

Kingdom Living, pt.5, 4.19.09

The 7 Mountains (realms) of Influence

Intro

1. Review – learning how to advance God’s Kingdom in our lives by learning from how David advanced God’s Kingdom during his time.
2. Introduction to the Seven Mountains – Linda Fields. This message was a joint message by Linda Fields and Pastor Scott.
3. How David interacted with the seven mountains.

Family – the biggest area of failure

Amnon – 2 Sam.13 esp v.21(footnote)

- From the Dead Sea Scrolls & Gk version – “but he did not punish his son Amnon, b/c he loved him, for he was his firstborn.”

Absalom – 2 S.14.23, 28 – David wanted reconciliation, but he didn’t seek after Absalom.

Adonijah – 1 Ki.1–2, esp.1.6

- “a never a word did his father say to check or challenge him.”
 - Now his father had never in his life restrained him
 - Not so much as by a single scolding!
 - When you don’t take responsibility others get hurt. If David had acted as he should with Amnon, the problems described in 2 Sam.13.23 – 2 Sam. 20 would not have occurred. In this section, there is massive loss of life and the death of Absalom & Amnon all b/c David did not take responsibility with his children. His unwillingness to correct eventually led to an insurrection. His unwillingness to correct Adonijah led to his death too.
 - David created failure on the family mountain when he didn’t discipline his children or confront a problem.

Religion

- Worship was at the center of David's life & he made it at the center of Israel's life – 1 Sam.16.14–23; 17.37, 45–47; 2 Sam. 5 – 6; 1 Chron.15–17; 22–29
 - Observation: We can't take all the mountains, but we can focus on the one or two that stirs up passion.
 - He brought the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem & set up 24/7 worship. By bringing it to Jerusalem (the capitol) he ushered in the presence of God over the whole nation.
 - What happens at the cultural & political centers of power has a cascading effect upon everyone else. Such was the case with bringing the Ark to Jerusalem.
 - David contended for the presence of God to permeate every part of Israel's existence. He made worship (the action & lifestyle) a central part of Israel's identity.
 - The presence of God changes things. It connects Heaven to earth. One of the motivators for David to bring the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem after a tragedy of Uzzah's death was the blessing upon Obed-Edom house. Explain. 2 Sam.6.9–12.

Education

- The massive training of the worship leaders & priests – 1 Chron.23 – 25. This effort impacted Israel for generations.

Media & Arts

- David's influence in shaping people's perspective of life – Psalms. His thoughts still shape our thoughts. His conversations with God have become our conversations with God. His written words have impacted the collective conscience of Christians & Jews for 3000 years. They are used in personal worship to congregational expression to national proclamations.

- We think about what we say having limited impact. How would you like to know that the song, speech, poem you penned would still be sung, read or experienced a thousand years after your death?

Economy

- The two occasions where David took initiative to intentionally influence the economy are:
 - 1 Sam.21 – The famine due to the breaking of the covenant with the Gibeonites. Three years they were w/o rain & David sought the Lord about the problem. This was having a devastating influence over the region. When the Lord revealed to him the sin that was responsible for the discipline, David rectified the situation. The famine was broken and the economic downturn was over. David intentionally engaged in an economic problem, sought God's wisdom, received direction, followed God's will and then experienced economic breakthrough – a great model for us.
 - 1 Chron. 22– the release of wealth to construct the Temple of God. The literal foundation of the Temple still exists today as the most hotly contested piece of property on planet earth. It's in Jerusalem where the Dome of the Rock & Al Asqa Mosque sit.
 - He invested millions of dollars in purchasing goods and hiring contractors to build the Temple. It was a major economic stimulus program.
 - His economic influence is still felt today. Millions of people have traveled to Jerusalem to see either the Temple Mount, pray at the wailing wall or visit the Dome on the Rock. 3000 years after his initial investment, his construction project is still providing income for that region.

Government (mainly through military & geographic expansion)

- 1 Chron.14, 18 – 20 illustrates the vast expansion of Israel's kingdom. Under Saul's reign, Israel was succumbing to the

pressures of other nations. They found themselves in bondage and defeated. Their geographic and spiritual identities were bound up by false religions and hostile nations.

- When David becomes king of Israel, the shrinking influence stops. He embraces their original mandate given to Israel by God. They were to take all the land given to them by God and remove all hostile nations.
- David radically advanced Israel's kingdom. He destroyed not only their armies and repossessed their land, but he crippled their negative spiritual influence on Israel's life. He didn't just take over their land, but he also eliminated their spiritual hold on the people. This kept the people from departing from the Lord for over 70 years.
- Gov't should make decisions about the long term interest of its nation. David didn't just grow the nation, but he eliminated the negative influences that would take his nation back in bondage.
- He built for future generations
 - 1 Chron.22 - 29 details the preparation for building the Temple. David wanted to build the Temple but God said he couldn't. This was a responsibility given to Solomon.
 - David did all the physical preparations for the construction of the Temple; he raised all the finances; he enlisted all the workers;
 - He also defeated a multitude of enemies so his son didn't have to fight them - fought the Phil over 7 xs.
 - David's ceiling was Solomon's floor.
 - Let our focus be on those who follow. We are building something for them.

Linda Field's completed the message by looking at how we are to live in the seven mountains.