The Gospel According to David



The Cost of Brokenness
2 Sam. 15:13-30, Psalm 3, 2 Sam. 18:31-33
Pastor Ben Hall – Saanich Baptist Church
November 15th, 2026
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Review: Sin is SHRAPNEL – It is destructive on others

David's hubris (taking what he wanted), his power (using the throne to cover it), and his cover-up (Uriah's murder) all taught his household that the king's RULES were NEGOTIABLE… David lost his MORAL CREDIBILITY.

BIG IDEA: God's purposes prevail, but the experience of God's providence does not necessarily eliminate the pain and consequences of human rebellion.

David is in TENSION between what he KNOWS and what he FEELS.

- God's JUDGMENT and God's GRACE - David experiences the consequences of his sin without being abandoned by God's covenant purposes.
- Human RESPONSIBILITY and divine SOVEREIGNTY - Absalom's rebellion and David's failures are real, but God's purposes are not ultimately defeated.
- KINGSHIP and SERVANTHOOD - Absalom grasps for power; David relinquishes control; Jesus ultimately exercises kingship through self-giving obedience.
- GRACE and COST - God's deliverance does not mean the absence of sorrow or the erasure of painful consequences.
- JUSTICE and MERCY - Absalom's rebellion requires judgment, yet David's love for his son remains. The gospel ultimately brings justice and mercy together in Christ.
- Personal SECURITY and communal BLESSING – David moves beyond his own rescue to the blessing of God's people.

Psalm 3 - He is a man who, despite his failures, UNDERSTANDS that his life and kingdom belong to God.

- God is David's SHIELD - His security is found in God.
- God is David's GLORY - His identity is not ultimately determined by public approval.
- God is the LIFTER of his head - He believes God can restore what has been lost.

The GOSPEL redefines what it means to be KING — David cannot provide the kind of security, justice, and restoration that God's people ultimately need. His story creates an expectation for a greater King. Jesus fulfils that expectation.

- The GOSPEL helps us recognize that sin is both PERSONAL and RELATIONAL - Grace does not TRIVIALIZE sin or eliminate every consequence of sin. It provides forgiveness, reconciliation, and the possibility of transformation in the midst of those consequences.
- The GOSPEL gives us a different FOUNDATION for SECURITY - We do not have to secure our own identity, defend our own righteousness, or guarantee our own future. We are secure in the finished work of Jesus.
- The GOSPEL transforms the way we understand LOVE and MERCY - The cross is where God's justice and mercy meet. Sin is taken SERIOUSLY, but sinners are offered RECONCILIATION.

Date: Nov. 15th, 2026
Series: Gospel According to David
Title: The Cost of Brokenness
Primary Passage: 2 Sam. 15:13-30, Psalm 3
Secondary Passage: 2 Sam. 18:31-33
Big Question: Does trusting God mean I'll be spared the fallout of rebellion, mine or someone else's?
Big Idea: God's purposes will prevail, but that doesn't mean the pain and consequences of rebellion will disappear along the way.
Keywords: Sin, Consequence, Passivity, Rebellion, Rejection, Displaced, Threatened, Trusts, Delivered, Devastated.

GOING DEEPER

Use these questions for personal reflection or in a group.

What did love cost you this week? When did you struggle with forgiving or being forgiven?

Read 2 Sam. 15:13-17. Israel's hearts have gone after Absalom, and David chooses to leave Jerusalem on foot rather than fight for it. Why do you think he flees? What does that choice show about how David understands the consequences of his own sin (2 Sam. 12:10-12)?

In 2 Sam. 15:25-26 David sends the ark back and says, "If I find favor in the eyes of the LORD, he will bring me back… but if he says, 'I have no pleasure in you,' behold, here I am." Why is it significant that he refuses to use the ark to force God's hand? Where are you tempted to manage God instead of trust him?

Read Psalm 3. David's enemies say, "There is no salvation for him in God" (v. 2). Why would that accusation be especially painful for a man who knows his own sin helped create the crisis? What voices tell you the same thing when you are hurting?

The psalm calls God a shield, David's glory, and the lifter of his head. Which of these do you most need right now, and why? Would your answer change if the pain came from your own failure rather than someone else's?

David sleeps in peace in Psalm 3:5, yet he collapses in grief in 2 Sam. 18:33. How can deep trust and deep sorrow live in the same person? What does this say to the idea that real faith means feeling no pain?

David cries, "Would I had died instead of you," but he cannot save his rebel son. How does Jesus do what David could only wish? How does that shape the way you receive forgiveness, and the way you extend it to people whose sin has cost you?

Around a TABLE with friends this week ask…

Questions: Where are you carrying the fallout of someone's rebellion, yours or another's, and where have you sensed God holding you in the middle of it?

Passage: Psalm 3. Read it aloud together and notice the turn in verse 3, "But you, O LORD."

Promise: Salvation belongs to the LORD (Ps. 3:8). God's purposes will prevail, and he holds us even when the consequences remain.