

Introduction

1. I have always been a fairly confident person—with my swimming growing up, with my studies in college and seminary, in my job as an IT specialist—I don't generally question my skills or abilities
2. We're always told that confidence is a good thing, but there's a downside to it
3. Let me give you a personal example:
 - a. Ever since I was saved I've loved the Word of God
 - b. I've always been an analytical thinker so studying the Bible seemed to come easy to me
 - c. Even before seminary it seemed that my spiritual gifts revolved around teaching the Word of God, and even though I never considered myself an outstanding teacher from a style perspective, I felt confident in my abilities to study and teach
 - d. After spending time with Pastor Krenz, graduating from seminary, and teaching nearly weekly for the past 25 years, I don't think any of you would be shocked if I told you I'm pretty confident I can do this <grin>...and that's where the problem is
 - e. Sometimes my study and teaching can almost become routine, where I don't give much thought to it. I just jump right in with my Bible Works open on one screen and my word processor on the other and start exercising those skills and abilities I've honed over the years—as if it's just another academic exercise and I can handle it
 - f. God has a way of reminding me at times like that, that even though I have the skills and abilities, I shouldn't do it on my own; I should pray, ask for Him to guide my study, help me to see the author's intent, help me know what to share, put together my notes
 - g. I laugh to myself sometimes because I'll get to a particularly difficult passage, spend a few days of frustration trying to figure it out, and then it will finally dawn on me, "Maybe you should pray about this." Sure enough, that always seems to be when God lifts the blinders!
4. Today we're going to look at 2 Samuel 5 where David finally becomes king over all of Israel and there are a number of things that stand out and relate to what I just shared:
 - a. David was more than qualified to serve as Israel's king
 - b. He was a skilled military man with a perfect record (all victories, no defeats)
 - c. He knew how to lead and command an army
 - d. He knew what it took to be king—after all, he had been Judah's king for over seven years
 - e. David had every reason to be confident serving as king of Israel
 - f. However, it wasn't David's own skill or abilities that made him a great king
 - g. Today, we'll see four things that contributed to him becoming a great king

A. David became king because of the LORD's PRIORITIES to him (READ 1-5):

1. One of the first things we see here is that David didn't ascend to the throne on his own strength or power—the people of Israel came to him (1-3):
 - a. We learned last week that David wasn't interested in becoming king through illegitimate means, like the murder of Ish-bosheth—so even after that we still see him at home in Hebron
 - b. Even when he became king of Judah, we saw that he would not proceed with first seeking counsel from the LORD (2 Samuel 2:1)

- c. So, this truly is the LORD fulfilling His promise to David back in 1 Samuel 16:12-13 to make him king over all of Israel
- 2. The second thing to note here is that the LORD's priority wasn't fulfilled overnight—it unfolded over a span of roughly 15 to 20 years:
 - a. David was a youth—maybe 10 to 15 years old—when he was first anointed by Samuel
 - b. He then became king over Judah around 23, and king over all of Israel seven and a half years later at age 30
- 3. This tells us something about both the LORD and David:
 - a. As for the LORD, we see that He is never in a hurry and His plans will be accomplished according to His timing and purpose—consider this:
 - 1) At the Fall, we have the first mention of God's redemptive plan—the Gospel—through the promise of a seed or descendent of Eve
 - 2) It was 2000 years before we see the next major step in that plan take place, the calling of Abraham and God's promise to give him a son, make him a great nation, and bless the world through him
 - 3) It was then another 500 years before we see the next major step in the Exodus, Conquest of the land, and the giving of the Law
 - 4) Then, it was another 1500 years before Christ was born
 - 5) And, finally, it's been another 2000 years that the Church has been waiting for Jesus to return
 - b. As for David, we see that he was patient and willing to accept God's timing:
 - 1) This is a typical expectation of God's people
 - 2) David waited 15 to 20 years to become King of Israel
 - 3) Abraham waited 20 years for God's promise of Isaac
 - 4) Isaac and Rebecca waited 20 years for God to give them Jacob
 - 5) Even the Apostle Paul appears to have waited almost 14 years for God to begin to use him in the way He claimed He would when He saved Him
- 4. Maybe the take away for us here is that things are best when they are based on God's priorities rather than our own, and that often we have to be patient and simply wait for Him to accomplish them.

B. David became a great king because of the LORD's PRESENCE in his life (6-10):
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- 1. One of the first things David does as King of Israel is attack the Jebusites and drive them out of the region:
 - a. During the conquest, Israel was supposed to drive out all the Canaanites but in their disobedience, they failed to do so
 - b. At this time, they still controlled much of the hill country surrounding Jerusalem (which was their capital)
 - c. The text doesn't tell us why David made this his first order of business, but it was likely due to the fact that he understood the importance of carrying out God's commands as it related to the Canaanites

2. Prior to this David had already established himself as a great military commander, but the text tells us that he continued to grow even greater and greater...and it tells us why (10): **“David became greater and greater, for the LORD God of hosts was with him.”**
 - a. When Samuel anointed David with oil in 1 Samuel 16:12-13 it says, **“...the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward.”**
 - b. We also read these words in 2 Samuel 7:9: **“I have been with you wherever you have gone and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make you a great name, like the names of the great men who are on the earth.”**
 - c. David’s greatness as a king was wholly attributed to the LORD’s presence and favor in his life as a result of his love for and obedience to the LORD (what a contrast to Saul who constantly disobeyed, lost the Spirit, and ultimately was defeated and killed)
3. Take away: While the LORD hasn’t promised us greatness like he did David in exchange for our love and obedience, He has promised to bless us and be with us when we love and obey Him (READ Psalm 1:1-4)

C. David became a wise and humble king because he recognized the LORD’s PURPOSE in making him king (READ 11-16):

1. The word **“realized”** is important:
 - a. When we hear the word “realize” we generally think of something dawning on us—like, “Oh, I just realized something...”, but that’s now it’s being used here
 - b. The word is simply the word for knowing something
 - c. It’s used in the imperfect tense here which generally refers to ongoing action so a better way to think of this would be “David was knowing...” meaning he was constantly aware
2. The text tells us David was aware of two things:
 - a. The first is that it was the LORD who made him king—it wasn’t of his own doing, or something he did by his own power or skill
 - b. The second is that the LORD made him king not for his own benefit, but for the “sake of Israel”
 - c. There is no question that David was a wise and benevolent king, and the greatest king that ever served Israel, and it was a direct result of understanding God’s purpose in making him king
3. Think about how embracing this principle ourselves would impact our lives:
 - a. Would I be a better husband if I realize that it wasn’t so much me choosing to be a husband, but that God made me a husband, and not so much for my benefit, but for the sake of my wife?
 - b. Would a wife be a better wife if she realized that it wasn’t so much her that chose to be a wife, but that God made her a wife, and not only for her benefit, but for the sake of her husband?
 - c. Are we better parents when we realize that it wasn’t so much our choice that made us parents, but that God made us parents, and that he did so for the sake of our children?
 - d. What if we realized that it wasn’t so much that we chose God, but that He chose us before the foundation of the world, and not only for our benefit but for the sake of others that we might minister to?
 - e. Doesn’t this apply to almost any decision we make or thing we do in this life?

D. David became a successful king because he relied on the LORD's POWER (READ 17-25)
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1. One of the main roles of the king is to protect his people
 2. One of the things we see throughout David's life that lead to his success in this area is his continued reliance on the LORD's power rather than his own—and we see this profoundly in the seven times he inquires of the LORD
 3. Here, we have two instances in which the Philistines not only attack Israel, but specifically target David
 4. In the first instance, when David sees the Philistines preparing to attack he asks the LORD if he should go on the offensive and attack the Philistines first--The LORD says yes, promises to defeat the Philistines, and ultimately delivers them into David's hand
 5. In the second instance, David seeks the LORD's counsel once again:
 - a. He had already defeated the Amalekites, then the Jebusites, and just before this the Philistines
 - b. Why pray again? Why not just assume God would give him victory again?
 - c. One reason may have been that this time David wasn't simply asking whether to attack, but asking the LORD for wisdom in how to attack:
 - 1) Unlike the first instance where we are told David asked whether he should attack, here we are not told what he asked the LORD
 - 2) However, the LORD provided specific strategy to David in how to defeat the Philistines
 - 3) This seems to suggest that David asked the LORD for more than a yes/no answer but wisdom on how to defeat the Philistines
 - d. Another reason may have been that David simply recognized his need to be utterly dependent on the LORD—this is what we see reflected in the 14 Imprecatory Psalms (calling down God's judgment and destruction on enemies):
 - 1) Psalm 17:13: "Rise up, LORD, confront them, bring them down; with your sword rescue me from the wicked."
 - 2) Psalm 35:1-3: "Contend, O LORD, with those who contend with me; Fight against those who fight against me. ² Take hold of buckler and shield And rise up for my help. ³ Draw also the spear and the battle-axe to meet those who pursue me; Say to my soul, "I am your salvation."
 - 3) Psalm 59:1-3: "**Deliver me from my enemies, O my God; Set me securely on high away from those who rise up against me. 2 Deliver me from those who do iniquity And save me from men of bloodshed.**"
 - 4) Psalm 69:1-3: "**Save me, O God, For the waters have threatened my life. 2 I have sunk in deep mire, and there is no foothold; I have come into deep waters, and a flood overflows me. 3 I am weary with my crying; my throat is parched; My eyes fail while I wait for my God.**"
 - 5) Psalm 70:1-5: "**O God, hasten to deliver me; O LORD, hasten to my help! 2 Let those be ashamed and humiliated Who seek my life; Let those be turned back and dishonored Who delight in my hurt. 3 Let those be turned back because of their shame Who say, "Aha, aha!" 4 Let all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You; And let those who love Your salvation say continually, "Let God be magnified." 5 But I am afflicted and needy; Hasten to me, O God! You are my help and my deliverer; O LORD, do not delay.**"
6. Do you think we sometimes get complacent as Christians?

- 1) How often do we make decisions without praying, either because we just don't think about it or because we assume we know what the LORD wants?
- 2) Do we go about our days relying purely on our own efforts, skills or strength instead of asking the LORD for His help?
- 3) When we're struggling with something, do we seek out wisdom from other sources and individuals before seeking out the LORD's counsel first?
- 4) When things are going well, does He slip our minds until we actually need His help?