

GREATER THAN SERIES
GOD IS GREATER THAN MY HURTS
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SELECTED PSALMS
S-1761

•BACKGROUND SLIDE #1: Turn to the Book of Psalms.

Preach It Teach It: Several announcements

Most of us think that the Book of Psalms is a collection of nice Bible verses written by people lazing around on the grass as they strummed their guitars composing melodies!

Nothing could be farther from the truth. Hardly any were written like that—if any. The psalms are real-life songs written by real-life people living under extreme pressure—with the joy and pathos of every emotion we humans can have.

Like the new ABC show Wipe out. (I will set this up and signal you when to begin.)

VIDEO: WIPE OUT

That Hurts!

•SLIDE #2: Psalms: God is greater than my hurts.

I want you to get familiar with the Book of Psalms.

I want to validate their worth to you this morning by examining the life of David.

•SLIDE #3: **DAVID'S HURTS** (THEN DAVID'S HEALING)

Two sides to David's life—just like for us.
On the one hand, he must have had a wonderful life.

•SLIDE #4: Glory of killing goliath
Hero of the nation of Israel: Saul has killed his thousands and David his ten thousands.
Got to be king
Known as “man after God's own heart!”

Does it get any better than this?

Well, there was another side.

He was rejected, betrayed; broken dreams, lost his best friend, dysfunctional children, humiliation;
driven from kingdom by his oldest born son, etc. etc. etc.

Teaching on Job and suffering.
Intimidated as Americans who have so little credibility
Shared our story
Iraqi Christian: “I think I can listen to them.”

Our sufferings validated our words to him.

In the same way David's hurts and struggles validate to us the worth of his Psalms. We can read the Psalms with confidence that His understanding and insights are valid.

•SLIDE #5: REJECTION

Rejected by his dad.

When the prophet Samuel came to anoint a king, David's father Jesse brought in all of his sons but David. (1 Samuel 16:10-11)

Rejected by his brothers.

When he went to the front lines to take food to his brothers they mocked and made fun of him, despised and rejected him. (1 Samuel 17:26-29)

Rejected by his boss.

Went into Saul's service—not just any boss—the King kicked him out and then set out to kill him.

King Saul praised David following his heroic slaying of Goliath the Philistine giant, and subsequently chased him out of his court and spent twelve years trying to kill him. (1 Samuel 19:1 and 19:15)

Rejected by his wife.

Michal, his first wife, was taken away from him by Saul and given to another man. (1 Samuel 25:44)

I wonder if all of that rejection might have affected his relationship with God.

•SLIDE #6: Rejected by God (at least that is how it seemed to him at times).

Psalms 22:1 "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?"

This is the same man who trusted God when he killed Goliath. King David struggled with the emotion of rejection his entire life. Why did he struggle with rejection? Because he was!

•SLIDE #7: BROKEN FRIENDSHIPS

David longed for an intimate friend like Jonathan—and that friendship was lost because of Saul's jealousy.

READ 1 Samuel 18:1-4: Saul had threatened to kill David, so Jonathan had to part company with David to spare David's life.

READ 1 Samuel 20:41-42: "Then they kissed each other and wept together—but David wept the most.

When David was informed of the death of Saul and Jonathan, he wept again:

READ 2 Samuel 1:26 "I grieve for you, Jonathan my brother; you were very dear to me. Your love for me was wonderful, more wonderful than that of women."

Many wives—never found intimate love—except perhaps with Abigail.

78 years old, dying and calls for some young virgin to get in bed with him.

Not Gay

•SLIDE #8: GUILT: INNER ANGUISH OF HURTING OTHERS

His lies and selfishness causes the death of the priest Ahimilech (1 Samuel 21:1-15).

Soon after David fled from Jerusalem, he went to Nob to seek refuge with Ahimilech the priest. "Why are you here?" I am on an errand from Saul," he lied.

Ahimilech gave David and his men the showbread to keep them from starving. But Saul followed David surreptitiously and murdered the priest for aiding and abetting a "fugitive from justice."

His adultery with Bathsheba resulted in the death of Uriah and of his son (2 Samuel 12:13-15, 18).

Caused the death of his own son (2 Samuel 12:13-15, 18)

Mom backs over son in driveway.

•SLIDE #9: DYSFUNCTIONAL CHILDREN

Amnon rapes Tamar (2 Samuel 13:9-13)

Absalom murders Amnon (2 Samuel 13:28-31)

David did nothing. He was the absent father—he brought on most of the grief to his children.

•SLIDE #10: REBELLION

David wrote Psalm 3 when he was escaping from his firstborn son as Absalom and his renegade army tried to usurp David's throne and take his kingdom. In this tragic psalm, David looked across the Kidron valley and watched his son rape his royal wives and concubines on the palace roof.

Absalom was killed by Joab (2 Samuel 18:14-15).

David was almost destroyed by his anguish (2 Samuel 18:31-33).
(Wept and wept with guilt because of what an awful, neglectful dad he was.)

•SLIDE #11: BETRAYAL

Ahithophel, David's father-in-law and trusted friend and advisor joined Absalom in overthrowing David's rule. (2 Samuel 15:31; Psalm 41:9; John 13:18).

Psalm 41:9: Even my close friend, whom I trusted, he who shared my bread, has lifted up his heel against me.

•SLIDE #12: HUMILIATION

Shimei pelted David with stones as he retreated in shame from Jerusalem (2 Sam. 16:5-13).

“Leave him alone; I deserve it.”

•SLIDE #13: **BROKEN DREAMS**

David dreamed of building the Lord's temple and God wouldn't let him.
God squelched David's dream of building the Lord's temple because of the blood on David's hands.

READ 1 Chronicles 28:2-3: King David rose to his feet and said: "Listen to me, my brothers and my people. I had it in my heart to build a house as a place of rest for the ark of the covenant of the LORD, for the footstool of our God, and I made plans to build it. 3 But God said to me, 'You are not to build a house for my Name, because you are a warrior and have shed blood.'

•SLIDE #14: **DAVID'S HEALING**

•SLIDE #15: RELATIONSHIPS: David found comfort in God and in the people around him.

READ PSALM 22:1: "I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go into the house of the Lord.'

Community: 600 men who loved him and were willing to die for him (1 Samuel 23:13)

2 Sam 23:14-16: David longed for water, "Oh, that someone would get me a drink of water from the well near the gate of Bethlehem!" 16 So the three mighty men broke through the Philistine lines, drew water from the well near the gate of Bethlehem and carried it back to David.

Mighty men (2 Samuel 23:8-39)

I watch the functioning of ABFs when someone in their group is hurt v. folks not in an ABF.
The difference in care is incredible.

He also found comfort in God

READ PSALM 86:14-18: men are after me but you are merciful and compassionate

You probably have people you can turn to,
I was counting yesterday; I have seven.

You don't want to go through your pains alone. You will never get well—just old and crotchety.

•SLIDE #16: TRUST: He lived with deep-seated faith that that whatever happened God would bring in the victory.

READ PSALM 56: prefix: taken by Philistines.

READ PSALM 56:1-4, 9. Trust

Faked insanity Gath insanity: "Get that slobbering mad man out of my house. Do I not have enough mad men around me that you have to bring me another one.

Emergency room: heart in fatal rhythm. Getting ready to ride the lightning.
Doctors at end of bed telling a joke: "Here I am fighting for my life and you guys are telling jokes.

Through it all I knew this was not time to die. Felt God saying, "All will be well."
OK, I can handle that! Gordon: "Got it on first try!"
On day it will be time to die.

•SLIDE #17: ANGER: He got angry; he got healed.

Adversary #1: dealing with anger in hospital parking lot by reading psalms.

No one is angry unless he has first been hurt. Hurt breeds anger. Unresolved and unprocessed anger turns into bitterness and resentment. No one can say David suppressed his anger. He was not hesitant to bring his anger to God.

Imprecatory Psalm

READ PSALM 109:8-15.

Remember Adversary #2. Heard he was dead and I was glad. Felt guilty until I read Psalm 52.

Remember Doeg who told on Ahimilech for sheltering David and Saul then killed all the priests?

READ PSALM 52:1, 5.

"Kill him!"

This is a tremendous model for processing anger and hurt. If we stuff our pain, our anger, our resentment, they will only fester and spill over into all of our relationships. David knew this, and he was secure enough in his relationship with God, that He knew God would hear his prayer and love him even when he was expressing his pain.

READ PSALM 4:4-8.

"In your anger, do not sin."

EPHESIANS 4:26-28: "In your anger do not sin. Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold." NIV

I sinned with Adversary #2. Dealt with my feeling and repented.

Only in quiet reflection and listening to God can we begin to get any perspective upon our situation. Trust God to take care of it then lay down and go to sleep and stop worrying about it.

•SLIDE #18: TRIUMPH. He refused to let his hurts ruin his life.

David's dream of building the temple was broken.

Watched pastors over the years. Face crisis about the age of 45.

A started out with great dreams of all the great things they would do for God. Reach many for the kingdom. Build a great church. Bring revival to America.

Begin to realize that it is not going to come true.

The real test is how you respond when your dreams don't come true.

David picked up the pieces and in a supportive role made preparations for his son to build the temple.

The victorious statement at end of psalm 122:

READ Psalm 122 "For the sake of The House Of The Lord" I will seek your prosperity."

David realized that the building of the temple and of the nation was not about him. He was only a player in God's grand scheme. And he could serve God with his whole heart in a supportive role to facilitate God's grand design.

Dream of being senior pastor until 65.

God has other plans (Sunday, August 17)

READ PSALM 30:5: Weeping may remain for a night, but rejoicing comes in the morning."

•SLIDE #19: PRAISE: He lived in the kingdom of praise.

READ PSALM 35:28: "My tongue speak of your righteousness and If your praises all day long."

•SLIDE #20: REALITY: Some hurts may never be fully healed.

READ 1 KINGS 2:8-9: "And remember, you have with you Shimei son of Gera, the Benjamite from Bahurim, who called down bitter curses on me the day I went to Mahanaim. When he came down to meet me at the Jordan, I swore to him by the LORD: 'I will not put you to death by the sword.' 9 But now, do not consider him innocent. You are a man of wisdom; you will know what to do to him. Bring his gray head down to the grave in blood."

Still not healed over Adversary #1.

Big pain. Healed over Jessie years ago. Still not healed from this person; he hurt me so deeply.

•SLIDE #21: CONTENTMENT: God doesn't waste our hurts.

Psalm 56:8-11: Record my lament; list my tears on your scroll — are they not in your record?

MEDITATION

•SLIDE #22: PSALM 131:1: My heart is not proud, O LORD,
my eyes are not haughty; I do not concern myself with great matters or things too wonderful for me.

2 But I have calmed and quieted my soul;
like a child quieted at its mother's breast like a child that is quieted is my soul.

3 O Israel, put your hope in the LORD both now and forevermore.