



my grandma time

...doing simple things together!

Week 20, Day 1 --- Psalm 32 - Psalm 51 - Psalm 86 - Psalm 122

Week 20, Day 2 --- 2 Samuel 13-15

Week 20, Day 3 --- Psalm 3-4 - Psalm 12-13 - Psalm 28 - Psalm 55

Week 20, Day 4 --- 2 Samuel 16-18

Week 20, Day 5 --- Psalm 26 - Psalm 40 - Psalm 58 - Psalm 61-62 - Psalm 64

Week 20, Day 6 --- 2 Samuel 19-21

Week 20, Day 7 --- Psalm 5 - Psalm 38 - Psalm 41-42

Week 20, Day 1 --- Psalm 32 - Psalm 51 - Psalm 86 - Psalm 122

Today's psalms are all written by David around the period of time that he committed the sins of adultery and murder. In Psalm 32 David describes the importance of confession. Confession literally means to agree with. So, confession for a believer is to agree with God about the sin that has been committed. David gives us an example of what this looks like in Psalm 51. Psalm 86 demonstrates an incredible confidence in God's forgiveness. Read this psalm carefully. When do you think David wrote it? How does David view his relationship with God at the time he writes it? Psalm 122 is a prayer for peace. The Hebrew word for peace is shalom and it is a hard word to define. It describes a state of complete well being. We might say that when peace is present all is right with the world.

Week 20, Day 2 --- 2 Samuel 13-15

This is one of the saddest stories in the Old Testament. David was a great warrior and king, but a very poor father. His failure to discipline Amnon after he raped his sister almost cost him the kingdom. Not once in this story do I see David seeking God's guidance. Why is a story like this included in the Bible? What do you think is going to happen to Absalom? What kind of psalms would David write while all this is going on?

Week 20, Day 3 --- Psalm 3-4 - Psalm 12-13 - Psalm 28 - Psalm 55

These psalms were all written at a very low time in David's life. He was on the run for his life and he was running from one of his favorite sons. I don't know how I would respond in such a situation. I doubt that I could express the trust in God that David expresses. Just a few days ago I had a confrontation with a neighbor. It was very one sided. I have never been yelled at with such anger for such a long period of time before. I was terrified and thinking about and trying to resolve the conflict has resulted in days of trembling and fear. I cannot control him, so the situation may never be resolved. David's words comfort me because I know that I can trust God to provide a place of peace. As I'm writing this there is a storm blowing outside and here I sit warm and dry. God wants us to get to the place where we experience the same thing emotionally and spiritually. The storms of life will rage against the peace we desire, but God is a strong shelter where peace can always be found.

- What are you allowing to take away your peace?
- What does David teach you about God in these psalms?

Week 20, Day 4 --- 2 Samuel 16-18

Spies and intrigue are not new things. This story has all of these things and more. The unfortunate thing is that this whole sad tale could have been prevented. If David had disciplined Amnon or reconciled with Absalom this story never happens. Instead, David ignored the problem and just hoped it would go away. Relational problems don't just go away. Sometimes the anger and bitterness ruin people's lives. Occasionally, someone dies as in this story. Civil war is always ugly and in this case 20,000 men died.

- Why is God supporting David and working against Absalom?
- What do you think of David's decision to not lead the battle?
- Have you ever experienced the death of someone you loved? If so, how did you feel?

Week 20, Day 5 --- Psalm 26 - Psalm 40 - Psalm 58 - Psalm 61-62 - Psalm 64

David uses an interesting word in Psalm 26. It is the word integrity. It is a quality that David claims to have, but that very few can claim. It means that a person is the same on the inside as what people see on the outside. It says that a person is the same in every situation. I desire to become a man of integrity, but struggle with the desire to please and this causes me to change depending on the situation. How is your integrity? Are you the same person when you talk to me that you are when you're playing basketball with your fellow prisoners?

The rest of the psalms really center on a couple of really important concepts. The first is that God is the solution to our problems, even those that are the results of our own sin. The second is a very specific application of this. Vengeance is God's responsibility, but we are expected to rejoice when His justice is performed. We rejoice not because people suffer, but because God remains holy and cannot tolerate evil. It is hard not to take vengeance when I have been wronged. I can let go only because I know that God is just and He will execute judgment, so I don't need to try.

Week 20, Day 6 --- 2 Samuel 19-21

I think the cliché goes something like this – who needs enemies when I have friends like you? Joab was an incredibly powerful man, but he knew that his power was dependent on David remaining king. He was a violent man and murdered anyone who he felt would damage his position with David. He is also a very political man. He has a much better sense of what is happening with the people than David does.

In these stories you can see the beginnings of the division of Israel. It takes a strong king to hold them together.

- Why did they find it so difficult to get along?
- Why do we find it so difficult to get along?

Week 20, Day 7 --- Psalm 5 - Psalm 38 - Psalm 41-42

Psalm 5 – What have evil people used to keep you away from God? What are evil people saying now to try to pull you away from God?

Psalm 38 – David recognizes his sin. He also recognizes that his sin has created an opening for his enemies to attack him. Who does David turn to? Where do you turn when life gets difficult?

Psalm 41 – When do you think David wrote this psalm? I’m constantly amazed at David’s confidence in his relationship with God. Even with all David’s power and wealth his trust is in God.

Psalm 42 – This psalm should really make you think about what you desire more than anything. I find this difficult. I am blessed with so much that I rarely have that feeling of deep desire that I think David is trying to describe in this psalm. I know that my greatest and constant desire should be for more of God, yet I’m constantly distracted by other things. What do you desire more than anything?