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Group Guide

The Last Words

May 12, 2024

Main Passage: 2 Samuel 22:1-4; 23:1-7

Theological Theme

David approached the end of his life with complete confidence in God based completely on the Lord's faithfulness and not his own performance or perfection. David's last public words summarized his reflections on all God had done in and through his life from his time as a shepherd boy to becoming the greatest king in Israel.

Introduction

- ❓ What are some of the most famous last words you can think of?
- ❓ Why do you think last words carry more weight than usual? How have you been impacted by someone's last words?

1. Remembering (2 Samuel 22:1-4)

Today's focus is on King David's last words in 2 Samuel 23. Just prior to that passage in chapter 22, David took time to remember all that God had done for Him and all God had been to him. David reflected on his life as he neared the end of his days and recalled the presence and power of the Lord at work on his behalf. This reflection time fueled what became David's last public words.

- ❓ Why do you think it is a common practice to reflect on life as one nears the end of his or her life? What is the value in this?
- ❓ Which descriptor for the Lord stands out to you the most and why? How has He acted in this way for you?
- ❓ Application: How can you reflect on God's faithfulness to you by using David's words in this passage as a model?

2. Reflecting (2 Samuel 23:1-4)

These were not David's last words from his deathbed but his final public declaration expressing his heart and longing at the end of his life. David reflected on his humble beginning as the son of Jesse and the fact that God elevated him to power and influence as His anointed. He also acknowledged the gift of God speaking through him.

- ❓ How did confidence in God give David a clear picture of who he was as one belonging to God? How is this also true for us?
- ❓ How is a heart for justice tied to being a godly leader? Why is it a failure to honor God if we neglect justice?
- ❓ Application: Where is God calling you to pursue justice in the world this week? How will you do this practically?

3. Trusting (2 Samuel 23:5-7)

Looking back at the end of his life, David didn't try to pretend his reign was without failure. There is power in accepting the reality of our brokenness and admitting to our own shortcomings. Our weakness magnifies the goodness of God, even and especially at the end of our lives.

- ❓ Why is it important to admit your own failings alongside God's faithfulness when evaluating your life? Why should this lead to rejoicing?
- ❓ How does it impact you to remember that God's faithfulness to you is based on who He is and not what you've done?
- ❓ Application: Where do you need to trust God fully right now? How will you submit to Him in this area of life?

Conclusion

- ❓ At this point in your life, what "last words" might you pass on to another if you knew your time was limited? What is the value of reflecting on the end of our lives, even if we may have many years to live?
- ❓ How can our group support one another in reflecting often on the faithfulness of God in our lives?
- ❓ How can you seek a gospel conversation with someone this week by sharing about the life of David?