



How Shall We Proceed

2 Samuel 15:17-18 (NIV)

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1. Integrity _____

2. Humility _____

3. Prayer _____

Life Application _____



How Shall We Proceed

2 Samuel 15:17-18 (NIV)

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his men marched past him, along with all the Kerethites and Pelethites; and all the six hundred Gittites who had accompanied him from Gath marched before the king.

Introduction:

- Nothing could be worse than where David finds himself now. His own son has driven him out and taken the throne by force. And yet, it will get worse still. There is another Psalm that David wrote during the rebellion of Absalom. It is the 22nd Psalm and it is a moving description of what David is experiencing.
- Psalms 22:14-15 (NKJV) — [14] I am poured out like water, and all My bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it has melted within Me. [15] My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and My tongue clings to My jaws; You have brought Me to the dust of death.
- As bad as it can seem, there is a way that we can navigate the issues that would devour us. We can overcome if we walk before the Lord as David did.

1. Integrity

1. 2 Samuel 15:19-20 (NIV) — [19] The king said to Ittai the Gittite, “Why should you come along with us? Go back and stay with King Absalom. You are a foreigner, an exile from your homeland. [20] You came only yesterday. And today shall I make you wander about with us, when I do not know where I am going? Go back, and take your countrymen. May kindness and faithfulness be with you.”
2. It’s the words of a man of integrity to another of honor and integrity also. In the Hebrew it is '*kindness and truth*'. That’s what integrity is. It’s treating others the way you would expect to be treated by them. It’s the golden rule found in scripture.
3. Galatians 5:14-15 (NIV) — [14] The entire law is summed up in a single command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” [15] If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.
4. Our culture is teetering on edge of destruction today because we are biting and devouring each other. But here is what distinguishes David from so many others around him, he is a man of integrity.
5. Jesus said something very similar in the sermon on the mount.
6. Matthew 22:37-40 (NIV) — [37] Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ [38] This is the first and greatest commandment. [39] And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ [40] All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”
7. I would say, in the light of those two passages, that it would be difficult to maintain a life of integrity outside of a life of faith.

8. Psalms 41:12-13 (NIV) — [12] In my integrity you uphold me and set me in your presence forever. [13] Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Amen and Amen.

2. Humility

1. 2 Samuel 15:23 (NIV) — [23] The whole countryside wept aloud as all the people passed by. The king also crossed the Kidron Valley, and all the people moved on toward the desert.
2. Here, David is a type of Christ who also passed over the Kidron Valley into the Mount of Olives and the Garden of Gethsemani. The difference is that David is a father fleeing from a son, and Jesus is a son going to meet his father's wrath. And so, Jesus entered the garden with humility seeking the Father's Will above His own.
3. Luke 22:39-44 (NIV) — [39] Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. [40] On reaching the place, he said to them, "Pray that you will not fall into temptation." [41] He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, [42] "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." [43] An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. [44] And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.
4. David also enters the garden with humility, offering sacrifice and seeking the will of the Father above His own. And there must be sacrifice, we cannot find true humility without sacrifice.

5. 2 Samuel 15:24-26 (NIV) — [24] Zadok was there, too, and all the Levites who were with him were carrying the ark of the covenant of God. They set down the ark of God, and Abiathar offered sacrifices until all the people had finished leaving the city. [25] Then the king said to Zadok, “Take the ark of God back into the city. If I find favor in the LORD's eyes, he will bring me back and let me see it and his dwelling place again. [26] But if he says, ‘I am not pleased with you,’ then I am ready; let him do to me whatever seems good to him.”
6. Anybody familiar with David's circumstances would have not called for humility. They would have demanded vengeance. But, the only hope for a culture of division and hatred as we find ourselves in today, is humility.
7. Philippians 2:3-8 (NIV) — [3] Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. [4] Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. [5] Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: [6] Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, [7] but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. [8] And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death— even death on a cross!

3. Prayer

1. 2 Samuel 15:30-31 (NIV) — [30] But David continued up the Mount of Olives, weeping as he went; his head was covered and he was barefoot. All the people with him covered their heads too and were weeping as they went up. [31] Now David had been told, “Ahithophel is among the conspirators with Absalom.” So David prayed, “O LORD, turn Ahithophel's counsel into foolishness.”

2. And now, David walks the same path that the disciples will later follow behind Jesus into the garden of prayer. In spite of Jesus encouragement for them to pray, to 'watch' with Him, He later finds them sleeping.
3. Luke 22:45 (NIV) — [45] When he rose from prayer and went back to the disciples, he found them asleep, exhausted from sorrow.
4. Do you remember our response from last week?
 1. Wait
 2. Pray, then wait.
 3. Believe, then wait again on the Lord.
5. But here is where David distinguishes Himself. He is not in a hurry to get his throne back. He is determined to wait on God. He is willing to trust God's timing and purpose for His life. He will leave it in the hands of God.
6. The 22nd Psalm is another Psalm that David wrote during Absalom's rebellion. This one is also a Messianic Psalm for it tells of the suffering Savior. It describes in precise detail events surrounding the crucifixion of Jesus. And we can draw confidence in the fact that God knows the precise details of our lives today, also.
7. Psalms 22:1-5 (NIV) — [1] My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning? [2] O my God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, and am not silent. [3] Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the praise of Israel. [4] In you our fathers put their trust; they trusted and you delivered them. [5] They cried to you and were saved; in you they trusted and were not disappointed.

Conclusion:

- And we can trust Him today as well. He will not disappoint us, but that doesn't mean it won't get difficult at times.
- Psalms 63:6-8 (NIV) — [6] On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night. [7] Because you are my help, I sing in the shadow of your wings. [8] My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.
- There's an old hymn that says:
 - Hold to God's unchanging hand;
 - Build your hopes on things eternal,
 - Hold to God's unchanging hand.