



# DISCUSSION GUIDE

WHERE JUDGMENT ENDS | 2 SAMUEL 23:8-24:25 | TRAVIS WALKER



## INTRODUCTION

If you are like me, when we come to the end of our study of David, I find myself weary from the humanness of this man of God. From the 50,000 foot level, David stands as one of the greatest men of the Old Testament, in fact, of the entire Bible. He is the man after God's own heart.

But 1 & 2 Samuel will not let us observe David from this altitude. The writer pulls back the curtain of David's life and lets us see all of the beauty and innocence and devotion and ugliness and arrogance of David's life. Like any one of us, David is not a single-dimension man; he is multi-faceted with strengths and weaknesses that are rooted in our fallen nature.

This week is no different. We have arrived in the twilight years of David's life. He is old and nearing death. His youthful strength as a warrior and soldier is gone. His family has been torn asunder by strife and civil war brought on by David's failings as a husband and father.

If I were writing the ending to 2 Samuel, I would have David sitting on a porch as an old man, the scrolls of Scripture next to him and the scribbles of a new psalm on the table. The rich, orchestral tones of a film score composed by John Williams swelling underneath this idyllic scene. The sun would set in the west with magnificent, glorious colors casting a warm glow upon David and the environment surrounding him. He would have the look of one wholly content and secure in the arms of his Lord as he slowly watched the sunset one more time before peacefully going to be with the Lord in his sleep that night.

But that's not how the Bible depicts the end of David's life. It's as if the writer of 2 Samuel wants to underscore a key point about mankind, whether you are King David living 1000 BC or you and I living in 21st Century America: we are prone to sinfulness until the day we die. We never outgrow sin. It will never get easier. There will always be a fight. The devil never gives up.

Job 32:9 reminds us, "Great men are not always wise, Nor do the aged always understand justice."

Good and wise men still do stupid things, David included.

In this week's lesson, we will see the last Great Sin recorded in David's life. His sin with Bathsheba ruined his family, but this sin will bring destruction to Israel, and before the day is finished, there will be 70,000 new graves to dig throughout the land. If you had to offer a new Mom or Dad the best piece of parenting advice you've ever heard, what would it be?

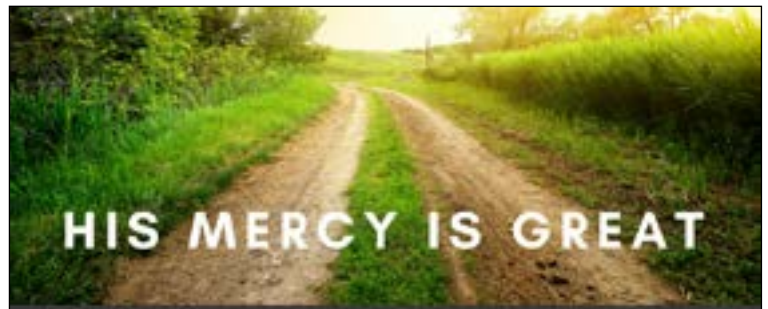
**Reflecting back on your childhood, what did your Mom or Dad do that proved to be a great example for you and your siblings?**

**Looking back at your notes from this week's sermon, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?**

## READ THE TEXT

Chapter 24 of 2 Samuel records a perplexing episode in David's life. He orders a senseless census that is sinful. The result of David's sin is the outpouring of God's wrath upon Israel. Some 70,000 people die as a result. The chapter ends with repentance and forgiveness when David establishes an altar in Jerusalem for burnt offerings. Read 2 Samuel 24.

## MEMORY VERSE



Then David said to Gad, "I am in great distress. Let us fall into the hand of the Lord, for his mercy is great; but let me not fall into the hand of man."

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## DIGGING DEEPER

What sin did David commit in 2 Samuel 24?

What can we learn about the role of the Holy Spirit as a result of this experience in David's life?

What can we learn about God as a result of this experience in David's life?

What can we learn about leadership and experience as a result of this experience in David's life?

## NEXT STEPS

Questions to consider as you continue to reflect on what you learned this week:

- **Take Action:** Dealing with secret sin. Do you have secret sin in your life that the Holy Spirit is speaking to you about right now? It is by God's grace right now that He is leading you to confess and repent of that sin before you reap sin's consequences. James describes for us the "cycle of sin" that can envelope every one of us if we are not sensitive to the Spirit's voice: "Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am tempted by God'; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death" (James 1:13-15).
- **Take Courage:** Confession and repentance lead to forgiveness. The Apostle John tells us, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). Keep in mind, however, that the promise of this verse has a bookend of warning surrounding it: "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us" (v. 8) and "If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us" (v. 10). What is a sure sign of a true child of God? He/she listens to the Spirit's voice and immediately confesses and repents of any sin in his/her life.

Work to memorize this week's memory verse: 2 Samuel 24:14—Then David said to Gad, "I am in great distress. Let us fall into the hand of the Lord, for his mercy is great; but let me not fall into the hand of man."

Our Core Practice this week is Authenticity (John 13:33-34): I know and understand biblical truths and transfer these truths into everyday life. Who I am on the inside and outside is a pure reflection of Christ and His Word.

Remember to use the daily Bible reading plan as part of your walk with Christ, taking the time to reflect on each passage and what it means for your lives.

## SERMON NOTES

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### TAKE HOME TRUTH

When we sin, our only hope is in the LORD's mercy for we do not deserve His forgiveness, however He freely gives it to all who contritely ask Him for it.