1 Kings 1:52

Then David passed away.

"The period that David reigned over Israel was forty years; seven years he reigned in Hebron, and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty-three years."

Then Adonijah went to Bathsheba...

Then he said, "You know that the kingdom was mine, and all Israel had set their expectations on me, that I should reign. However, the kingdom has been turned over, and has become my brother's; for it was his from the Lord. Now I ask one petition of you; do not deny me." 1 Kings 2:15-16

He actually knew the kingdom wasn't his.

He asked for the David's concubine to be his wife.

Bathsheba passed it along to Solomon.

“And King Solomon answered and said to his mother, “Now why do you ask Abishag the Shunammite for Adonijah? Ask for him the kingdom also—for he is my older brother—for him, and for Abiathar the priest, and for Joab the son of Zeruiah.” Then King Solomon swore by the Lord, saying, “May God do so to me, and more also, if Adonijah has not spoken this word against his own life! Now therefore, as the Lord lives, who has confirmed me and set me on the throne of David my father, and who has established a house for me, as He promised, Adonijah shall be put to death today!” So King Solomon sent by the hand of Benaiah the son of Jehoiada; and he struck him down, and he died.” 1 Kings 2:22-24

Here is where the “wickedness was found in him” as Solomon presumed.

What wickedness?

The desire for.

1. popularity
2. position
3. power

“It was plain enough that Adonijah aimed at the crown and Solomon could not be safe while he lived.” - Matthew Henry

“For the LORD Almighty has purposed, and who can thwart him? His hand is stretched out, and who can turn it back?” Isaiah 14:27

Application:

What can we take from this so we don't make a similar mistake?

What are we looking for?

Do we know this first love or are we looking for the second love?

“The question is not: How many people take you seriously? How much are you going to accomplish? Can you show me some results? BUT: Are you in love with Jesus?” - Henri Nouwen

If life is lived trying to answer the first questions, there will always be fear and insecurity and, at best, hidden emotional bankruptcy.

2 perspectives on love.

Remember who said this:

“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”
Matthew 11:28-29

And how does that work?

Knowing Jesus is knowing the incarnate God, a God who reaches out, who forgives, who heals. Who loved us when we didn't love him back.

“The Lord is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and rich in love.
The Lord is good to all;
he has compassion on all he has made.”
Psalm 145:8-9

That's the first love.

When we know this first love, the desire for popularity, position, and power will gradually disappear and we will bring the same hope, love, and joy wherever we go.

Application:

How do we know this first love?

“Contemplative prayer deepens in us the knowledge that we are already free, that we have already found a place to dwell, that we already belong to God, even though everything and everyone around us keeps suggesting the opposite.” - Henri Nowen

Garbage in, garbage out.

What are you putting in?

Prayer and Bible reading instead of TV and social media.

Ever met a person who rants and raves about politics and is constantly talking about the impending disaster whether it be being bombed by North Korea, financial collapse, or being double-crossed by people?

Knowing this “first love” makes all the difference in the world.

It's the Good News.

It is the knowledge of being truly and unconditionally loved.

Do I know this truth?

Do you know this truth?

“Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

John 8:32