

**Leave Room for the Sovereignty of God***2 Samuel 1:1-16*

**Introduction:** Over the past number of weeks we have been engaged in a study of the life of David. As we have seen, David was certainly not a perfect man, but he did have a vital relationship with God and serves as a great example to us in many ways. Today we continue our study by looking at David's response to the news of Saul's death. This should be great news for David right? He has suffered much at the hands of Saul. And yet, David's response is not what one would guess. In his response we gain insight into how David viewed God and God's sovereign hand.

**Opening Question:** For those who have been around this summer, what has been the most encouraging to you from the study of the life of David? What has God been teaching you?

**Read 2 Samuel 1:1-16**

1. What strikes you about this episode in David's life?
2. Why would the man who says he has escaped from the camp in Israel (v. 3) believe that the news he bears would be good news (see 2 Sam. 4:10) to David?
3. What surprises you about David's response to the news the young man brought him?

**Read 1 Samuel 24:1-10 and 1 Samuel 26:6-12**

4. What insights do these passages give us regarding how David viewed Saul?
5. How does David's refusal to kill Saul illustrate the principle that we need to leave room for the sovereignty of God?

Brian said:

One of the principles that we see illustrated in this episode of David's life through how he dealt with his enemy Saul, is that **we need to leave room for the sovereignty of God** . . . Yes, David was anointed king by God. Yes, Saul was disobedient to God. Yes, David had all sorts of motivating reasons to take matters into his own hands to slay Saul when he had the chance. But David refused. And when this young Amalikite didn't do the same, David took harsh action. David left room for the sovereignty of God. He chose to trust God with the timing and manner of Saul's demise. . . . We too need to leave room for the sovereignty of God in our own lives. There are times in our lives when it is so tempting to rush ahead of God to bring about what looks to be a good result for us. But we need to be careful that we leave room for the sovereignty of God.

6. What are areas in your life in which you are tempted at times to run ahead of God and not leave room for His sovereignty?
7. Why is it so hard at times to wait in these areas?
8. Brian mentioned three things that we can do as we wait on the sovereignty of God. He said we can pray; we can make sure we are living with a full and complete yieldedness to God and His will; and, we can remind ourselves of the character of God. How might these things help us wait well on God's sovereignty?

Brian said:

Sometimes when we have to wait for God to work we can be tempted to think that maybe God doesn't care or maybe He doesn't know what's going on or maybe He can't do something about our situation. We need to remind ourselves that He is great and mighty (Psalm 145:3-6). He is able to work in our situation (Jer. 32:17). We need to remind ourselves that He loves us (Rom 5:8). We are His children and His plans for us are always for good (Rom 8:28).

Isaiah 55 says, <sup>8</sup> *"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Neither are your ways My ways," declares the LORD.* <sup>9</sup> *"For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts."*

We need to remind ourselves that God's ways are not our ways. His timing is so often different than ours and so we need to cling to what the Scripture says is true about His character and trust that He knows best.

9. What aspect of the character of God do you most need to remember as you seek to wait for God to work in your situation?