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Happy Father's Day!

La Jolla Christian Fellowship

Shame Of Thrones : The Story Of David And Bathsheba

Episode 1 - No Other Gods

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2 Samuel 7:1-17

After the king was settled in his palace and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ² he said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am, living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent." ³ Nathan replied to the king, "Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it, for the LORD is with you." ⁴ But that night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying: ⁵ "Go and tell my servant David, 'This is what the LORD says: Are you the one to build me a house to dwell in? ⁶ I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt to this day. I have been moving from place to place with a tent as my dwelling. ⁷ Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their rulers whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?'" ⁸ "Now then, tell my servant David, 'This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. ⁹ I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth. ¹⁰ And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them **so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed**. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning ¹¹ and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. **I will also give you rest from all your enemies.** **"The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you:** ¹² When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴ I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands. ¹⁵ But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. ¹⁶ Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.'" ¹⁷ Nathan reported to David all the words of this entire revelation.

David's house has been established - How does one establish their house?

- **The Story Continues:** For three decades, God had used the struggle to fashion a king after his own heart. Now with David's kingdom settled and rest on all sides, David would face the greatest challenge of his life, living in the blessing. Within 12 years from this moment, David would break three of the ten commandments and yoke his family line to a generational curse of violence.

Question: If David broke three of the ten commandments, why did God still establish His throne and kingdom for all time?

1. David honored the greatest commandment.
2. He was a man not only after God, but the very heart of God.

Vs. 1 After the king was **settled** in his palace and the LORD had given him **rest** from all his enemies around him.

- **Settled rest** is one of the core biblical promises and blessings, but it is little valued in our culture today.

How did we (David) get here?

1. David excelled at righteous struggle.
2. David was a man who would have “No other gods”.

1. Righteous Struggle - Saul, Ungodly Kings and Nations, His Family of Origin

- a. Struggle will either make you or break you.

Scripture promises that righteous struggle will always lead to victory

- **Romans 8:28** *All things work together for good for those who love God and are called according to His purpose.*
- **Romans 5:3-5a** *Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame.*
 - How's your struggle going?
 - David drew a line in the sand when it came to struggle.

2. No other Gods: For all of David's faults, he got the thing that mattered most right.

- **The Greatest Of All Commands:** Exodus 20:4-5 *You shall have no other gods before me. “You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them.*
 - All sin is not alike. The same is true for the commandments. (Jesus affirms this in Matt 22:36-40)
 - **Question:** Why does the second commandment exist when honoring the first should cover its intention?
 - The 1st commandment is about allegiance while the 2nd is a matter of faith.
 - It is not biblically accurate to equate other forms of sin with the worship of idols.

Food for the journey: Use these questions and challenges to go deeper in personal or group reflection.

1. It took years for David's house to be “established in settled rest”. Do you currently feel that you are in this season and if not, what changes would need to happen for it to become a reality?
2. David was a man after God's own heart. What is the difference between a person who follows God vs. being one who seeks the heart of God?
3. Struggle is a part of life. David excelled in righteous struggle. What are some of the ways we can purify our struggles with righteousness?
4. Joshua says in Joshua 24 that “*as for his house, they would serve the Lord*”. What are the distinctive marks of a house that serves the Lord?
5. Idols were physical representations of God meant to give tangible comfort. What are some of the things in our culture that we cling to for comfort rather than purified faith in God?