

2011 SERMON AUGUST 28 'ENDING WELL-DAVID'S LEGACY'

II Samuel 21-24 Psalms 18:1-24

We come to the end of our sermon series on the kings of Israel
From I and II Samuel.

And how appropriate that we end it in the out of doors.

Where King David shepherded his sheep

Where he protected his Father's flock

In the out of doors when he killed the lion and the bear.

In the night where he came face to face with God.

And dreamed of killing giants,

And slaying Philistines.

It was outside in nature where David wrote the beloved Psalms.

Because there is something about God's creation that

Brings God close to us.

I remember well when I was a teenage

After working all day on the farm

Making hay or cultivating or planning or herding cattle,

Late in the evening just before bed.

I would feel compelled by God to

go out at night into the darkness.

With only the moon and the stars for comfort,

And I would walk up the hill behind our house,

And pray and dream, and commune with God.

And I preach to the cows around me,

I never did convert any Herford's into Angus,

But those were the years of a closeness to God.

That have stayed with me all my life.

Perhaps it was those memories that kept King David

Coming back to God in the midst of the

devastation and often sin of his life.

It was those nights of communing with God

That enabled David not just to start well,

But to end well.

Today as we look at King David's legacy,

The question it asks of us is:

What do we want to leave behind as our legacy?

What lesson do we want to leave behind to our children's children?

Most people would like to be remembered for something, like their

Respect for self; or others

A woman from lower South Carolina went into the local newspaper office to leave the

obituary for her recently deceased husband. The obit editor informed her that the fee for the

obituary was a dollar per word. She paused, reflected and then says, "Well, then, just let it read,

'Billy Bob died.'" Amused at the woman's thrift, the editor said, "Sorry ma'am there is a seven

word minimum on all obituaries." A little flustered, she thought it over and replied, "In that case, let it read, 'Billy Bob died - Red truck for sale'.

Billy Bob may only have left a Red TRUCK, but
King David Left

I. A HEART FULL OF PRAISE

The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge. My Savior, you saved me from violence. I call upon the Lord who is worthy to be praised and I am saved from my enemies. II Samuel 22:1

David comes to the end of his life and he sings a
Song of thanksgiving to the living God
And how God rescued him, and delivered him.
Many of you have faced the same

"The waves of death swirled about me; the torrents of destruction overwhelmed me. The cords of the grave coiled around me; the snares of sin (death) confronted me. II Sam 22:5-6

Will you like King David,
Still be able to end your life with a Song of Praise?

We all have our own lists.
But that is not what is important
It's what we have done about it.
Do we whine and complain or like
Kind David sings:

In my distress I called out to my God. From his temple he heard my voice; my cry came to his ears. II Samuel 22: 7

To sing in the midst of destruction and death
Is a part of many traditions.

The American Indians had their songs in preparation for death

**I go to the land where my father has gone,
His ghost shall rejoice in the fame of his son,
Death comes like a friend to relieve me from pain
And thy son of Alknomook (shall never complain).**

We Methodist sing as well in the face of death and grief.
I have asked many of you
What is your song that you want sung at the end of your life?

I remember one woman who wanted us to sing:
"Somewhere over the rainbow."

It's not a song I would pick because I JUST don't want to go somewhere.

I know where I'm going.

"I am bound for the promised land."

"I've Got a Mansion Just over the Hilltop", and

"I'm Coming Home."

Maybe your song is
I'm "Standing on the Promises", or
"It is Well With My Soul".

Life was not always fair or just for King David,
And it's not fair or just for us either,
Sometimes its sunshine
Sometimes its storms,
Sometimes its blessings
Sometimes its tribulations.
Sometimes of my wife's doing.
But most times it's of my doing,

Just the other night I needed a flashlight.
I pulled open the drawer,
Pull out the little two cell flashlight and pushed the switch.
Nothing happens.
But being awake and astute even in the middle of the night,
I determined the batteries were dead.
So I screwed off the cap and try to shake out the batteries,
But the only thing in my hand was a bunch of crusty brown chips.
I whacked the flashlight a few times on the counter until
a crusty, acidic, two battery mess fell out.

Good batteries gone bad.

Sounds like a Country and Western Song doesn't it?

I realized I haven't used this flashlight in a year or more,
The batteries had died and corroded through lack of use.
No fault of the batteries.
Batteries work better when they are used regularly.
Flashlights are for giving light.

So are people.
We all work better when were used regularly.
I have witnessed too many Christian over the years
who have grown lethargic, apathetic, demoralized or powerless.
Who have focused life primarily on themselves instead of others.

How many areas of my life and yours have gone corrosive,
Simply because we no longer use them.
How many words have become acidic,
Simply because we no longer speak them.

We build our own lives out of our own choices.
If you choose to be positive, and find hope and goodness,
You will be blessed,
If you choose to face life with negative attitudes and pessimism,
You will have a miserable life.
And if we want to walk in darkness.
The world is more than happy to help us.

But we were created to sing. To glorify God.
 If we are to be obedient to Christ,
 We have to buck the trend,
 Go against the grain,
 Battle uphill and change our focus.
 To leave a legacy of Godliness and holiness.

What is the song you will sing?
 King David wanted to leave a song of praise.
 He also wanted to leave

II. A LIFE OF OBEDIENCE A RIGHTEOUS LIFE.

21 "The LORD has dealt with me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands he has rewarded me. 22 For I have kept the ways of the LORD ; I have not done evil by turning from my God. II Samuel 22:21-22

Have you lived a life that you can be proud of?
 A relationship that is God honoring?

Or are you like the young man who was trying to get the phone number of a girl
 And he called the 411 operator. "I'd like the number for Christine Smith in Richmond, Virginia,"
 The operator said: "There are multiple listings for Christine Smith in Richmond, Virginia,"
 She said: "Do you have a street name?"
 The young man hesitated a moment, "Well, uh, most people call me Snake."

He didn't get called snake because he are kind and honest and good.
 What do they call us on the street?

according to the cleanness of my hands he has rewarded me.

How many times do the scriptures talk about our hands?

He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not life up his souls to an idol or swear by what is false. Psalms 24:4

Hands are the instruments by which we accomplish anything.
 To have clean hands is equivalent to being upright.
 To have clean hands is to have a conscience that is clear.
 To have clean hands is to have a heart without deceit
 A passion without distraction.

What do your hands look like?

The Problem I found out working on the farm is that
 Hands always need washing,
 They don't stay clean.
 Every Nurse, Doctor, cook, waitress, and mom here,
 knows our hands carry germs.
 So wash your hands.

My mom had every kind of soap on the sink on the farm.

Lava, Ivory, I can still see that green can of comet sitting there.
 Just to get our hands clean.
 Hands need cleansing.
 Because our hearts need cleaning
 We clean them by confession.
 Confession does to our hands,
 What praise does to our soul.

We Methodist don't do enough confession.
 Catholic's have done a much better job.

I just read of a man who went to confession and said:

"Bless me, Father, for I have sinned.
 For years I've been stealing building supplies from the lumberyard where I work."
 The Priest asked: "How much did you take?"
 "Enough to build my own house and my son's house.
 And houses for our two daughters and our cottage at the lake."
 The Priest said: "This is very serious. This is going to take some days of repentance for you,
 Have you ever done a retreat?"
 The man said: "No, Father, I haven't. But if you get the blueprints I can get the lumber."

Confession can heal the soul, but not the consequences of sin.
 What kind of life have you lived?
 Will you leave behind a legacy of godliness and holiness?
 King David wanted to leave

III. A FAITHFUL WITNESS.

God isn't interested in what we have done,
 But in what we will do and what we will be.
 We can start right now.
 We can change our direction,
 Learn a new vocabulary.
 Transform our minds into clean thinking.
 We can be faithful to the end.

God has made with him an everlasting covenant. He has ordered all things and secure. II Samuel 23:5

If you have listened to the summer sermon series, you know that
 King David's life was a tainted life
 Of highs and lows.
 But he never forgot God
 Or the way back to God.

And in the midst of battle,
 In the midst of his sin. David wrote:

**The Lord reached down from on high and took hold of me; he drew me out of deep waters.
 He rescued me from my powerful enemy, from my foes, who were too strong for me... the
 Lord was my support. II Samuel 22:17-20**

Do you know who was the most powerful enemy King David ever faced?
 I was himself. It is the same with us.
 Only his surrender of self to the living God.
 Enabled King David to finish faithful all the way.

Even when he was old
 Satan never gave up tempting him.
 Right at the end of his reign

Satan rose up against Israel and incited David to take a census of Israel. I Chronicles 21:1

God had told David that he would take care of him.
 King David should have been on his guard
 The census was not only about counting the people,
 But it was really about taxing the people.
 Up to this time King David had trusted God to supply his needs.
 Now he turned to Taxes to provide his needs.
 Does that sound familiar???

But even in this event.
 David heart is stricken

“I have sinned greatly in what I have done. But now, O Lord, I pray you, take away the guilt of your servant, for I have done very foolishly. II Samuel 24:10

Finishing the race is not easy.
 But it is vitally important.

Why do we watch the Olympics?
 Because we want to learn how to snow board?
 Of course not, we all know that the
 Athletes compete for us.
 When the snow boarders come down the hill.
 Their job is to go as fast as they can.
 When the Ice skaters dance, and the divers dive, and the skiers jump,
 It's not just about them.
 It is about their coaches, and families and fellow countrymen,
 It's about the people in the stands.
 Who don't have a chance to win a medal,
 But we still finish the race by cheering on those in the global competition.

No one will fault us for doing our best.
 But they will for quitting, giving up
 Breaking promise and vows.

You may be a great leader, even a King.
 Having achieve great things for God.
 And for country.
 Even for Family.,
 But it is not enough to make heaven secure for us.

We must in the end come before God on our knees.

Seeking his forgiveness.
And trusting in his salvation.
And determine in our heart that we will go all the Way with our savior,
All the way for our families and friends,

So that at the end of day,
When evening falls and death calls.
We will have a song to sing.
And a Legacy to leave.

Will you choose to reaffirm your life in Christ
And to walk all the way with him
In Fellowship sweet?

If you do then you will see life ends well,
In His Amazing Grace.