

Nones & Dones Christmas Slide

2 Samuel Series Slide

Title Slide: "Senseless Census: How to Make Repentance Count"- 2 Samuel 24

24:1-10

24:1 & 1 Chronicles 21:1

The Lord's anger burned against Israel again, and he stirred up David against them to say, "Go, count the people of Israel and Judah."

So God provokes David to do something bad...and David is responsible for it?

It gets a lot more complicated... in 1 Chronicles...

Satan rose up against Israel and incited David to count the people of Israel

What is going on here?

Who's fault is this really? David? Satan's? God?

Mystery of God's sovereignty.

On one hand God is directing everything in the universe to an end. The Remaking of the world into new creation. On the other hand, each one of us are making real-time meaningful choices that have real-life consequences. God's not waiting around for us to choose to decide what he's going to do...Neither does he make us do things so that things turn out the way he wants them to.

Instead- God uses even our evil choices- for his ultimate good for the world.

Here, God allows a Satanic temptation to get to King David- BECAUSE he intends to use the consequences of David's sin as judgment for all Israel- that has done something collectively evil.

And even with God's allowing of Satan to tempt David in this way- the responsibility lies with David.

James 1:13-15

13 No one undergoing a trial should say, “I am being tempted by God,” since God is not tempted by evil, and he himself doesn’t tempt anyone. 14 But each person is tempted when he is drawn away and enticed by his own evil desire. 15 Then after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and when sin is fully grown, it gives birth to death.

One of the best examples of this is the story of Joseph at the end of Genesis.

Genesis 50:19-20

19 But Joseph said to them, “Don’t be afraid. Am I in the place of God? 20 You planned evil against me; God planned it for good to bring about the present result – the survival of many people.

What’s so bad about a census?

Our reaction- “I don’t see anything bad about it, so there must not be”

Our ethic today: 1) Do I want to do it? 2) Does it harm anyone else?

Sex outside of marriage,

Leaving my spouse for a younger, better looking woman

Marrying someone of the same sex

Choosing a different gender than the one God gave me in a physical connection with my body?

NOW TO THE CENSUS

Harkens back to 1 Samuel when Israel asked for a King- TO BE LIKE OTHER NATIONS

Israel was supposed to show God to the nations through their WEAKNESS- so that the nations would be drawn to him. Instead this is a power move- David is counting his army to see who he can attack.

The Crime- David (and Israel along with him) are mounting an army to overtake other nations outside of what God had said.

Pride& Security

Instead of God's Glory and dependence on him

2 Samuel 24:11-15

Punishment fits the crime-

On run from foes- in the hands of enemies- there goes pride & security

Famine- now you can't attack surrounding nations- you have to go with your hat in your hand (the way Joseph's brothers had to go to Egypt)- there goes pride and security- once again you are in the hands of your enemies.

PLAGUE- cuts the army down- now you don't have enough to attack- you aren't bigger and better- but the other nations aren't involved now. So pride and security take a hit... but it's just you and God.

David says- I want the one where we are only in your hands- because I trust you are merciful!

A mark of spiritual maturity is repenting before you get caught.

With Bathsheba- it was post-prophet repentance.
Here- it's pre-prophet

2 Samuel 24:18-25

A mark of spiritual maturity is sacrificial worship.

What does your worship cost you?

Financial expression?

Is God calling you to take the **gospel to another country**- maybe leaving behind something very comfortable and familiar?

Is God calling you to give your life away somehow in this **community**?

What about **forgiveness** you've been withholding?

BUT WHY END THE BOOK LIKE THIS?!?!?

There was a nice bow on things in chapter 22-23.

David writes a song of gratitude summarizing God's faithfulness in his life.
Says some beautiful last words.
And then we get a summary of all the victories

Strangely, though...look how this list of David's most faithful warriors ends in chapter 23.

23:39

with Uriah the Hittite.

Back to David's weakness..his failure. Not to rub it in...but to remind Israel.

David is not the King Israel is looking for, but...

a Son of David will be.

2 Samuel ends with 70k Israelites dying because of the sin of their King. So though David in some sense has gotten "better"... his sin now didn't just cost the life of Uriah and a few men...but 70k.

1-2 Samuel goes in a giant circle.

1 Samuel opens with Hannah (Samuel's mom) crying out for justice.

2 Samuel ends with David crying out for salvation.

Both expressed that with songs that referenced God as their ROCK....Steady & Faithful.

1 Sam opened with Israel wanting a king to replace God.

2 Sam ends with that KING replacing God with his people through a census.

David- even in his most virtuous, courageous and kind...still failed them.

2 Sam 24:16

Then the angel extended his hand toward Jerusalem to destroy it, but the Lord relented concerning the destruction and said to the angel who was destroying the people, "Enough, withdraw your hand now!" The angel of the Lord was then at the threshing floor of Araunah.

What's the deal with the random detail about the location of the angel. On the threshing floor at Araunah?

2 Sam 24:17

When David saw the angel striking the people,

(parallel account in Chronicles said the angel had a sword stretched back ready to strike Jerusalem)

he said to the Lord, “Look, I am the one who has sinned; I am the one who has done wrong. But these sheep, what have they done? Please, let your hand be against me and my father’s family.”

David...thinking back to his shepherd days...in the fields where God first anointed him... says...”My job is to lay my life down for the sheep. Don’t punish them for this sin...don’t even punish them for their own sin. Bring justice down on me and my family...and God accepts.

v 18

But he doesn’t kill David like David asked. Instead- God asks David to build an altar where the angel stayed his hand from killing. ..and make a sacrifice there.

David buys the threshing floor- and offers sacrifice.

This is where it gets good!

2 Chronicles 3:1 tells us that the threshing floor was on the top of Mt Moriah..the same place where Abraham was called to sacrifice his promised son Isaac- but God sent an angel to stop him.

And Abraham stood there with his knife raised above the promised son...and the angel pointed to a thicket where a ram was caught by the horns and says “Offer the ram instead!”

Now- a thousand years later...on the very same spot...God stops his angel from killing God’s National son- Israel... and says “I’ll provide a sacrifice”

This will be the very place where Solomon will build the Temple...which is where Israel will offer sacrifices for sin...that will point forward to another lamb who would come to die once for all for the sins of all the people.

And so, approximately 1000 years after this moment- Jesus, the Lamb of God, would be lifted up on a cross on top of a mountain...but this time, no one shows up to stay the hand of God’s judgement. The knife comes down on Jesus- because as the Scripture says- he was bearing in his own body the punishment for our sins.

Jesus is the lamb of God that replaced Isaac...the sacrifice pictured in the Temple sacrifices for hundreds of years...

and he is the lamb who was wounded for our sins and whose blood covers us so that God can stay his hand of judgement against us.

1 Peter 2:24-25

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree; so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. 25 For you were like sheep going astray, but you have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

David was never the king we were looking for. Jesus is.

David's reign ends with 70,000 Israelites dying for his sin. Jesus will begin his reign by dying for ours.

In David, the innocent are punished; in Jesus, the guilty go free.

Jesus is the King we are looking for. He succeeds for you where David, and every other human leader, and father, fails you.

Some of you have been so disappointed by people in your past--your dad, a teacher, an older brother. You trusted them, and they took advantage of you and abused you.

Jesus is the Rock, the big Brother, everlasting Father, the Mighty God, the strong tower, the refuge--the KING, that you've been always looking for.

And it may have taken you a lot of bitter disappointments to figure it out--but that's always been the point, to show you that Jesus is the one you've been searching for, and all that you're looking for is in him.

The arms you sought in romance were found in his arms;
the identity you sought in your father's approval is found in him;
the security you looked for in family is found in being called his son or daughter.

Salvation only comes from looking to the cross of Jesus.

Only there can you be humbled and given deep abiding confidence at the same time.