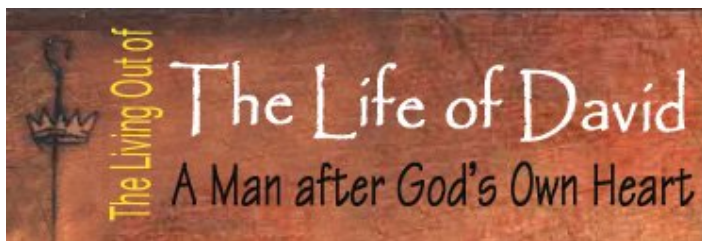




2 Samuel 19

When God Restores Sun, Feb 25th 2007



God, our God, is a God of Restoration!

- Web. something, that has been brought back to an earlier and usually better condition
- Taking a mess, what is broken, destroyed, junk – and making it useful, beautiful

Danger is that we lose sight of in a throw away society

- Few things made to last – throw away, get new
- Few things repaired – cheaper to get new
- In such a culture, can lose sight of restoration

Here in this room – all junk apart from God

- God has restored so many
- God is restoring so many
 - Lives, Marriages, Jobs, Ministry, etc

This morning, see wonderful time of restoration in David

- Been through an incredibly rough season – rejected, running, life, ministry up for grabs

We will watch God restore & see five keys of restoration

I. 1st – Must be God's Restoration

1. Know this – it is really God restoring

- a. David wasn't sure God would restore **15:25-26**
- b. David is convinced it is God's restoration **19:22b**
- c. So does all the nation – see, accept God's choice
 - i) God so worked – that it is clear to all

2. To be a real restoration...it must be God restoring

- a. There is a restoration – that is not God's, dealing with symptoms and not the cause
- b. **Exe 13:1-11** –like whitewashing weak wall

3. We must be right with God – repentance – **Act 3:19**

- a. If today...not right with God – call you to it now

II. 2nd –Accept God's Restoration


1. God was restoring – David almost missed it

- a. Caught up in sorrow for son, for loss
- b. Saw last week– but guilt, sorrow – overwhelms
- c. Joab rebukes – if don't handle right – lose it all
- d. God was restoring...David almost missed it

2. There is a need to accept God's restoration

- a. Some have called it forgiving self....ok, but better receiving it from the Lord (His work, our acceptance)
- b. Some hold to a higher standard than God-pride
- c. The basic response of Christian life- faith, belief

3. Means – we have to accept & move on

- a. Agonizing over what he cannot change - sorrow
- b. Problem to live there too long – destroys today
- c. Need to forget the past & press ahead – **Phil 3:13** 
- d. David had before...needs again (real)

III. 3rd – Waiting for God's Timing

1. God has forgiven...David knows it

- a. But notice what he does – he waits
- b. Could have rushed back in – forced to throne
- c. Such actions...would have been destructive

2. David waits – till wanted, invited back

- a. Speaks of it in Psalms he writes – **Ps 62:1-5** 📖
- b. Israel Invites him back, realizes he is king
- c. Still waits – Judah is not yet sure
- d. Appeals to them, reasons –
- e. Till with one heart, want him back

3. Times of restoration are sensitive times

- a. Like a bull in a China shop
- b. Danger of forcing, destroying causing damage
- c. Seen it in marriages, lives, ministries...
- d. Picture in Eze – priests – work w/o sweat
- e. Don't want it to be “our doing”

IV. 4th Key – Forgive Others

1. Forgiveness is required in restoration

- a. This is not an optional part of this work
- b. **Mat 6:12-15** – forgive as forgiven...or not forgiven
- c. **Mat 18:21-35** – forgiven much – forgive others
 - i) Not lose salvation – hinder restoration
- d. **Luke 17:3-10** – must forgive – normal Christian life

2. Forgave those who opposed

- a. Judah is delaying, slow accepting David – why?
- b. They were leaders in rebellion – in Hebron
 - i) Worried David will deal harshly, vengeance

c. David sends word – expects their acceptance

- i) Positive way of speaking, not being hard

d. David accepts, promotes Amasa

- i) Unwise militarily – accepting as general

A. But – providentially – will never happen

- ii) Point – shows willing to forgive, restore – bless

A. Providing amnesty, pardon for offenders - hope

e. So God calls us to be – forgiving to resistant

3. Forgave those who offended

a. This is more, this is personal – personal attacks

b. Shimei asks forgiveness. Abishai offers otherwise

- i) David forgives....wow

c. But notice why–because forgiven. Not based on Shimei

4. Dealt in grace with confusing situations

a. Mephibosheth and Ziba....

- i) Mephibosheth rescued by David's kindness

- ii) As David leaving–Ziba comes, says M. betrayed

- iii) Now...both coming to David. M. different story

b. David's decision...kind of odd – what happening

- i) Could be just a rash decision, poor

A. Many see it this way...possible

- ii) Also possible – confusing

A. I cannot understand Ziba's thinking, action

- iii) Possible – kind of a rivalry – David settles

A. Picture like handling kids fighting over candy

B. Know this – gracious settlement for both

c. Life...problems are not always clean cut – be gracious

5. Simple lesson – forgiveness is required

a. Think of Job's need to pray for friends

V. 5th Key – Bless those who Blessed

1. In one sense – this one is the easiest

a. But still...sometimes forgotten

2. David blesses those who blessed him in trials

a. Have a sense that without this step – miss much

b. Danger following difficult season – pull inward

c. But God calls us to be a blessing to others, to bless those who have blessed us

Conclusion

Wonder...if God is seeking to restore some here today

Begins with forgiveness – repentance

- **Acts 3:18-19** 📖
- Jesus came and died for – sin, to bring
- Repent, be converted – sins blotted out
- Then you can have restoration
- Call you to be converted

Maybe say – I am converted...but not refreshed...why

- There are seasons....purposes God has
- See in the life of Job – **Jam 4:11** 📖
- Yet again, know – can hinder, quench restoration
- Are you receiving, accepting God's restoration
- Are you waiting – or forcing in own power?
- Are you forgiving others?
- Are you letting God to make your life a blessing?

God loves a good restoration project

God is wonderfully tender in this work **Matt 12:20** 📖

God never quits on it...**Phil 1:6** 📖