

Rise & Fall (I Am At My Best When...)

Andy Deane · 7/23/2023 · 2 Samuel 6-10

As we see David at his best we're reminded how we're at our best when we remember God is present with us.

2 Samuel 6, 1 David...and all his men went...to bring up...the ark of God...3 They set [it] on a new cart and brought it...and...David and all Israel were celebrating with all their might...6 Uzzah reached out and took hold of the ark...because the oxen stumbled. 7 The Lord's anger burned against Uzzah because of his irreverent act; therefore God struck him...and he died...8 David was angry because the Lord's wrath had broken out...9 David was afraid... and said, "How can the ark...ever come to me?"...11 The ark...remained in the house of Obed-Edom...for three months, and the Lord blessed him...12 So David went to bring up the ark...to the City of David with rejoicing. 13 When those who were carrying the ark of the Lord had taken six steps, he sacrificed a bull and a fattened calf. 14 Wearing a linen ephod, David was dancing before the Lord with all his might...16 Michal... watched...and when she saw King David...dancing before the Lord, she despised him...17 They brought the ark... and set it in its place inside the tent that David had pitched... 18 After he had finished sacrificing...he blessed the people...and...20 Michal...said, "How the king of Israel has distinguished himself today..." 21 David said, "...I will celebrate... 22 I will become even more undignified than this, and I will be humiliated in my own eyes.

I'm at my best when I am SEEKING God:

1. Passionately: with emotion & effort
 - David and his men: *celebrated with all their might* (3)
 - Emotions are great, and God deserves them. The problem is emotion unchecked can lead us its own way.
2. Reverently: with respect & truth
 - *Lord's anger burned...irreverent act* (7)
 - David doesn't lose the passion, he finally adds the reverence (the ark was carried according to the Law).
 - John 4:24, ...*must worship in the Spirit and in truth*.

2 Samuel 7, 1 After the king was settled in his palace ...2 he said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am, living in a house of cedar, while the ark...remains in a tent ..." 4 that night the word of the Lord came to Nathan ... 5 "Go and tell my servant David, '...Are you the one to build me a house to dwell in? 6 I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt...I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. 9 I have been with you wherever you have gone...Now I will make your name great... 11 The Lord declares to you that the Lord himself will establish a house for you...16 Your house and your kingdom will endure forever..." 18 Then King David went in and sat before the Lord, and he said: "Who am I, Sovereign Lord, and what is my family, that you have brought me this far?...22 "How great you are..!"

QUESTION: How will you seek God in worship personally this week?

I'm at my best when I am SITTING with God:

1. Prayerfully: with gratitude
 - Sometimes we just need to sit and marvel at what God is doing for us.
 - God wanted to build a dynasty for David: *the Lord himself will establish a house for you* (11)
 - Often God just wants us to sit contently in his presence: *David sat before the Lord* (18)
2. Relationally: with Jesus
 - *your kingdom will endure forever* (16) - David's kingdom didn't do this, so whose did?
 - This promise is ultimately fulfilled in the Son of David (a descendant of his), Jesus Christ.
 - Luke 1:32-33, "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

QUESTION: When will you sit with God in extended prayer this week?

2 Samuel 8:15, David reigned over all Israel, doing what was just and right for all his people.

2 Samuel 9:1-7, 1 “David asked, “Is there anyone still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan’s sake?”...3 God’s kindness?...“There is still a son of Jonathan”...6 Mephibosheth... ”7 Don’t be afraid,” David said to him, “for I will surely show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan. I will restore to you all the land that belonged to your grandfather Saul, and you will always eat at my table.”

2 Samuel 10:1-7, In the course of time, the king of the Ammonites died, and his son Hanun succeeded him as king. 2 David thought, “I will show kindness to Hanun son of Nahash, just as his father showed kindness to me.” So David sent a delegation to express his sympathy to Hanun concerning his father...4 Hanun seized David’s envoys, shaved off half of each man’s beard, cut off their garments at the buttocks, and sent them away...7 On hearing this, David sent Joab out with the entire army of fighting men.

I’m at my best when I am SHOWING God’s Kindness:

- Generously: with practical love
 - When things were going well for David, he didn’t become selfish, he sought out someone to bless.
 - Matthew 10:8, *Freely you have received; freely give.*
- Undeservedly: with God as our reason
 - David blessed Mephibosheth & Hanun, not for their sakes, but for their father’s sake: *for the sake of your father (2 Samuel 9:7) & his father showed kindness (2 Samuel 10:2)*
 - We should seek out others to bless, whether they deserve it or not, for our Father in heaven’s sake.

QUESTION: Who will you show kindness to, for God’s sake, this week?

David’s actions illustrate a serious gospel lesson:

- The king blessed both of them generously: one received it and one rejected it.
- God’s grace is a gift, but to reject the King’s offer incurs wrath:
- John 3:36, *Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on them.*
- What will you choose to do today with God’s offer of grace to you?