**Be Still…Peace is Possible/ Week 3 notes/ It’s All About Grace/ 2 Samuel 1-9, Psalm 37**

**Overview.** Finishing 1 Samuel, we are propelled into 2 Samuel and the continuation of David’s life. Saul and Jonathan died in battle and 2 Samuel begins with David mourning their deaths.

**2 Samuel 2 David inquires of the Lord.** God instructs David to go to the city of Hebron and God will establish David as King. David obeys, and the men of Judah anoint him king over Judah. David rules over Judah in Hebron for 7 ½ years. Judah is the largest of the 12 tribes of Israel. However, the other 11 tribes are still loyal to Saul’s family. Saul’s only surviving son, Ish-bosheth is king of the other 11 tribes. Civil war ensues between Judah and the other 11 tribes of Israel.

**2 Samuel 3 and 4.** The civil war is long and bloody, but God is with David and strengthens his leadership. An unlikely person from Ish-bosheth’s kingdom defects to David, swearing allegiance to David. David’s general, Joab, does not trust Abner and without David’s knowledge, kills Abner. David mourns Abner’s death. The 11 tribes take note of David’s response to Abner’s death. Subsequently Ish-bosheth is murdered by two of his own men. The worthless men think David will be pleased that they have killed Ish-bosheth. Instead, David mourns Ish-bosheth’s death and executes the two men who murdered him. Again, the 11 tribes of Israel take note of David’s righteous response.

**2 Samuel 5.** The leaders of Israel finally acknowledge that David should be king over all 12 tribes. They anoint him King of over Israel. For the first time, the entire nation of Israel (all 12 tribes) is under David’s kingship. David captures the city of Jerusalem from the Jebusites and makes Jerusalem the capital of Israel. It is still the capital today. David makes Jerusalem his home and prepares the city to be the focal point of Worship to God. David rules 33 years over all of Israel from his home in Jerusalem. His reputation and greatness increase. The King of Tyre builds David a cedar lined palace in Jerusalem. 2 Samuel 5:12 is worth underlining in your Bible.

**2 Samuel 6.** This chapter should be read along with 1 Chronicles 15. Reading 1 Chronicles 15, written from the priestly perspective, helps us better understand the jarring circumstances of

2 Samuel 6. David is moving the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem. The Ark was not a relic. It represented the holy presence of God with His people. The Ark was to be handled properly because God is holy (Numbers 4:11-15). When David and 30,000 Israelites moved the ark, they put it on a new oxen cart. All the people were celebrating the event. A man named Uzzah was leading the oxen. The oxen however stumbled and Uzzah reached out his hand to steady the Ark. God struck Uzzah dead for his irreverence. It seems harsh to us. Yet anytime in Scripture when God is doing a new thing in His people (David established as King over all Isarel), God reestablished His holiness to them. His blessings are not to be confused with familiarity. (See Acts 5). David is both angry and afraid of the Lord. Three months later, David tries again to bring the Ark to Jerusalem. This time, the priests move it with careful attention to details the Lord established under Moses. The celebrated move is successful. The Ark is placed in a tent (tabernacle). Jerusalem becomes the seat of worship.

**2 Samuel 7. This chapter is the centerpiece of the entire life of David**. Read it carefully. It is called the Davidic Covenant. It is filled with grace toward David, his future, and Israel. This covenant is also a strong foreshadowing of Christ.

**2 Samuel 8**. David wins victory after victory over all of Israel’s enemies because the Lord is with David. Verse 15 is noteworthy. It describes David ruling with righteousness and justice. His kingship is a foreshadowing of Christ, defeating enemies and ruling in righteousness and justice (Revelation 19:11-16).

**2 Samuel 9**. David shows kindness, grace, and mercy toward Saul’s grandson (Jonathan’s son).

**GOD’S GRACE.** Any time God has a relationship with sinful people it is based on His grace. A W Tozer defines grace as the good pleasure of God that inclines Him to bestow benefits ont eh undeserving. Grace is God’s unmerited—unearned favor. His goodness and blessings given out of love on the undeserving. God’s grace saturates both the Old and New Testaments. He did not BECOME a God of grace in the New Testament. He never changes and this is comforting to us. He has always been a God of great grace.

**Grace to Israel.** God is love. His love is demonstrated to people through grace and mercy. (we will talk about mercy in week 4). Grace was demonstrated to Adam and Eve. God covered their nakedness and told them of one who was coming (Christ) who would permanently deal with sin Genesis 3). God demonstrated grace to Noah when he saved Noah and his family from the great flood. God demonstrated grace to Abraham when He called Abraham and gave Abraham a series of promises. Abraham believed God and was counted as righteous (Genesis 12:1-7, Romans 4:1-5, Hebrews 11:8-12). The promise to Abraham continued to his son Isaac, then Jacob who had 11 sons. Jacob’s sons became the nation of Israel. GOD ALWAYS dealt with Israel by grace. **Read Deuteronomy 7:6-8. God loved. God chose. God redeemed. God blessed.** This is God’s unchanging pattern for grace. Then and now.

The Law was given to Israel AFTER they already had a relationship with God. They did not obey the Law to gain a relationship. They obeyed the Law to demonstrate their trust in God and their relationship to Him.

**Grace to David.** God radically deals with individuals in the Old Testament based on grace**.** Rahab (Joshua 2, Hebrews 11:30-31, James 2:25-26). Ruth (all the book of Ruth). And so many more. But for our study, grace was shown to David throughout his life. God loved David and chose him to be king. God blessed his life, his kingdom and his future…all by grace. David did not earn God’s blessings, he responded to God’s blessings.

**Grace to us.** God loves us, chooses us, redeems us and blesses us by grace. His grace comes to us through Jesus Christ. Read 1 Timothy 1:9, Ephesians 1:7. Ephesians 2:1-5, Ephesians 2:8-9, Galatians 1:6 and 15, Galatians 2:20-21. Like Israel, and David, and every other person in Scripture who has a relationship with Almighty God, we respond with faith.

**OUR RESPONSE TO GRACE.** Faith is always the right response to God’s grace. Faith is more than just believing. It is belief that leads to trust and obedience. Israel’s’ obedience was an action of faith, a response to God’s grace. David’s actions of obedience to God are a demonstration of faith in God. We know God through knowing His son Jesus. Christ. Therefore, our trust and obedience to Christ is a response of faith to God’s grace.

Faith is not a leap into the dark. It is not bold and loud claims for God to work in a certain way. Faith is for every believer in Christ. Faith is a step into the light of truth(God’s Word) and obeying it.

The object of our faith is God Himself; not what God can do for us. The attitude of faith is humility and reverence (Read 2 Samuel 6). The action of faith is obedience (James 2:14, Hebrews 11:2).

**BECAUSE OF GRACE. 2 Samuel 7-8**

**God blesses.** Read 2 Samuel 7:1-17. As you read, mentally mark every time you read a promise or blessing God gives to David and Israel—by grace. In 2 Samuel 7 the word house is used 15 times. It is all the same Hebrew word, but the context gives us clues to the variations of the meaning. House can mean a temple, a home, a family, a kingdom.

God says that David will not build God’s temple, however God will use David’s descendant (Solomon) to build the temple. God will bless David’s son and treat him like son. David’s kingdom is established forever through his own flesh and blood lineage culminating in the Messiah, Jesus Christ. Additionally, God promises that the land of Israel is where His people will settle. He will give them rest from their enemies and He will always be their God. This passage of Scripture is called the Davidic Covenant. It leads us to the New Covenant. God fulfills the Old Covenant through Christ the Messiah. Christians live under the New Covenant. Ephesians 1 is a beautiful chapter of all that we have been given in Christ—every blessing is a blessing of grace. Read Ephesians 1.

It is interesting to me that God blessed David so extravagantly knowing all along that David’s greatest failures lay ahead. That is grace.

**God is Accessible.** Multiple times we read, “David inquired of the Lord” We also read throughout the psalms that David prays, inquires, repents, or worships the Lord. God is accessible to David. 2 Samuel 7:18 is particularly moving to me. David prays, “Who am I , and what is my house that You have brough me thus far?” ten times in David’s response to God’s Covenant, he humbly refers to himself as God’s servant. He also refers to himself in the third person calling himself by his first name, David. He could have referred to himself as a might king, instead we are reminded of the lowly shepherd that God graciously chose to be king.

David’s response in 2 Samuel 7 is a *Be still and know that I am God* kind of moment. This is not quick devotional thought. It is intimate, and heartfelt, and humble. God has spoken and God is listening. He is accessible to David.

God is accessible to us as well through His son Jesus. We are encouraged to “draw near” to Him. Read Hebrews 4:15-16, Hebrews 10:19 and 22. Drawing near is relational. It is for God’s children. He loves us with an everlasting love and He longs for us to draw near.

**God is Victorious. 2 Samuel 8** is like a laundry list of David’s victories and accomplishments. However, every victory is because THE LORD helped David wherever David went (2 Samuel 8:6). David reigned over Israel and ruled with righteousness and justice. His kingdom points us to Jesus. Christ won the victory of over sin, hell and the grave at Calvary. We experience that victory in part right now. He delivers us from the penalty of sin, and He is delivering us daily from the power of sin. One day He will deliver us from the presence of sin. The Messiah will put the final period on history. He will banish forever the evil He defeated at Calvary, and He will step onto the eternal throne of David. King of Kings, ruling forever in righteousness and justice. Read Revelation 19:11-16. Read it will expression and awe!

Make no mistake, Christ is already the victor! When we know Christ, we too are victors through Him. Paul writes we are more than conquerors (Romans 8:37). So how do we live in victory in this world, today? 1 John 4:15 tells us. “***FAITH is the victory that overcomes the world.”*** Our victory is realized as we ***trust and obey*** the Lord Jesus Christ…one day at a time…one decision at a time… one action at a time… in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Because of grace we are a people who demonstrate grace to others—even the undeserving. 2 Samuel 9 is a beautiful chapter about grace. David asks if there is anyone still living from the family of Saul. David wants to honor God and honor his oath to Jonathan by blessing the family of Saul. Saul’s grandson (Jonathan’s son) is Mephibosheth, and he is crippled. David restores all of Saul’s land to Mephibosheth. David also invites Mephibosheth to move to Jerusalem so that David can care for his family and Mephibosheth can eat regularly at David’s table…like a family member.

God has done this for us through Christ. He blesses us and we eat at his table because we are His children. This lavish grace compels us to do the same for others. To bless them. To care for them whether they deserve it or not. David did not become a doormat in serving Mephibosheth. He just demonstrates grace. Neither do we become doormats in serving others, Philippians 2:1-8 tells us to have the same attitude of love and self-sacrifice that Christ demonstrated. Grace compels us to demonstrate grace—unmerited, undeserved blessings and favor.

**Psalm 37.** The psalm is written by David and is a contrast between people who trust God and those who do not trust God. Six times he uses the word *inherit or inheritance.* An inheritance is something given but also something received. Israel inherited a land given to them by God, but they had also to take possession of the land. They had to receive God’s blessing and live fully in it by faith…trusting and obeying God. But what about us?

You and I do not inherit a land. We inherit a life in Christ. We inherit the blessings of God through Christ, but we must take possession of all we have been given (Ephesians 1:1-14). We take possession when we live by faith, trusting and obeying God.

I love verses 3-4 of Psalm 37. Trust is not a passive lifestyle. It is proven when we do good, (obey), dwell in the land (remain where God has put us) and delight in the Lord (Align ourselves to His desires). Read these verses for yourselves.