

7/21/24 Sermon Notes Pastor Jerome Kennedy
2 Samuel 7:1-15 “A House for God”

David was a man after God’s heart. God blessed David when he was still a young shepherd. God gave David skills to be a shepherd. David learned to be patient and kind, leading his sheep in fields of green grass and beside still waters. When the sheep went through the Valley of the Shadow of Death where they were attacked by a lion or a bear, God gave David the skills to protect the sheep from the lion and the bear. David used the patience and kindness he had to lead his sheep; he used his skills to protect and defend his sheep. He knew these skills came only from God. During his days as a shepherd, David developed a healthy relationship with God. I believe while he was taking care of the sheep, David spent lots of time talking with God and they developed a beautiful relationship. It was this relationship that moved God to instruct Samuel to anoint David as the king to succeed Saul after Saul became disobedient.

Although David was anointed king to succeed Saul, he still had many problems before sitting on the throne. After he killed Goliath to remove shame from Israel, Saul tried several times to kill him, but David did not take revenge on Saul. Although he had many chances to kill Saul, David did not do so because Saul was God’s anointed one. When people attack you for no reason, leave the matter to God. In Deuteronomy 32:35 and Romans 12:17-19, God declares, do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone.¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.¹⁹ Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “Vengeance is mine; I will repay.”

David was a man after God’s heart because he never stopped loving God; he never stopped worshipping God and he did not turn his back on God. David always went to the Lord for directions before undertaking any major work. When his own men turned against him and his son tried to overthrow him, David found refuge and strength in God; he looked only to God for wisdom and hope. Even when God punished him for adultery with Bathsheba and for killing her husband to cover his sin, David ran to God seeking mercy and forgiveness.

There came a time in the life of David when he wanted to do something special for God. Many years after God fulfilled His promise to David and made him king of Israel, David finally became king of Israel. When God makes a promise, God keeps that promise. It may sometimes seem long, but God will always keep His promises to us. Numbers 23:19 reminds us, “God is not human, that he should lie, nor a human being, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?”

When David became king of Israel, one of the first things he wanted to do was to build a house for the Lord. David called Nathan the prophet who was his spiritual advisor and said to him, I am living in a fancy palace while the Ark of God remains in a tent. The Ark of God was also known as the Ark of the Covenant, and the Ark of the Testimony. The Ark was a box made of wood and covered with gold. The cover of the Ark was made of gold, and it was called the Mercy Seat. Inside the Ark were the stone tablets where God wrote the Ten Commandments. The Ark also had in it a jar containing manna that fell from heaven and the rod of Aaron, the priest from Numbers 17:8. The Ark represented the presence of God. The priests carried the ark and went ahead of the people during the wilderness journey. When Israel went into battle, they took the Ark with them. This tells us that no matter what we undertake, we should always take God with us.

David called Nathan the Prophet and said he was not pleased that he lived in a fancy house while the Ark of God remained in a tent. David felt bad that he lived in a nice house while God did not have a place to stay. David wanted to build a house for God. This was what made David special and another reason why he was a man after God’s heart. He was always thinking of ways to serve and worship God. We can be the same way by always finding ways to serve and worship God. The prophet Nathan told David, “Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it, for the LORD is with you.”

That night, the Lord gave Nathan a message for David. This was a message about how God feels about a house for Himself. This is also a message for us who see the church building as the house of God. This is a message about who God is and the relationship God wants to have with us. The first

thing this message tells us is that God **is a God of movement and mobility**. In verses 5-7, God states, 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?’ ⁶I 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. ⁷Wherever 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?’” God is not restricted to a place or a building because God moves around with us. God is a mobile God. In Exodus 33:14, God promised Israel, “My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.” Jesus said in Matthew 18:20, “Where two or three gather in my name, I am there with them.”

God is not limited by time and space. We do not know how large the universe is, yet God fills the entire universe. God was with the apostles during the first century when they met in Jerusalem to discuss important church matters. God was with Paul and Barnabas, and with Paul and Silas on their missionary journeys. That was 2,000 years ago. Do you know anybody who is 2,000 years old? More than 4,000 years ago, God was with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, and Moses as they established Israel as a nation and developed Judaism as a religion. God was around millions of years ago before human beings knew how to write and record history. God is with us today no matter where we are. God is with Christians in China who are hiding from the authorities. God is with believers in the Middle East who are moving from place to place because they are under attack. God is with Christians in India and Nigeria who are looking for a new place to worship because their houses of worship were burned down. God is with Christians in Oklahoma who are happy their state is going to teach the Bible and the Ten Commandments in all public schools but now will be concerned about who is going to teach.

God is a God of movement and mobility. God goes with you no matter where you go. When you're at the store, God is there. When you're at the bank, God is there. When you're taking a walk in the park, on the beach or around the neighborhood, God is there. When you are experiencing road rage within yourself or from somebody, God is with you saying, “Calm down. Everything is going to be fine.” God

was telling David and is telling us that He is not confined to a house but moves with us wherever we go because He is a God of movement and mobility.

The second thing we learn about God is that **God is mysterious and majestic**. In verses 8-11, we read, “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. ⁹I 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. ¹⁰And 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 ¹¹and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders^[a] over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies.”

God is truly majestic and mysterious. Someone said, “God is like oxygen. You can't see him, yet you can't live without him.” There are not enough words in any language to describe the fullness of God. God is beyond human understanding. Scientists tell us that the earth is the size of a golf ball in the universe, yet God sees and knows every one of us who live in this world. God's glory fills the entire universe. It was this God who took a lowly shepherd named David and made him a mighty king of Israel. It was this God who took Moses, the son of an enslaved family, a man who had problem speaking, and made him a leader to take the people from slavery through the Red Sea to receive the Ten Commandments at Mount Sinai. It was this God who called Samuel and Jeremiah while they were still children and made them great men of God. It was this God who called fishermen to follow him and build His church through the power of the Spirit. It is this same God who has called you to follow him in faith to do great things for the Kingdom of God.

The third thing we learn is that **God is marvelous and merciful**. In verses 12 to 15, God said to David, ¹²When 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. ¹³He 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.”

In Psalm 118:22-23, David wrote, “The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner. ²³ This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.” God is truly marvelous, magnificent, and merciful. God told David if he disobeyed and committed wrong, God would punish him but never stop loving him.

When David committed adultery with Bathsheba and killed Uriah her husband, God confronted him. David recognized his sin and confessed to God in Psalm 51, seeking forgiveness. God punished them by taking away the child that was born to them and causing division within the family. Then, in his mercy, God allowed Solomon, their other son, to succeed David as king of Israel.

When we sin and confess, the Bible tells us, God is faithful and just to forgive us of our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. God is magnificent in his judgment but merciful to all who seek forgiveness. God wants us to be merciful as he is. God is a God of justice and love, of judgement and mercy.

The real house of God is in the hearts and lives of God's people. Jesus told the Samaritan Woman at the well, ²³ Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. ²⁴ God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”

David was a man after God's own heart. When David wanted to build a house for God, God later told him in 2 Chronicles 28 that since he was a man of war and blood, he would not be the one to build a house for God. God picked his son Solomon to build his house. When David first offered to build a house for God, God told David that **He was a God of movement and mobility. David also learned that God was majestic and mysterious as well as marvelous and merciful.** Whenever we gather to worship God, let us remember God is not restricted

to this house but God is wherever we are to guide us and bless us. Amen.