Good Grief



2 Samuel I: I After the death of Saul, David returned from striking down the Amalekites and stayed in Ziklag two days. 2 On the third day a man arrived from Saul's camp with his clothes torn and dust on his head. When he came to David, he fell to the ground to pay him honor.

3 "Where have you come from?" David asked him.

2 Samuel I: He answered, "I have escaped from the Israelite camp." 4 "What happened?" David asked. "Tell me." "The men fled from the battle," he replied. "Many of them fell and died. And Saul and his son Jonathan are dead." 5 Then David said to the young man who brought him the report, "How do you know that Saul and his son Jonathan are dead?"

2 Samuel I: 6 "I happened to be on Mount Gilboa," the young man said, "and there was Saul, leaning on his spear, with the chariots and their drivers in hot pursuit. 7 When he turned around and saw me, he called out to me, and I said, 'What can I do?'

8 "He asked me, 'Who are you?' "'An Amalekite,' I answered. **2** Samuel 1: 9 "Then he said to me, 'Stand here by me and kill me! I'm in the throes of death, but I'm still alive."

10 "So I stood beside him and killed him, because I knew that after he had fallen he could not survive. And I took the crown that was on his head and the band on his arm and have brought them here to my lord."

2 Samuel 1: 11 Then David and all the men with him took hold of their clothes and tore them. 12 They mourned and wept and fasted till evening for Saul and his son Jonathan, and for the army of the Lord and for the nation of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword.

Do we not have an obligation to mourn over the unbelief, apostasy, and coldness in the world and in the church?

2 Samuel 1: 13 David said to the young man who brought him the report, "Where are you from?" "I am the son of a foreigner, an Amalekite," he answered. 14 David asked him, "Why weren't you afraid to lift your hand to destroy the Lord's anointed?" 15 Then David called one of his men and said, "Go, strike him down!" So he struck him down, and he died.

2 Samuel 1: 16 For David had said to him, "Your blood be on your own head. Your own mouth testified against you when you said, 'I killed the Lord's anointed."

Luke 2: 2 There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. 3 What you have said in the dark will be heard in the daylight, and what you have whispered in the ear in the inner rooms will be proclaimed from the roofs.

In Kingdom living, there needs to be a healthy, saving fear.

It should be a Godly fear that controls us.

2 Samuel 1: 17 David took up this lament concerning Saul and his son Jonathan, 18 and he ordered that the people of Judah be taught this lament of the bow (it is written in the Book of Jashar):

19 "A gazelle lies slain on your heights, Israel. How the mighty have fallen!

2 Samuel 1: 20 "Tell it not in Gath, proclaim it not in the streets of Ashkelon, lest the daughters of the Philistines be glad, lest the daughters of the uncircumcised rejoice. 21 "Mountains of Gilboa, may you have neither dew nor rain, may no showers fall on your terraced fields. For there the shield of the mighty was despised, the shield of Saul—no longer rubbed with oil.

What would it take to bring us to intercessory prayer?

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Let the sadness of the world drive us to seek Heaven's help.

2 Samuel 1: 22 "From the blood of the slain, from the flesh of the mighty, the bow of Jonathan did not turn back, the sword of Saul did not return unsatisfied. 23 Saul and Jonathan in life they were loved and admired, and in death they were not parted. They were swifter than eagles, they were stronger than lions.

2 Samuel 1: 24 "Daughters of Israel, weep for Saul, who clothed you in scarlet and finery, who adorned your garments with ornaments of gold. 25 "How the mighty have fallen in battle! Jonathan lies slain on your heights. 26 I grieve for you, Jonathan my brother; you were very dear to me. Your love for me was wonderful, more wonderful than that of women.

He had reason to say that Jonathan's love to him was wonderful; surely never was the like, for a man to love one who he knew was to take the crown over his head, and to be so faithful to his rival: this far surpassed the highest degree of conjugal affection and constancy.

--Matthew Henry

The more we love, the more we grieve.

Sorrow is hardest where love is deepest.

Two things will happen to those who stand outside looking in:

Two things will happen to those who stand outside looking in:

1). You will stand apart from pain.

Two things will happen to those who stand outside looking in:

2). You will never fully know the depths of Christian love.

2 Samuel 1: 27 "How the mighty have fallen! The weapons of war have perished!"

One last thought:

Take care how you treat your enemies.

John 13: 34 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

Matthew 5: 43 "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 that you may be children of your Father in heaven.

Colossians 3: 12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

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