

“God’s Covenant Love”
2 Samuel 7:12-15
(Preached at Trinity, February 17, 2019)

I’m supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord’s Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I’ll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. David was God’s king. A king after God’s own heart.
1 Samuel 13:14 NAU - "The LORD has sought out for Himself a man after His own heart, and the LORD has appointed him as ruler over His people,"
2. More important, God was David’s God. In other words, although David was Israel’s lawful king, David knew that he wasn’t the supreme King.
 - A. One of the first acts of David as the lawful king of Israel was to move the Ark of the Covenant from the house of Abinadab into Jerusalem.
 1. His first effort ended in disaster because God was not properly revered. But after David repented the Ark was brought into Jerusalem with great praise and celebration.
 2. David knew that his kingship could never be firmly established unless God was among them.
 - B. As we come to **2 Sam. 7** we find David ruling in peace and enjoying the comforts of his lavish house of cedar, the royal palace. He was convicted that while he enjoyed every creature comfort, the Ark of God was still housed in a tent. David wanted to build a permanent house for God – a Holy Temple. It was not God’s purpose for David to build the Temple.
3. It was in this context that God revealed Himself to David through the prophet Nathan and made an unconditional covenant with him.
2 Samuel 7:12-13 NAU - "When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ "He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever."
2 Samuel 7:16 NAU - "Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever."
God tells David that he will die (when your days are complete) but his kingdom will endure forever.
4. God also makes a remarkable statement affirming the Covenant of Grace.
2 Samuel 7:14-15 NAU - "I will be a father to him and he will be a son to Me; when he commits iniquity, I will correct him with the rod of men and the strokes of the sons of men, ¹⁵ but My lovingkindness shall not depart from him, as I took *it* away from Saul, whom I removed from before you."
5. God affirms His relationship with His people.
 - A. God told Abraham that He would have a special relationship with His people:
Genesis 12:3 NAU - "I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse."

- a. God would come to be known as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
Genesis 50:24 NAU - "Joseph said to his brothers, "I am about to die, but God will surely take care of you and bring you up from this land to the land which He promised on oath to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob."
- b. God affirmed this when He determined to deliver His people from Egypt
Exodus. 2:24 NAU - "So God heard their groaning; and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob."
- c. Four times in this section God refers to Israel as "My people"
Verses 7, 8, 10, 11
- d. God declares His wonderful covenant relationship
Verse 14 - "I will be a father to him and he will be a son to Me"
- B. Israel was a mixed multitude. In other words, God's spiritual elect were mixed with the physical nation of Israel. All who were covenant members in the Old Covenant were not saved. All did not know God savingly.
- C. The ultimate fulfillment of God's Covenant is in the New Covenant through Jesus Christ. The glorious change in the New Covenant is that all covenant members know God.
Jeremiah 24:7 NAU - "I will give them a heart to know Me, for I am the LORD; and they will be My people, and I will be their God, for they will return to Me with their whole heart."
Jeremiah 31:34 NAU - "They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them," declares the LORD, "for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."
6. There is another aspect of God's promise beautifully declared in this passage.
2 Samuel 7:14-15 NAU - "I will be a father to him and he will be a son to Me; when he commits iniquity, I will correct him with the rod of men and the strokes of the sons of men, ¹⁵ but My lovingkindness shall not depart from him, as I took *it* away from Saul, whom I removed from before you."
7. God uses a word that speaks to His Covenant faithfulness. It is used over and over in the Old Testament - רַחֲמִים - 255 times.
 - a. It is translated variously – goodness, kindness
The NASB is fond of translating it "lovingkindness"
The KJV translates it most often "mercy"
 - b. It is the word translated 41 times in the KJV – "His mercy endureth forever"
1 Chronicles 16:34 KJV - "O give thanks unto the LORD; for *he is* good; for his mercy *endureth* for ever."
It is used in all 26 verses of **Psalm 136**
Psalm 136:1 KJV - "O give thanks unto the LORD; for *he is* good: for his mercy *endureth* for ever."
This is consistent with the Septuagint which uses the word ἔλεος – "mercy"
8. My favorite way of understanding this word is by the expression "Covenant Love."
It was used in the context of God's Covenant in 1 Sam. 20
1 Samuel 20:8 NAU - "Therefore deal kindly with your servant, for you have brought your servant into a covenant of the LORD with you. But if there is iniquity in me, put me to death yourself; for why then should you bring me to your father?"

I. The nature of God's covenant love

- A. It is based upon God's sovereign determination
1. In the eternal Covenant of Redemption the Father chose a people to be the objects of His love.
 2. God's love is unmerited. There is nothing we did to earn it. There is nothing we can do to keep it. There is nothing we can do to increase it.
 3. God has eternally fixed His love upon His elect people.
God looked upon His elect people while we were defiled by sin and fixed His powerful love upon us. He said within Himself, I love this one.
 4. The great tragedy of modern Christianity is their failure to comprehend God's sovereign, electing love.
 - a. The only way they can conceive of God's love is the same love that He has for everybody.
 - b. In essence they say, God loves the world and I am in the world and so God loves me.
 - c. They cannot comprehend God's particular, covenant love.
- B. God maintains His love for us by His covenant faithfulness
1. When Saul sinned God rejected him
 2. God is promising David that when Solomon sins He will treat him as a son
2 Samuel 7:14-15 NAU - "I will be a father to him and he will be a son to Me; when he commits iniquity, I will correct him with the rod of men and the strokes of the sons of men, ¹⁵ but My lovingkindness shall not depart from him, as I took *it* away from Saul, whom I removed from before you."
 3. When God's covenant people sin, He corrects us, but He will never condemn us. He treats us with pity as a father pities his own child.
- C. It was because of God's covenant love that He sent forth Christ
1. This is the essence of John 3:16 – "For God so loved . . ."
It was love that brought God to send His Son to rescue us from sin that we might be reconciled to Himself
 2. This is the essence of God's promise made to David of an unending reign
Many earthly kings in the Davidic line were ungodly kings and in time David's earthly line of kings ceased.
Nevertheless, God's covenant promise continued and was accomplished through Jesus Christ.

II. God's Covenant Love is everlasting and unfailing

Lamentations 3:22-23 NAU - "The LORD'S lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, For His compassions never fail. ²³ *They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.*"

A. God's love is based upon His covenant faithfulness

1. God has loved us from all eternity. His covenant will not, cannot fail
Jeremiah 31:3 NAU - "I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore I have drawn you with lovingkindness."
2. God's faithfulness to His covenant is absolute – God keeps covenant
Deuteronomy 7:7-9 NAU - "The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any of the peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples, ⁸ but because the LORD loved you and kept the oath which He swore to your forefathers, the LORD brought you out by a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. ⁹ "Know therefore that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments;"
3. This is the basis for God's words to David
Verse 15 - "but My lovingkindness shall not depart from him"
4. This is the refrain in the **Psalms 118, 136**
Psalms 136:1 KJV - "O give thanks unto the LORD; for *he is good*: for his mercy *endureth* for ever." (טִּדְרֶךְ)
Psalms 136:1 NAU - "Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, For His lovingkindness is everlasting."
5. God tells David:
 - Death cannot stop it
2 Samuel 7:12 NAU - "When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you"
 - Sin will not destroy it
2 Samuel 7:14-15 NAU - "when he commits iniquity, I will correct him with the rod of men and the strokes of the sons of men, ¹⁵ but My lovingkindness shall not depart from him"
 - Time will not consume it
2 Samuel 7:16 NAU - "Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever"

B. This is the great source of comfort for God's people

1. Nothing can affect God's Covenant. Nothing can destroy His great love for us
Romans 8:31 – "What shall we then say to these things? If God *be* for us, who *can be* against us?"
Romans 8:35 – "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?"

2. When God chastens us it is not a sign of His hatred but of His love.
Hebrews 12:6-7 NAS - "For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines, And He scourges every son whom He receives." ⁷ It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom *his* father does not discipline?"

Conclusion:

1. Can we not see the ultimate fulfillment of God's Covenant faithfulness?
 - A. On one hand, one might say that God's promise failed. Is it not true that the monarchy began to unravel almost immediately after David's death? Solomon's own son brought division in the kingdom. Within 300 years Israel was invaded and scattered by the Assyrians. Where is God's covenant faithfulness?
 - B. On the other hand, we find the light God's covenant faithfulness shining brightly.
Isaiah 9:6-7 KJV - "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of *his* government and peace *there shall be* no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this."
2. Does not **Verse 14** speak beyond Solomon?
2 Samuel 7:14 NAU - "I will be a father to him and he will be a son to Me"
Isaiah 9:6 KJV - "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given"
Hebrews 1:5 NAS - "Thou art My Son, Today I have begotten Thee"? And again, "I will be a Father to Him And He shall be a Son to Me"
3. But how can it be said that Jesus Christ would commit iniquity and be chastened with the rod of God's chastisement?
2 Samuel 7:14 NAU - "I will be a father to him and he will be a son to Me; when he commits iniquity, I will correct him with the rod of men and the strokes of the sons of men,"
Isaiah 53:4-5 KJV - "Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. ⁵ But he was wounded for our transgressions, *he was* bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace *was* upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."
Isaiah 53:10 KJV - "Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put *him* to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see *his* seed, he shall prolong *his* days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand."
4. Did it not seem that Jesus Christ, God's beloved Son was utterly forsaken?
Matthew 27:46 NAS - "And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?"
5. God remained true to His Covenant faithfulness.
Philippians 2:9-11 NAU - "For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Psalm 2:6-8 NAU - "But as for Me, I have installed My King Upon Zion, My holy mountain." ⁷ "I will surely tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. ⁸ 'Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, And the *very* ends of the earth as Your possession."