

2 Sam. 15:13-29 (WCF 5:1-3) "As Seems Good to Him"

For the Children: When children are punished by parents some do not receive it well. They think it's so unfair – even if they really have done wrong. Others receive it more humbly. For they know they have done wrong and deserve to be punished. They also trust that their parents have the right to punish, and know what they're doing. If we want to accept the things our heavenly Father sends our way, even the things we don't enjoy, we need to know that we are sinners who deserve no good in ourselves; and that He knows what He is doing and has the right to do it. **Questions:** Can you think of any things that have made you wonder if God is really doing the right thing? What *should* your attitude be? What was the attitude of the Lord Jesus when He faced the terrible pain of the cross?

Introduction:

First Point: Accepting God's Providence

- 1) David's Difficult Situation: Absalom had been plotting against his father, winning over many, especially the army. Now he marched on Jerusalem. This must have caused great grief to David
- 2) In His Hands: However, in vss. 25-26, David submits most humbly to God's Providence – "Let Him do to me as seems good to Him." In light of Nathan's warning in 12:10, David must have been conscious of his sins as well as his finiteness – both of which must be accepted if we are to humble ourselves before God and accept His Providence, rather than thinking we deserve better
- 3) A Strong View: David does not view God as simply foreseeing what will be, but as acting so as to create what happens. God will "do to me..." "He will bring me back..." This is a view that sees God as upholding, directing, disposing and governing all things according to His free, good pleasure – rather than hemmed in by what Fate decrees or limited by the "free will" of men. This is how God acted in creating the world as He chose, and that is how He continues to rule what He created
- 4) No Superstition: Such a strong view of both predestination and its outworking in the Providence of God leaves no room for manipulation of God's Providence or for a superstitious view of it. David refuses to use the Ark as a "lucky charm" to pressure God to restore him. He knows the Ark is meant to stay in Jerusalem (Dt. 12:5; 1 Kgs 8:29, 11:36)
- 5) Messianic Trust: David is a "type" of Christ in this submission to God's Providence. We see that submission fulfilled in the perfect trust of Christ in His Father in Gethsemane and on the cross – as at all times in His life. David's trust, despite rejection – in Ps. 22:8 for example – is even applied to Christ in Mt. 27:43. We are called to following Christ's footsteps in this (1 Pet. 2-3)

Second Point: Recognizing Means & Consequences

- 1) The Consequences of David's Sin: Just as predestination does not undermine "second causes" and the use of "means" (WCF 3:1), so God uses means and upholds cause-and-effect, according to His purposes, in His Providence (WCF 5:2-2). So David's sin with Bathsheba and his weakness and favouritism with his sons brings these consequences of Absalom's rebellion
- 2) The Consequences of Israel's Sin: Israel's fickle turning from support of David to rebellion is another sin that contributes to the situation.
- 3) A Type of Rejection: However, God's purpose in ordering these things also involves His plan to send His Christ. David's experience of rejection points to Christ's rejection. It appears that Judas' betrayal is compared to that of Ahithophel. See Ps. 41:9 with Jn. 13:18. David's flight via the Kidron Valley & Mount of Olives is paralleled to Christ's betrayal and arrest in Jn. 18:1. There is also a foretaste of the Gentile inclusion through Christ in Ittai's oath of support for David – one that puts Israel to shame
- 4) Responsible Trust: All these things were predestined by God and ordered in His Providence. Yet men are held accountable for doing evil – and woe to them for it (Lk. 22:22, Acts 2:23). David is not fatalistic. He weeps over evil and takes measures to secure His restoration – while trusting in God's Providence.

Conclusion: