**2 Sam 1 / Mk 9**

**Main theme: Do not desire to be great but listen only to the Lord's words and deny yourself to save men**

 **-Righteousness/ Compassion (take lesson / destroy evil)**

Golden verses: 2 Sam 1:25-26 Mk:9:23-24

A discussion on righteousness and compassion - on one side it concerned that after the death of Saul, David was just and fair. He judged righteously and killed the opportunists. He taught the people to mourn for Saul and his son and to take their lesson. This exhibited God's righteousness and unfailing love. On the other side it concerned Jesus led the disciples up the high mountain to see the glory of God's Kingdom and to hear only to voice of the Son of God. Jesus taught them to be compassionate to the sinners, to discipline themselves with righteousness ready to enter the Kingdom of God.

**A. Up the high mountain, the Spirit will judge, act righteously and be compassionate to men**

Judge (2 Sam 1:1-16) - Listen to the Lord (Mk 9:1-29)

1.【Not by the ear】1-15 After Saul died, a young Amalekite came to report to David who had just returned to Ziklag for two days. He came with clothes torn and dust on his head. He reported to David that Saul and Jonathan had died. David judged not only by the ears. Faced with this unfamiliar young man, he was eagle-eyed and inquired in detail.

※【Listen only to the Lord's voice】1-8 Jesus brought three disciples up a high mountain. He transfigured before them and exhibited His holiness, righteousness, radiance and the majesty of God's kingdom. There also appeared Moses and Elijah talking with Jesus. (2 Pe 1;16-18) Peter was reluctant to part with the situation and wanted to put up three shelters. Then a cloud enveloped Moses and Elijah. Suddenly they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus so they might only hear the voice of God's beloved Son. How can we place the two servants of God in equal position with Jesus? David would not easily listen to the young man's report. He would not see just by the eyes or hear by the ears because he had ascended to the spiritual high mountain. He would only hear the voice from heaven. Then he would be righteous and discerning to have insight in everything. (Isa 11:1-3; Ps 89:14)

2.【Be just and fair】6-16 The young man lied before David hoping to be rewarded. He reported he had killed Saul with his hands and brought his crown and the band to him. David was just and fair. He had the mind of God. He did not take any bribe. He was impartial and did not care about any personal grudges. He hated falsehood and hypocrisy. When he heard Saul, Jonathan and God's people had fallen by the sword, he tore his clothes. He mourned and wept and fasted till evening for them. He also ordered the young man be struck down according to his confession so his blood was on his own head. The young man was an opportunistic and tried to please David. He killed God's anointed and was not in fear. (In fact, Saul fell on his own sword. 1 Sa 31:1-4)

※【Be compassionate and save men】9-29 Though the disciples followed the Lord up the high mountain, they did not understand the meaning that Elijah had to come first (Mal4:5-6) and Jesus was about to suffer and would rise from the dead. David had suffered for a long period. He obeyed God's will in everything. He wept and fasted for the failure of Saul and the Israelites. He was full of God's mind and he established his kingdom by righteousness. He was jealous and hated evil. He killed the opportunist. Jesus had a compassionate heart. Once He went down the mountain, He drove out the spirit that had robbed a boy of speech. He saved the boy from the injury of the spirit. Jesus sighed that the disciples did not believe and thus they could not drive out the demon. The child's father begged the Lord by faith and was granted help. Ultimately David saw God made Saul fall because he firmly trusted in Him. On one side God's righteousness was exhibited through David. On the other side God's love was revealed through Jesus.

**B. Do not contend to be the first, put the old self to death and take deep warning**

Fall (2 Sam 1:17-27) - Put to death (Mk 9:30-50)

1.【Make a lament and take warning】17-25 David took up a lament concerning Saul and his son Jonathan and ordered this be taught to all the Israelites as an everlasting warning. The mighty of the age, the glory had fallen in battle! How could this news be passed among the enemy? The sword of Saul did not return unsatisfied. Why would it have been rejected now?

※【Do not contend to be the first and take lesson humbly】30-37 Jesus taught His disciples that the Son of Man would be betrayed into the hands of men and be killed. The disciples not only did not bear the mind of the Lord, they even argued on the way who was the greatest. Jesus took a little child in His arms and said to them, "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me and the one who sent me." It was shameful that Saul had died before the enemy. It was also shameful before the little children that the disciples argued who was the greatest. Saul reigned and was quarrelsome and jealous. He was presumptuous and arrogant. He harmed David. How the mighty have fallen, so we may take lesson to be humble forever to be a little child to be guarded by God till the end!

2.【How my brother has fallen】26-27 David also took up a lament concerning Jonathan and praised his love was more wonderful than that of women. He once formed an alliance with David, but now he had fallen. David grieved and regretted for him. In life Saul and Jonathan were loved and gracious, and in death they were not parted. They were swifter than eagles and stronger than lions but both had fallen on Mount Gilboa.

※【Die to the old self lest we may fall】38-50 John stopped others from driving out demons in the name of the Lord. He did not have the generous heart of the Lord. Thus he did not understand that 'whoever is not against us is for us'. Both David's lament for Saul and his son and Jesus treated the men with love were full of God's mind. Therefore we ought to obey to cut off our hands and feet that cause us to fall lest we become a stumbling block to others. Saul was unwilling to deal with his old self and fell to the grave. Though Jonathan loved David deeply, he could not depart from the palace and his father and follow David till the end. As a result, the mighty had fallen and did not have any share in David's kingdom. Only if we are like Paul who beat his body and made it his slave (1 Co 9:26-27) and leave everything behind to follow the Lord and love Him till the end, then we may enjoy the everlasting glory of God's kingdom.

**Ps 48 / Rev 13:1 Main theme: Consider carefully and obey completely, proclaim the Lord's words extensively and the enemies will flee**

 **-Obey the Word / The enemies flee**

(1)【The enemies fled in terror】1-6 The beast had ten horns and seven heads. (Dan 7:7) This beast is the anti-Christ. This kingdom will arise ten kings (Dan 7:24) who will persecute God's children. But we are not afraid of the combined attack of the strong enemies, if we are in the Lord by the blood and the Spirit. With God's presence, all the enemies will flee in fear.

(2)【God will secure】7-8 If we truly obey the Lord's words, He will reveal His power according to His promise. He will make us secure forever.

(3)【Will rejoice because of God】9-11 We will rejoice due to God's unfailing love and righteousness if we are like Joseph and Daniel who obeyed the Lord's words firmly.

(4)【Ought to view and tell of】12-14 We ought to consider well the inner and outer ramparts of the holy city and establish a mature spiritual temple according to the pattern of the Lord's instruction, so that we may tell of them to all generations and lead men to overcome the enemy and return to God.

**Central point of the wheels: Be righteous and compassionate in the Lord and God will secure**

Dear Lord, may You let me put my flesh and old self to death, be righteous and compassionate, to follow You till the end and reign with You!

**2 Sam 2 / Mk 10**

**Main theme: Do not contend to be the first, abandon everything to follow the Lord, and unite with Him**

 **-Do not contend / Abandon everything (fall/gain the kingdom)**

Golden verses: 2 Sam 2:5-6 Mk 10:29-30

A discussion on do not contend and abandoning everything - on one side it concerned David sought humbly and obeyed God's will to reign in Hebron. Abner became the representative of the residual power of the house of Saul who continued to resist David. Abner and Joab the commanders contended with each other in flesh and had great casualties. On the other side Jesus taught the disciples not to rely on wealth. They ought to abandon everything to follow the Lord till the end and enter His Kingdom. The kingdom of David represented the Kingdom of Christ. This teaches us not to go by the flesh, do not rely on our strength or wealth but be willing to suffer to obey the will so we may reign with the Lord and have a share in Christ's Kingdom.

**A. Obey God's will, do not contend, abandon everything and enter His Kingdom**

Contend (2 Sam 2:1-17) - Abandon (Mk 10:1-27)

1.【Obey God's will and reign】1-4 Through long period of refinement, David exalted God as king everywhere. He humbly inquired of God's will and was instructed to go to Hebron. So he obeyed and led his followers and their kindred to Hebron and the men of Judah anointed him as king to accomplish God's will.

※【Obey the Father's will and proclaim His Word】1-12 In everything Jesus obeyed the Father's will and acted what pleased Him. (Jn 8:28-29) David was the same too. Some Pharisees tested Jesus on the account of divorcing a wife. Jesus replied them according to God's original will of creating men. The two would become one flesh. God has joined together, let man not separate. He also pointed out that due to their hearts were hard, thus Moses granted the divorce. Thus, it is not of the letter but to understand the Spirit of God's words. We ought to be like Jesus and David who bore God's mind in every place and obeyed God's will. David went to Hebron (ally) and united with God. He also brought his followers to Hebron. The relationship of husband and wife represented Christ and the church which was a great mystery. We ought to obey God's will in everything and unite with Him in spirit. (1 Co 6:17; Eph 5:31-32)

2.【Bless the men of Jabesh Gilead】4-7 David came to know it was the men of Jabesh Gilead who buried Saul, so he showed favor to them and blessed them. He encouraged them to be strong and brave in his kingdom. By wisdom and love, David considered the overall situation and gained men by love.

※【Bless the little children】13-16 Some people brought little children to Jesus but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, He was indignant and said, "let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." So He took the children in His arms and blessed them. David also had a generous heart of God to bless the men of Jabesh Gilead. While the disciples did not have God's heart and God's love and they made the Lord sad.

3.【Both sides suffer】8-17 Abner the commander of Saul's army represented the residual power of the house of Saul. He did not exalt David as king. He made Ish-Bosheth son of Saul to be the king in East Jordan without authorization. Only the house of Judah followed David. Abner and Joab challenged each other and let some young men fight hand to hand. They contended by the flesh. The struggle was very fierce and they grabbed the opponent by the head and both fell down together. (Jas 4:1)

※【Hard to enter the Kingdom of God】17-27 Jesus replied the young man not only to obey the commands. He also had to sell everything and give to the poor and then to follow Him. At this, the man went away sad, because he had great wealth. How hard it is to enter God's kingdom for those who depend on wealth! Joab and Abner disregarded God's command and depended on their strength. They challenged each other and fought for fame and fortune. They were unwilling to abandon anything. So it would be just as hard for them to enter God's kingdom like those who depended on wealth. (Jer 9:23-24) But Jesus pointed out that with man this was impossible, but all things were possible with God. We ought to overcome the sinful lust by the Holy Spirit to be diligent to enter God's kingdom!

**B. Do not pursue vanity and abandon everything to follow the Lord**

Do not contend to be great (2 Sam 2:18-32) - Be a humble servant (Mk 10:28-52)

1.【Go after vanity and fall】18-23 Asahel the brother of Joab was as fleet-footed as a wild gazelle. He was eager to do well in everything and love to fight. He chased after Abner without giving up. Ultimately he was pierced to death for not listening to exhortation. The result of going after vanity is tragic.

※【Leave everything to follow the Lord will be rewarded】28-31 The disciples of Jesus left everything. The Lord promised them they would receive a hundred times as much in this present age and eternal life in the age to come. We will suffer in following Jesus, but we will gain glory in resurrection. Asahel went after vanity and ended with nothing. Though he was one of the warriors of David (2 Sa 23:24), he was damaged due to this; he was first would be last. We ought to leave every greed and run to follow the Lord till the end!

2.【How can we continue to contend】24-29 Joab and Abishai continued to pursue Abner till the sun set. Abner called out to Joab, "Must the sword devour forever?" So Joab blew the trumpet and all the men no longer pursued the Israelites. Joab contended by the flesh and did not obey the Way of love. He finally gained his bitterness.

※【How can we contend to become great】32-45 Again Jesus told the disciples the Son of Man would be killed. Not only the disciples could not consider the Lord's mind, the two brothers James and John fought first to see the Lord that they might sit at His right and left in His glory. The rest of the disciples became indignant with them. They did not know they had to drink the bitter cup with the Lord. To imitate the Lord was not to be served but to serve and be humble as a servant and deny oneself to love others. The two brothers of Joab and Abishai and Abner did not have the mind of David. They fought against each other and contended for power and fortune just like the disciples who pursued fictitious glory.

3.【The blind leads the road】30-32 As a commander, Joab contended blindly. He violated God's command and the king's order creating a tragic result of his brother being pierced to death and nineteen people were killed. Abner as a commander of Saul's army was unwilling to showing his weakness. The result of the contention created greater casualties. They were like blind people leading the road who harmed themselves and others.

※【The blind can see】46-52 Jesus and His disciples were leaving Jericho. A blind man, Bartimaeus (unclean) was begging on the road. When he heard Jesus he shouted. Regardless of any obstacles he begged for the Lord's compassion. Jesus ordered him to come and he immediately received his sight and followed Jesus. Both Joab and Abner were blind. They did not know God nor David who was anointed by God. Their old self reigned and they turned to their own ways. Thus they harmed themselves and others.

**Ps 49 / Rev 13:2 Main theme: Worldly glory is empty, wake up to save men will gain eternal life**

 **-Eternal life / Worldly glory**

(1)【Hear this, all you peoples】1-4 We ought to listen to the words of wisdom of the Holy Spirit.

(2)【Worldly honor is not lasting】5-14 We gain everything but go to the grave. We cannot endure without perishing. No one can redeem oneself or others from the power of sin and punishment.

(3)【Be redeemed is true blessing】15-19 Only by believing the Lord and be redeemed from the power of sin and the grave and gain the eternal true blessings.

(4)【Do not take the Lord's grace in vain】20 We ought to understand and do good to deny ourselves to save men, lest we will be like the beast. Though he has power and splendor, he harms others to benefit himself. He runs straight to the grave.

**Central point of the wheels: Do not contend for wealth and power, abandon everything to follow the Lord and be redeemed to gain the Kingdom**

Dear Lord, may You make me contend nothing for the world, do not turn to vanity but deny everything to follow You and enter into your everlasting Kingdom!

**2 Sam 3 / Mk 11**

**Main theme: Obey, believe, plead and God will use; do evil and turn back will wither**

 **-Remove the crafty /Fit for the Lord's use (murder/obey humbly)**

Golden verses: 2 Sam 3:1 Mk 11:23

A discussion on removing the evil and fit for the Lord's use - on one side it concerned Joab murdered Abner the commander due to jealousy. On the other side it concerned how to be a colt of Jesus, to be humble, obedient, holy, forgiving and loving. The houses of Saul and David had been contending for a long time which represented the contention between the old self and the new self, the lust and the Holy Spirit. We ought to remove the craftiness and evil in our heart by the Holy Spirit and the cross so we may overcome and triumph in Christ.

**A. The Lord must become greater, I must become less; be humble, obedient and to consecrate will be fit for use**

I must become less (2 Sam 3:1-21) - Humble and obedient (Mk 11:1-19)

1.【The Lord must become greater and I must become less】1-5 The war between the house of Saul and the house of David lasted a long time. David grew stronger and stronger, while the house of Saul grew weaker and weaker. This was the victory of God's will and plan. David was the anointed one of God. Through long period of refinement, his life truly experienced 'He must become greater; I must become less.' (Jn 3:30) The struggle of the old self and the new self is also like this. Unfortunately all the kids born in the palace were complacent and spoiled. Most of them were sinful and did evil. They forsook God's Word. Before Solomon reigned, they were invited to the betraying feast of Adonijah. (1 Ki 1:9)

※【Be humble and obedient to let the Lord ride on】1-11 Jesus told the disciples to untie a colt and bring it to be used by the Lord. This represented the chosen ones were like humble and obedient colts to be ridden by the Lord so the glorious King might be praised and exalted. David had suffered a lot and was like the colt in complete humility and obedience. He exalted God as King and was fit for His use. (Zec 9:9) But the kids whom he bore were not fit for use. They did not exalt God as King but let their old self rule. The workers of the age must let Christ reign in their life, to let Him become greater and their old self become less, then they will be fit for the Lord's use.

2.【Pretend to submit】6-21 Abner was self-esteeming. He relied on his power in the house of Saul and seized a concubine of Saul. Thus he was rebuked by Ish-bosheth and got angry. In his wrath he revenged on Ish-Bosheth and turned to David. On one side he persuaded the elders of Israel and the Benjamites. On the other side he went to make a compact with David. To take the situation as a whole into consideration, David agreed to the compact. But the condition was to bring in David's wife (who was already married to Paltiel). Michal finally left her latter husband and returned to David. Then David prepared a feast for Abner and sent him away in peace.

※【The heart is like a robbers' den】1-24 Jesus was hungry. But He could not find any fruit on the fig tree. Similarly David longed for the return of Michal. Saul and the people of his house failed David. They were ungrateful and fruitless. Though Michal was the wife of David, it was only in name, just like the fig tree bore leaves without fruit. We must unite with the Lord, then we may bear fruit. By His authority, Jesus cleared the temple so it might become a house of prayer for all nations. Abner was full of the lust for power and deceit of the world. He was not sincere in surrendering to king David. He was like a decorated temple. His heart was the robber's den just like the chief priests and the teachers of the law.

**B. Faith may move a mountain, pardon with love and restore the people's heart**

Murder (2 Sam 3:21-39) - Forgive (Mk 11:20-33)

1.【Evil plot to murder people】22-30 Joab brought the army to battle and returned in victory. When he heard David had sent Abner away, he questioned David. He was crafty. He even hid from David and pursued after Abner. He pretended to speak with him privately and stabbed him in the stomach to avenge the blood of his brother. When David heard this, he cursed Joab so the sin of plotting to kill Abner would go to head of Joab.

※【Faith will move a mountain and forgive men】20-26 Each evening Jesus went out to spend the night to get close to the Father. (Lk 21:37) Joab only focused on the battle outside. His result was glamorous but he ignored to get close to God. Jesus pointed out the power and effect of faith. If we do not doubt in the heart, we may move a mountain and throw it into the sea. Only believe that what he says will happen, it will be done for him. The Lord also taught the disciples to forgive others, otherwise the Father in heaven would not forgive their sins. Joab was unwilling to forgive. He was unable to move away the mountain of hatred. He was honey mouthed and dagger hearted. He killed Abner. God would not forgive his sin so he and his house were cursed.

2.【Humility and love will restore the people's heart】31-39 David told Joab and all the people with him to mourn before the bier of Abner. The king and all the people wept aloud. David sighed for losing an Israelite commander. He knew that though he was anointed, he was weak. Such humility and love restored the people's heart.

※【Deal with the enemies with wisdom and authority】27-33 The chief priests and the teachers of the law asked Jesus by what authority did he do these things. Jesus questioned them on John's baptism if it was from heaven, or from men. The authority of Jesus and the baptism of John were both from heaven, no matter if the enemies despised or disbelieve. Jesus was full of wisdom and authority to handle the enemies. David was full of humility and love to restore the people's heart. Joab and the chief priests and the teachers of the law only contended for power and fame. They harmed others and themselves. Finally they lost everything! The authority and wisdom of Jesus and David came from heaven and were testified by God.

**Ps 50 / Rev 13:3 Main theme: The whole world followed the beast; listen to the Lord, observe His covenant, give thanks and glorify God**

 **-Glorify God / Follow the beast**

We ought to be careful of the inner and outer enemies. One of them seemed to have a fatal wound but had been healed. His power seemed to become greater. The external beast is the power of the anti-Christ, the internal beast is our flesh just like the flood and the ferocious beast. We ought to be alert at all times and pray continually. Only by the precious blood of the Lord's redemption and by the living water and His Word may we put ourselves to death so we may become holy and obey the covenant to glorify God and benefit men.

(1)【God will come to judge the whole world】1-6 We cannot follow the beast. God cannot be mocked. We ought to serve God with godliness and reverence.

(2)【Obey and give thanks to glorify God】7-15 We may increase our strength by God and keep the truth firmly. To obey is better than sacrifice. Be grateful in the heart to fulfill our vows. Exalt salvation and glorify God.

(3)【God rebukes the wicked】16-21 How can we recite the Lord's words if we cast His words behind us or be filled with evil, deceit and slander?

(4)【Warning and exhortation】22-23 We will be torn by God's wrath if we commit evil and will not repent. We will gain the great victories promised by God if we are thankful to glorify Him and prepare the way and the good path.

**Central point of the wheels: Be humble, obedient and fit for use, remove evil and be holy, give thanks and glorify God**

Dear Lord, may You let me be cleansed, be forever humble to be ridden by You so You will be exalted and to lead all people to turn to You!

**2 Sam 4 / Mk 12**

**Main theme: Do not be selfish, love God and love men and offer everything to the Lord**

 **-Harm men / Harm the Lord (righteous /loving)**

Golden verses: 2 Sam 4:11 Mk 12:44

A discussion on harming men and harming the Lord - on one side it concerned two leaders of the house of Saul plotted to murder Ish-Bosheth to please David to seek reward meritoriously. They were selfish and finally killed. On the other side were some ungrateful tenants. They killed the owner and the servants. They also rejected to submit the produce and were killed. David was righteous, selfless and rejected any bribery. He was determined to remove any evil in the country, thus he killed the opportunists. Similarly Jesus refuted all those who tried to harm Him with the words from the Scriptures. We ought to learn from David and Jesus to be righteous and hate sin, love God and love men, deny oneself to offer everything and be commended.

**A. Do not let down God's grace, submit the produce timely lest we may be destroyed**

Be favored (2 Sam 4:1-4) - Ungrateful (Mk 12:1-14)

1.【Not willing to surrender and be terrified vainly】1-3 Ish-Boseth son of Saul ought to have surrendered to David, but he was on one's last legs and continued to reign against the kingdom of David. Thus when he heard Abner the commander was stabbed to death, he and all Israel became alarmed and lost courage.

※【Do not submit the produce and let down the Lord's grace】1-11 Jesus spoke in parable. An owner planted a vineyard and paid the price to put a wall around it. He dug a pit for the winepress and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers hoping they might churn out some fruit at the proper time. The owner sent some servants to collect the harvest, but they were either beaten or humiliated or killed. The tenants rejected to give and let down the owner. Saul and the house of Saul were like the ferocious farmers. They were ungrateful. They received God's grace in vain and rejected to give any fruit. At the end the owner sent his beloved son to receive the harvest and was forsaken and killed. The owner would kill them just like the house of Saul was destroyed by God. He would take the vineyard and give it to David the anointed one of God. "The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone." (Ps 118:22)

2.【Is favored in trouble】4 Jonathan the son of Saul had a son Mephibosheth. When he was at five he had a tragedy. His family was broken up and his relatives all died. He fell from the hands of his nurse while they were escaping and was crippled. Thereafter David treated him well and he was favored in distress.

※【Ungrateful and reject the Lord】12-14 Due to this the Pharisees wanted to catch Jesus. But they were afraid of the people. They cleverly questioned Jesus with the Herodians to catch Him in His words. Only Mephibosheth in the house of Saul was favored in distress. Not only was he not being destroyed, David treated him richly. He knew his favor and was thankful. He humbly repaid the kindness without receiving the grace in vain. (2 Sa 19:24-30)

**B. Harm others and harm oneself; the Lord's Way triumphs**

Harm others (2 Sam 4:5-12) - Harm the Lord (Mk 12:15-44)

1.【Harm others with schemes and intrigues】5-8 The house of Saul had two leaders Baanah and Recab. They were the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite of the tribe of Benjamin. They took the opportunity to please David. They plotted to pretend to get some wheat while Ish-Bosheth was taking his noonday rest. They stabbed him in the stomach and cut off his head. They traveled all night and brought the head to David in Hebron hoping to receive a reward.

※【Interrogate the Lord with crafty words to harm Him】15-27 The Lord saw through their hypocrisy to test Him just like the two leaders plotted the scheme unscrupulously. The Sadducees did not believe in resurrection but they came to refute Jesus on resurrection. The Lord rebuked them for not knowing the Scriptures or the power of God. The two leaders also did not know God and His righteousness. Both David and Jesus knew the hypocrisy and motives of the wicked. (Jn 2:24-25)

2.【Judge righteously without accepting bribe】9-11 King David was just and fair. He judged not by the eyes and he did not accept any bribes. Thus he swore an oath to rid of those opportunists who were ruthless and harm others to benefit themselves. He would demand his blood from their hands.

※【Love God and love men better than offering sacrifice】28-40 Jesus replied the teachers of the law the greatest commandment was to love God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself. David reigned with God's righteousness and love. He rid evil with righteousness without accepting bribes. He was compassionate to his enemy. He kept no record of wrongs and exhibited God's heart. Jesus overcame all the questions of the hypocrite. From then on no one dared ask Him any more questions. David also overcame completely. He cut off every evildoer. (Ps 101:8)

3.【Receive retribution】12 David gave order to kill the two leaders and cut off their hands and feet and hung their bodies by the pool in Hebron to show it to the people as a warning. He also buried the head of Ish-Bosheth. The wicked deserved their retribution!

※【Gain commendation】41-44 Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched how the crowd donated their money. He did not take men by their appearance, nor did He see how much they put in. He saw men's intention. Though a poor widow put in very little, she truly loved God and gained His praise more than all the others. David also had insight on men's heart. He gave the retribution to the two leaders according to their plot. Do good will receive the praise from the Lord. Do wicked will receive one's retribution. God will judge all good or evil. (Ecc 12:14)

**Ps 51 / Rev 13:4 Main theme: Be contrite and consecrate to overcome the enemies' power and lead men to turn to the right way**

 **-For cleansing / Overcome the beast**

(1)【Plead for mercy and cleansing】1-6 Who can overcome the power of the beast? Only by repenting and crying out to confess honestly, we will receive God's mercy to blot out our transgressions.

(2)【Plead by faith】7-12 I believe the precious blood of the Lord can cleanse me and I will be whiter than snow. The Lord can create in me a pure heart and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

(3)【I will repay the kindness】13-17 I am broken and contrite. If the Lord restores to me the joy of His salvation, I will guide the sinners to the Lord to repay His kindness.

(4)【May the Holy city be built up】18-19 May God make us prosper in His good pleasure because God wants His children to be united in holiness to become the holy city and prepare to be caught up.

**Central point of the wheels: Be contrite and turn from evil, be righteous and kind, and overcome the dragon and the beast**

Dear Lord, may You let me overcome the temptation of the dragon and the beast by You; be righteous, kind and consecrate to offer completely to be commended.

**2 Sam 5 / Mk 13**

**Main theme: Be careful to pray watchfully, overcome the enemies by God and accomplish His work**

 **-Obey the will / Pray watchfully (God reigns/Keep the Lord's Word)**

Golden verses: 2 Sam 5:20 Mk 13:33

A discussion on obeying the will and praying watchfully - on one side it concerned David was anointed as King over Israel by all the tribes according to the promise of God. In every way David obeyed God's will and inquired of Him. He trusted in God and thus overcame the stubborn enemies repeatedly. He did not reign by his own but exalted God as King. On the other side it concerned Jesus prophesied there would be great persecution and deception on the last days. Thus we ought to be careful in every way and pray watchfully lest we may fail and fall.

**A. Be careful to obey the will and capture the fortress**

Obey the will (2 Sam 5:1-16) - Be careful (Mk 13:1-23)

1.【God's promise will be accomplished】1-3 God promised David to be the king of Israel. When the time came, it was fulfilled as God was faithful. So when the time came, the elders of Israel went to Hebron to anoint David as the king Israel to shepherd God’s people. David made a compact with them.

※【God's prophecy will be fulfilled】1-4 The disciples invited the Lord to see the glamor of the temple. But He saw that the temple would be destroyed completely. The Lord’s prophecy would be fulfilled when the time came. Similarly God promised David he would rule Israel and it was fulfilled. Saul was like the old temple which had to be destroyed. Then David would reign. The life of David also had to go through destruction and rebuilding, and then he might rule God’s people. (Jer 45:4)

2.【Capture the fortress】4-10 The Jebusites who lived in Jerusalem were arrogant just like an obstinate enemy. They thought no one would be able to capture this place. (Jos 15:63) They even mocked David that he could not even drive away the blind and the lame. However David trusted in God and captured the fortress of Zion. God was with him and he became more and more powerful.

※【Be careful to be on guard】5-13 Before the Lord come again there will be the deception of the false prophets, wars, famines, earthquakes and all sorts of disasters. Therefore the Lord warned the disciples to watch out that no one might be deceived. They had to obey the Lord’s command to proclaim the gospel to all nations. They had to trust in the Holy Spirit to proclaim during hardship. If they could endure till the end, they would surely be saved. They also had to learn from David to trust in God to overcome the enemy and capture their fortress. They also had to dwell in the Lord that was to keep the Word, to pray watchfully and unite with Him. Then they might guard against and overcome all sorts of temptation.

3.【God establishes, so be more alert】11-16 Hiram king of Tyre sent cedar logs and carpenters and stonemasons to David to build the temple. And David knew that the Lord had established him as king over Israel and had exalted his kingdom for the sake of his people Israel. Therefore he ought to be more alert to pay attention to the inner establishment lest he committed sin due to complacency.

※【Do not be deceived in distress】14-23 Jesus also warned the chosen people to escape from the abomination that caused desolation in the days of distress. (Dan 9:27; 2 Th 2:1-4) They ought to hide in the Lord and not be deceived or easily moved by the false prophets, even if they were able to perform miracles. When David reigned, he was established by God and everything worked for the good of it. He ought to be even more watchful and be on guard. Therefore whether we are in times of disasters or at peace, we ought to keep the Word watchfully and do not be shaken or be led astray.

**B. Pray watchfully to overcome the enemies and accomplish God's work**

Inquire of (2 Sam 5:17-25) - Pray watchfully (Mk 13:24-37)

1.【Inquire of God's will】17-20 When the Philistines heard David was anointed king of Israel, they went up to search for him. David on one side went down to the stronghold and on the other hand inquired of God. He obeyed God’s will to go to battle. Thus he was able to defeat the enemy as waters broke out.

※【Pay attention to the prophecy】24-30 In those days following the distress, the sun would be darkened, the moon would not give its light and the heavenly bodies would be shaken. The Son of Man would come with great power and glory. The twigs of the fig tree would get tender and leaves would come out. The kingdom of the chosen people would be revived. The Son of Man would be near and God’s kingdom would be right at the door. On one side we ought to be like David to humble to inquire of God’s will. On the other side we ought to pay attention to the prophecy of the Scriptures to overcome our inner and outer enemies.

2.【Obey the will and overcome the enemies】21-25 Once again the Philistines came to seek David. Again David humbled to inquire of God’s will and not by former experience. He was thus instructed to circle around behind them, to hide in prayer and listen to the voice of the footsteps of God. They listened to God’s words and moved quickly. God was ahead of them to destroy their enemies.

 ※【Pray watchfully and work】31-37 Heaven and earth will pass away, but the Lord’s words will never pass away. Therefore we ought to pray and work watchfully just like David obeyed God’s will to overcome the enemies. Let us pay attention to the Lord’s words and follow the leading of the Spirit to wait for His coming.

**Ps 52 / Rev 13:5 Main theme: There is a period for the enemies to rampage; obey the Word and repay His kindness by God forever**

 **-Obey the Word / The power of the beast**

(1)【Darkness is in power】1-7 The mouth of the enemies love to speak destructive words. God will uproot them. How can they be established in evil? God will bring them down to ruin. We ought to know there is a period for the enemies to run wild and we need to keep our faith to endure till the end.

(2)【We ought to trust in God's unfailing love forever】8-9 Be an olive tree before God. Always grab the Lord’s words to pray for others and ourselves. Put hope in the Lord and obey to do good, and then we will see God punish the evil and reward the kind and work wonders and great things for the righteous so great distress will turn to great revival.

**Central point of the wheels: Obey the will and overcome the enemies, pray watchfully without being deceived and dwell in the Lord forever**

Dear Lord, may You let me dwell in You forever, to pray watchfully and obey the will to overcome so I may accomplish the mission to preach the gospel and wait for your coming!

**2 Sam 6 / Mk 14**

**Main theme: An error, an evil thing and a beautiful thing; be contrite and turn evil to beauty**

 **-Love the Lord / Forsake the Lord**

Golden verses: 2 Sam 6:17-18 Mk 14:22-24

A discussion on loving the Lord and forsaking the Lord - on one side it concerned David loved God and wanted to bring the ark of God to the city of David. But as he had used a new cart and human way, he provoked God's anger. Later on David brought back the ark according to God's will and led the whole nation to receive God and His Way into their heart. On the other side it concerned that before Jesus suffered, all the disciples forsook Him except Mary who broke up herself to love the Lord and did a beautiful thing on Him.

**A. To break to love the Lord, do not interfere with human hands and obey the will to prepare**

Receive the Lord (2 Sam 6:1-10) - Love the Lord (Mk 14:1-31)

1.【Love the Lord truly】1-2 David loved God truly. After he reigned, he first thought of God’s ark. He made an utmost effort to seek the ark of God (Ps 132:2-8) and he mobilized all people to bring the ark from Kiriath Jearim to the holy city.

※【To break to love the Lord】1-5 The Passover was near. The chief priests and the teachers of the law were looking for some sly way to arrest Jesus. Only Mary broke herself to love the Lord. She truthfully loved the Lord. While He was reclining at the table, she broke the jar and poured on His head. Everyone around her was angry at her and thought it was a waste of the perfume. But her action of breaking satisfied the Lord and comforted His heart. (Jn 12:3-8) David truly loved God and cared for the ark of God. He also comforted His heart.

2.【Used human way and provoke God to anger】3-7 David led the whole house of Israel to play the tambourines and the harps before God to bring back the ark. His motive was good. But he put the ark of God on a new cart. According to God’s command, the ark ought to be carried by the descendants of Kohath of the Levites. How could they act according to the pattern of the foreigners? As a result, Uzzah reached out and took hold of the ark without authorization because the oxen stumbled. He used human way and provoked God to anger and died before Him. (Num 4:15-20)

※【Do a beautiful thing and the Lord acclaims】6-11 Mary loved God with a pure heart. She broke the jar. Though she was embarrassed, she gained the Lord’s commendation. As she had the Lord and His words in her heart, she thought of the burial of the Lord. The Lord viewed this as a beautiful thing. He ordered the disciples wherever the gospel would be preached throughout the world, her sacrifice had to be remembered. This fragrance would last for generations! David had the love for God, but he did not pay attention to the rule of serving God such that he used human way and did a wrong thing. On one side was provoking God to anger, while on the other side was gaining God’s praise. Though Judah was a disciple of the Lord, he only loved money and not the Lord. He looked for a chance to betray the Lord. He did an evil thing and left a stink for ten thousand years!

3.【Do not receive God's words into the heart】8-10 The ark of God, which is called by the Name, the name of the Lord Almighty represented the Word of God. David wanted to bring back the ark but he had not brought the Word into his heart. Thus he was punished which was due to the love of God. David was angry and terrified, so he took the ark to the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite.

※【Prepare the Lord's supper according to His words】12-31 The disciples obeyed and prepared the feast of the Passover. Everything they met was exactly as what the Lord had said. The Lord broke Himself and laid down His life. He made a new covenant with His blood. The disciples ate the Passover with the Lord in order to remember the Lord and imitate Him. During the supper, the Lord prophesied the disciples would fall and Peter would disown Him. All the disciples could not believe they would fall. David did not prepare according to the word of God and was punished. We ought to trust in the Lord and be strong to overcome. We have to understand deeply the will of God and do it according to His will lest we may fall. On one side was the unworthy house received the ark and was blessed. On the other side was those who were arrogant and boastful would fail and be ashamed.

**B. Receive the ark, pray watchfully to obey the will and be contrite and favored**

Received the Lord (2 Sam 6:11-23) - Forsake the Lord (Mk 14:32-72)

1.【Seek God's will】11-12 Obed-Edom received the ark and was greatly favored. His whole family was blessed. David sought humbly and understood God’s will. He was also favored before God. So he observed the law (Deu 10:8) and ordered the Levites to consecrate and prepared to bring up the ark of God.

※【Pray watchfully and obey the will】32-42 Before Jesus was killed, He had to be watchful and pay the price to pray fervently in Gethsemane. Then He had the strength to obey the Father’s will. But the disciples were fast asleep and slumbered. They did not know to keep watch for an hour with the Lord. As a result they failed. David was watchful to seek to understand God’s will. So he was able to bring up the ark. This teaches us we should not only be watchful to seek God’s will, we also have to pray watchfully to obey God’s will.

2.【Bring back the ark】13-23 Thus David brought up the ark of God happily back to the holy city. David and the whole household of Israel rejoiced and blew the trumpets. They gave thanks and sacrificed and invited the Lord Almighty and the glorious King to come. David blessed the people in the name of the Lord Almighty. He also gave each one a loaf of bread, a cake of dates and a cake of raisins. The people received the abundance of God and returned home.

※【Arrest Jesus】43-52 Sadly Judah used the signal of kissing to betray the Lord. He instigated the people to arrest Jesus! The Lord is the ark, the King of the Jews and the glorious Christ. Not only the people did not welcome the Lord, they rejected their savior. David brought the whole house of Israel to carry the ark back to the holy city happily. But the disciples had departed from the Lord and escaped. At the times of darkness, who is willing to receive Jesus? Peter awoke from his sleep and used his zeal to strike a servant of the high priest. He increased trouble to the Lord. (Lk 22:50-51) David was alert to obey the will without using human way. He had the Word in his heart and was favored. All the people were also favored.

3.【Look down on David】16-23 Michal the wife of David was after all, the daughter of Saul. Not only did she not come out together to welcome the ark, she ridiculed David. She watched David contemptuously from a window like a despised person. Michal still belonged to Saul and had no children to the day of her death.

※【Do not acknowledge Jesus】53-72 Jesus was brought to the chief priest. The people used false evidence against the Lord. They hit the Lord with their fists and humiliated Him. But the Lord was strong and unyielding and witnessed for the truth. Peter even disowned the Lord for three times and broke His heart. Michal despised her husband and hurt David’s heart. But Peter awoke and was contrite when the rooster crowed. He was mightily used by the Lord when he returned, while Michal did not return till she died. She was barren and had an empty life.

**Ps 53 / Rev 13:6 Main theme: The enemy greatly blasphemes, seek the Lord and obey His Word to restore the captive**

 **-Blaspheme / Restore**

(1)【The fools have increased in evil】1-4 Those who have no God in their heart do not seek Him. They turn away and become corrupt. They also devour the people of God.

(2)【Seek to do good and save the captive】5-6 The result of the wicked will be scattered by God and be ashamed. The righteous seek to do good and have the presence of God. They will restore the captured and greatly rejoice.

**Central point of the wheels: Willing to break to love the Lord, pray watchfully to obey the will, seek and be saved**

Dear Lord, I am willing to break myself to offer all my love, be alert with You, to deny myself to obey the will to repay your great love of laying down your life.

**2 Sam 7 / Mk 15**

**Main theme:** **Give thanks and seek grace in grace, trust firmly till the end in distress**

 **-Obedient / Obey the will (give thanks/build the temple)**

Golden verses: 2 Sam 7:11 Mk 15:37-38

A discussion on obedience and obeying the will - on one side it concerned David wanted to build a house for the Lord. His heart has won the acceptance of God. But God's will was to let his son build it, so he obeyed His will. Due to God's promise to him, he was grateful and gave thanks to God. By faith, he grabbed the promise of God and boldly requested for God's establishment. On the other side it concerned Jesus willingly obeyed God's will to suffer on the cross for the sins of man to accomplish His will to establish the house of the New Testament.

**A. Do not follow our own desire and deny ourselves to build the house**

Own desire (2 Sam 7:1-17) - God's will (Mk 15:1-28)

1.【Love God with one heart】1-3 King David loved God with one heart and he had in mind of God’s matters. He lived in a palace but he thought the ark of God was still in a tent. So he declared to Nathan the prophet of his intention to build a temple. The prophet had not inquired of God and he did not understand God’s will, thus he agreed immediately.

※【Harm the Lord in one heart】1-15 All the people of the Sanhedrin were in one heart to harm the Lord. They reach a decision and bound Jesus. They handed Him over to Pilate. Due to jealousy the chief priests instigated the people rather to release Barabbas the prisoner. They cried with all their might to crucify Jesus. On one side was king David loved God with one heart and wanted to prepare an eternal resting place for the ark of God. On the other side was Pilate wanted to please the people and thus flogged Jesus and handed Him over to be crucified. He and the people of the Sanhedrin were in one heart to harm the Lord.

2.【Do not follow one's own desire to build the house】4-17 That night, God’s words came to Nathan to tell David God did not agree that he should build the temple. But He gave him a precious promise showing his intention to build a temple for God had been accepted. God was satisfied. Instead God wanted his son to build the temple. God promised to be with him and to cut off all his enemies. He would make his name great and establish a house for him. He would strengthen his family and his kingdom. Nathan followed God’s will and reported to David all the words of the entire revelation.

※【Suffer to obey the will and build the house】16-28 To obey the Father’s will, Jesus was willing to endure all the hardship on the cross to build the temple of the New Testament; that was to promise the house and kingdom of David would be established. The whole company of soldiers came to mock the Lord. After they had mocked Him, they led Him out to crucify Him. Nathan and David were able to obey God’s will. But Pilate did according to the request of the people to crucify the Lord. The kingdom of David and Christ were gained through hardship; without the cross there would not be the crown of glory. God would not allow David to build the temple by his own intention but He wanted him to obey God’s will completely. He had to prepare the work for building the temple. Jesus and David were willing to obey the will of the Father God all their life. (Ps 40:6-8; Ac 13:22)

**B. Be submissive, give thanks and obey the will till the end**

Plead for grace (2 Sam 7:18-29) - Accomplish (Mk 15:29-47)

1.【Give thanks and praise God】18-24 After David had heard of God’s revelation through Nathan, he obeyed humbly and rested in trust. He was full of thanks. He sat before God and praised Him. “Who am I and what is my family, that You have brought me this far?” David knew and was grateful. He exalted God and praised Him as the greatest beyond comparison.

※【Abuse and mock the Lord】29-39 Jesus was the King of the Jews and the Savior of mankind. But no one exalted Him. Instead they crucified Him. Those who passed by hurled insults at Him and shook their heads saying “Come down from the cross and save yourself.” Though Jesus was the Son of God, He silently obeyed God’s will. To save the sinners, He was willing to endure everything and chose not to save Himself. David obeyed God’s will humbly. He was full of thanks and praised God.

2.【Grab the promise firmly and request boldly】25-29 David valued God’s grace and promise. So by faith he requested God to keep them and bless his house forever that it might continue forever in His sight.

※【Follow the Lord closely and request boldly】40-47 Some women loved the Lord with a pure heart. They watched from a distance. They came from Galilee to follow and serve the Lord till the Mount of Golgotha right beneath the cross. Regardless of anything Joseph went to Pilate boldly and asked for Jesus’ body. He buried Him in his new tomb. They all grabbed the chance to love the Lord and had a share in the hardship of Jesus. King David had in mind the temple of God. He firmly grasped the promise of God’s revelation. He boldly requested God to keep them and this also showed his love for God!

**Ps 54 / Rev 13:7 Main theme: The enemies seem to have won completely, call on the Lord and trust in Him, destroy the enemies and repay His kindness**

 **-God's name / The power of the beast**

(1)【Call on the Lord's name】1-3 The power of the beast ruled the world. Therefore we will call on the Lord’s name and contend by His might to overcome. (Rev 12:11; 17:14)

(2)【God will help and deliver】4-5 The evil will recoil and God will destroy them.

(3)【I will praise and exalt the Lord's name】6-7 Lead men to the Lord and gain salvation.

**Central point of the wheels: Obey the will and offer everything, contend and seek for help**

Dear Lord, may You make me remember your great love of laying down your life, so I may willingly suffer to obey your will and follow You till the end!

**2 Sam 8 / Mk 16**

**Main theme: Love and trust in the Lord, attack and guard against the enemy, proclaim widely and save men**

 **-Overcome / Faith (subdue the enemy/proclaim the Word extensively)**

Golden verses: 2 Sam 8:14 Mk 16:20

A discussion on overcoming and faith - on one side it concerned David subdued all his enemies by God. He also put garrisons. God was with him so he was victorious no matter where he went. He dedicated all the gold from his plunder for God. On the other side it concerned Jesus resurrected. He overcame all the power of Satan. But when the women reported the news, the disciples still could not believe that the Lord had resurrected. This teaches us we ought to grab the promise by faith and overcome. We ought to guard against every worry and the enemy of disbelief in our heart, then we may offer ourselves to proclaim the resurrected Christ.

**A. Do not look at the environment, believe that the Lord has resurrected, overcome and guard against the enemy**

Attack the enemy (2 Sam 8:1-8) - Roll away the stone (Mk 16:1-11)

1.【Subdue the enemies by faith】1-6 King David grabbed God’s promise He would cut off all his enemies. By faith and God’s might he attacked the Philistines and subdued them. He also made the Moabites came under them. He defeated Hadadezer king of Zobah and crushed their power. The Arameans came to the aid of king Zobah and were also destroyed by David. God was with David so he was victorious wherever he went.

※【Believe in the Lord's words and see the glory of resurrection】1-8 Every word of the Lord is trustworthy. On the early morning of the first day of the week, Jesus arose just as what He had said. There were some women who loved God came to the tomb and saw the stone was rolled away. An angel appeared and declared the Lord has arisen, just as what the Lord had said. Though they loved the Lord, they could not accept the promise of the Lord has arisen by faith. King David was able to subdue the enemies and it was by faith. The Lord has arisen. We ought to believe in the Lord’s words without fear. Go quickly to report to the disciples and praise to triumph by His power of resurrection!

2.【Be alert to put garrisons】6-8 David believed in God’s promise. He overcame by God and took the gold shields and great quantity of bronze. Then he put garrisons in the Aramean kingdom of Damascus. When the saints have overcome the world and sins, they too ought to be alert to guard through Scripture reading and prayer to persist to keep themselves in God’s love. (Eph 5:18; Jude 1:20-21)

※【Believe in the Lord's words without doubt】9-11 Jesus appeared first to Mary Magdalene and told her to go to tell the disciples. When she went there, they were mourning and weeping. When they heard Jesus had risen, they were unable to believe. They had forgotten what the Lord had said to them. Suspicion and disbelief are our great enemies. We ought to be watchful without weary to pray to guard against our enemies and remember the Lord’s words firmly. We also have to take faith as our gold shield lest we may be overcome by the invisible enemies. (Mt 26:41; Php 3:2)

**B. Offer all the gold and silver, preach the gospel extensively and be victorious no matter where you go**

Offer (2 Sam 8:9-18) - Preach extensively (Mk 16:12-20)

1.【Offer gold and silver】9-12 King David dedicated all the articles of gold, silver and bronze from all the nations he had subdued to be the precious material for building the temple. By the cross the saints are able to overcome and triumph in their spiritual war. They gain faith, love, hope and an abundant life and these become the precious material for building a spiritual house.

※【Offer yourself to preach the Word】12-15 There were two disciples who were walking in the country and Jesus appeared to them. Their hearts were burning within them and were full of joy. Then they went to tell the rest of the disciples. But still they did not believe after they were told. Later on Jesus appeared again to the eleven disciples and rebuked them for their lack of faith and their stubborn refusal to believe. Jesus sent them to go into all the world and preach the good news. Therefore we ought to consecrate and be sanctified, and to offer ourselves as articles of gold, silver and bronze to lead thousands of sinners to repent and be favored.

2.【Be the officials of the king】13-18 King David trusted in God and was victorious wherever he went. He did what was just and right for all his people representing Christ and His kingdom and exhibited God’s righteousness and glory. All his officials were dutiful and faithful to guard the kingdom. They followed closely beside the king.

※【Be the Lord's disciples】16-20 The disciples were sent and given all kinds of spiritual gifts just like the officials of David were dutiful. Those who believed had signs to accompany them to witness what was preached. The Lord worked with them and preached the Word everywhere till the Lord comes. We also have to imitate the officials of David. They were courageous and faithful like the Kerethites and Pelethites. They had undergone hardship and followed till the end. Joab and Abiathar turned their coat in their late age and they are our warning.

**Ps 55 / Rev 13:8 Main theme: Pray watchfully and obey the Word under the power of the beast, escape to the Lord and destroy the enemies**

 **-Destroy the enemy / Worship the beast**

(1)【Plead to escape quickly to the Lord】1-8 That we may be able to escape from the tempest and storm.

(2)【Discern in the spirit and attack thoroughly】9-16 Attack the inner and outer enemies by the power of the throne and cry out to God for He will save me.

(3)【Do not be afraid of the numerous enemies but pray watchfully day and night】17-23 Release all our burden to God and He will listen to us. Then we will see the enemy be ruined by God.

**Central point of the wheels: Overcome the enemies and proclaim extensively, flee to escape to the Lord**

Dear Lord, may You make me believe your words firmly, to overcome my inner and outer enemies, to proclaim the gospel extensively, to attack and subdue all men's hearts and enter your Kingdom!

**2 Sam 9 / Lk 1**

**Main theme: Blessed is he who believes and follows the Lord's words; give thanks and praises and be fit for use**

 **-Be favored / Believe and follow (give thanks/praise)**

Golden verses: 2 Sam 9:7-8 Lk 1:37

A discussion on being favored and believing and following - on one side it concerned David greatly favored Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan for the sake of his father. Mephibosheth felt unworthy and bowed down to give thanks. On the other side it concerned that before Jesus was born, Zechariah and Elizabeth the couple and Mary the mother of Jesus were all humble and believed in the Lord's words and were greatly favored in God's plan. They were inspired by the Holy Spirit and praised God.

**A. Was favored and chosen, accepted with faith and obeyed God's will**

Petty and low (2 Sam 9:1-8) - Believe and follow (Lk 1:1-45)

1.【The king showed kindness and was called】1-4 When David reigned he could not forget the covenant he made with Jonathan. (1 Sa 20:14-15) So he searched for those left of the house of Saul to show kindness for Jonathan’s sake. Thus from Ziba the servant of the house of Saul he learned Jonathan had a son name Mephibosheth who was crippled. David showed kindness to him according to God’s unfailing love and he sent someone to call him.

※【God revealed and was favored】1-25 Luke examined in detail the Word he learned and David’s intention to seek the left of the house of Saul were truly acts of exhibiting God’s mind! God keeps His covenant of love and He cares for His people. So He chose Zechariah and his barren wife Elizabeth. They were godly and kept the Word without blame. When Zechariah burned incense in the temple according to his division, the angel appeared and promised to give him a son named Joseph. But due to his unbelief he was made silent. Sure enough he was favored by God and his wife was pregnant in her old age. On one side was David kept his covenant and showed his loving kindness so a crippled and unworthy man was called. On the other side was God kept His promise and appeared so the old couple was favored to have a son. God’s promise is faithful. We ought to believe without suspicion!

2.【Amazing grace】5-7 Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan was called and came before David. He bowed down to pay him honor in trembling. But he had the comfort and kindness from the king. David promised to restore to him all the land that belonged to Saul. Not only was the abundant property be given to him, he was to eat with the king. How abundant was this amazing grace!

※【Wonderful revelation】26-38 Virgin Mary was pledged to Joseph of the house of David. An angel appeared to greet her. She was instructed to be with child by the Spirit and to give birth to a son name Jesus. He would be called the Son of the Most High. She humbly obeyed and might it be to her. Nothing is impossible with God. We ought not fear but believe and accept God’s promise and grace. The crippled Mephibosheth and the maid-servant Mary had the miraculous appearance and grace from God. (1 Co 2:9)

3.【Humble and give thanks】8 So Mephibosheth bowed down and gave thanks to the king. He understood he belonged to the house of Saul who was to be destroyed. But he was given such great favor to eat with the king and see him always. “What is your servant, that you should notice a dead dog like me?”

※【Believe humbly is blessed】39-45 Mary was like Mephibosheth, she deeply knew herself was lowly and unworthy. After the angel appeared she was inspired by the grace and hurried to greet Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb and she was filled with the Holy Spirit and gave praise. She commended Mary was blessed as she believed and what the Lord had said to her would be accomplished. Mary, Elizabeth and Mephibosheth all obeyed humbly and they enjoyed the spiritual feast. They were full of joy. They knew their grace and gave thanks for it. So they had blessings upon blessings.

**B. Petty and low will be favored, enjoy rich blessing freely, give thanks and praises**

Be favored (2 Sam 9:9-13) - Give praise (Lk 1:46-80)

1.【Have rich blessings freely】9-11 Then David summoned Ziba and instructed him to give all property to his master’s grandson. He and his sons and servants were to farm his land and serve him. Both feet of Mephibosheth were crippled and he could not do anything. But he enjoyed the rich blessings of David without cost. For it is by grace we have been saved, through faith – and this is not by works. (Eph 2:8-9) This is the abundant mercy and great love of God and there is nothing we can boast of!

※【All generations are blessed】46-56 Mary deeply knew herself was a lowly servant. She was favored and all generations would call her blessed for the Mighty One had done great things for her. She was inspired and gave praise to God, “My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior!” Mephibosheth also knew his grace and gave thanks. He also repaid the kindness. Someday he would share in David’s hardship. (2 Sa 19:24-30)

2.【Humble and be exalted】12-13 The feet of Mephibosheth were crippled. Though he was lowly and useless, he was shown mercy by David to live in Jerusalem and always ate with him just like being raised from the dust and lifted from the ash heap. (Ps 113:7-8) The lowly are exalted occurred to the unworthy.

※【Give thanks and praises】57-80 Elizabeth surely gave birth to a son. Zechariah insisted to name the boy Joseph that was given when the angel appeared. Immediately his mouth was opened to speak. He was also filled with the Holy Spirit and gave thanks to praise God who has redeemed His people and raised up a horn of salvation in the house of David. God also gave him a son to prepare the way for the Lord. Due to the tender mercy of God, He has sent His beloved son like the rising sun to come down from heaven to the people. He also came to Mephibosheth and the whole family of Zechariah. On one side was Mephibosheth lived in the holy city and always ate with the king to enjoy the rich feast. On the other side was Joseph lived in the desert in the abundance of God. He grew up and was strong in his soul and spirit.

**Ps 56 / Rev 13:9 Main theme: Listen and believe in the Lord's words, cry out and praise, break away from the enemy and repay the kindness**

 **-Listen and believe / Praise**

(1)【Trust in the Lord and do not be afraid】1-6 All day long the slanderers press their attack to devour me. They conspire and lurk to take my life. I trust in God and will not be afraid because of His words.

(2)【Cry out to God and the enemies will turn back】7-11 Due to the Lord’s promise, I know He will help me. I cry and trust in God, then the enemies will turn back.

(3)【I will give thanks and repay the kindness】12-13 I will not forget to be grateful after being favored because the Lord delivered me from death and my feet from stumbling, that I may walk in the light of life. I will exalt and preach extensively the Lord’s salvation and fulfill my vows to Him.

**Central point of the wheels: Blessed is he who listens, pleads and believes humbly; give thanks and praises**

Dear Lord, I am not worthy of your kindness. May You make me be grateful and repay your kindness and praise your holy name among the peoples.

**2 Sam 10 / Lk 2**

**Main theme: Reject the grace and was enraged, endure the disgrace and bear the cross to witness the Word in one heart**

 **-Reject the grace / Extol the grace (be a warrior/proclaim the good news)**

Golden verses: 2 Sam 10:12 Lk 2:13-14

A discussion on rejecting the grace and extolling the grace - on one side it concerned that after the death of Nahash the father of Hanun, king of Ammon, David sent a delegation to comfort Hanun. However, he listened to the instigation of the nobles and did evil for good to David. They humiliated the delegation and sent troops to contend with David. On the other side it concerned Christ humbled to come down and brought salvation and peace to mankind. The shepherds, the aged Simeon and Anna all loved God in a godly way. They witnessed to the people and praised God's grace. Joseph and Mary loved God and obeyed the will silently. They willingly sacrificed and were remembered forever.

**A. Reject the rich grace; is favored and proclaim the grace, endure the disgrace**

Reject the grace (2 Sam 10:1-8) - Is favored (Lk 2:1-21)

1.【Was disgraced for doing good】1-5 King David did not forget the favor of Nahash the Ammonite king. After Nahash died, David sent his men to comfort his son Hanun. When they went there, they were treated as spies. They were humiliated and shaved off half of their beard. Their garments were cut off and put to shame. David immediately sent men to meet them and comfort them.

※【Was rejected for saving men】1-13 God so loved the world that He sent His only Son into the world to save men. But the world did not receive Him; and even His own rejected Him. (Jn 1:11-12) The Savior of mankind humbled to come in the manger because there was no room for them in the inn. The men that David sent to comfort were also rejected by the Ammonites. The good news of the Savior’s coming came to the shepherds in the fields because they were godly and loved God. They were faithful and watchful and thus were favored in humility. An angel declared the good news: a Savior has been born, a baby wrapped in clothes and lying in a manger with a sign of poverty and humiliation. But a great company of the heavenly host praised God. We as the gospel messenger who send the love of Christ to everywhere ought to imitate a life of suffering of Christ and be willing to endure all the humiliation.

2.【Do evil for good】6-8 Hanun failed the love of king David. Instead he repaid kindness with evil. He hired the Aramean soldiers and united to deploy and attacked David. King David immediately sent out the entire army of fighting men to the battle.

※【Is favored and proclaim the grace】1-21 Jesus the Savior came down on earth. Glory to God in heaven and on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests. But the Ammonites requited kindness with enmity toward David, so they did not have peace. When the shepherds heard the good news, they hurried off and found the baby. After they had seen Him, they spread what they heard and what they saw. On one side was being credulous on men’s words and rejected favor presumptuously. On the other side was favored due to faith and spread the good news with praise and glorified God.

**B. Destroy the enemy thoroughly, prepare positively and witness Christ**

Overcome the enemy (2 Sam 10:9-19) - Witness (Lk 2:22-52)

1.【Contend for God's will】9-12 Joab selected the best troops and deployed them against the Arameans. He put the rest of the men under the command of Abishai his brother who deployed them against the Ammonites. They helped and supported each other. They were strong and brave for their people and contended for God’s will. (1 Co 16:13-14)

※【Witness for God's will】22-33 There is no regard of young and old, men and women for the warriors of the heavenly kingdom. The old Simeon was revealed by the Holy Spirit to see the Lord’s Christ before he died. The young Joseph and Mary also revered and loved God. They silently obeyed the will and paid the price. Joab and Abishai led the fighting men against the enemies. They fought alongside each other and were good witness of God’s will.

2.【Withdraw the troops rashly】13-19 The Ammonites and the Arameans retreated before Joab and Abishai. When Joab saw the enemies fled, he thought they had a great victory and withdrew rashly back home. Unexpectedly the Arameans dispatched their troops and returned. David took the lead and crossed the Jordan to fight. He destroyed the enemies by one blow and forced them to surrender. They no longer helped the Ammonites anymore.

※【Prepare positively】34-52 There was also a prophetess Anna who never left the temple all her life. She fasted and prayed and served God day and night. She came up to praise God and prophesied to the people about Christ. Jesus grew and became strong in the body and soul. He was filled with wisdom and the grace of God was upon Him. When he was twelve years old he diligently learned the Word. He sat humbly among the teachers, listening and asking them questions. He had to be in His Father’s house. Jesus was like a warrior equipping Himself positively. He was in favor with God and men. The life of Joab was not thorough, even in his battle. He was not discerned in the spirit and thus withdrew rashly. But David had in mind of God. He went to destroy the enemies regardless of anything and he defeated the Arameans. Jesus obeyed His parents and made every effort of a son of man. He was loved by God and men.

**Ps 57 / Rev 13:10 Main theme: Cry out watchfully, believe firmly and endure persistently, God will be good to us**

 **-Cry out watchfully / Endure persistently**

(1)【Take refuge and cry out to God and He will be good to us】1-6 God will show His mercy to save me in the most dangerous situation. The enemies will fall into the pit they have dug for me.

(2)【Believe firmly and pray watchfully will see God's glory】7-11 This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of the saints. For great is God’s love, reaching to the heavens and His faithfulness reaches to the skies. Darkness will turn to brightness and we will praise God among the peoples.

**Central point of the wheels: Do not reject the grace, proclaim the good news, overcome the enemy firmly and praise greatly**

Dear Lord, I am willing to be your warrior to destroy the power of Satan by You, to proclaim your salvation, to be willing to accept the disgrace and gain your commendation!

**2 Sam 11 / Lk 3**

**Main theme: Be complacent and sin, and God is enraged; pray watchfully and proclaim the Word, then God is pleased**

 **-Harm others / Save men (God is enraged/God is pleased)**

Golden verses: 2 Sam 11:11 Lk 3:4-6

A discussion on harming others and saving men - on one side it concerned David disregarded God's commands in his palace. He was complacent and indulging. He committed adultery. He deliberately took the sword of the Ammonites to kill Uriah and harm himself and others. On the other side it concerned John the Baptist was in the desert. He was filled with a suffering spirit. He prayed watchfully and consecrated himself. He proclaimed the Word to save men. This teaches us we ought to be watchful at all times, to hide in the Lord and evade from the temptation of sin. Take the lesson: "So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!"

**A. Be complacent and indulging, sin and suffer; proclaim the Word and attack evil**

Indulging (2 Sam 11:1-13) - Be alert (Lk 3:1-17)

1.【Live in the palace, be complacent and sin】1-5 When the kings went off to war, David sent Joab out with the troops but he was complacent in his palace. One day David slept till evening and got up. He was not watchful and he did not pray. His flesh was greatly relieved and he walked around on the roof. Thus he was led astray to commit adultery with someone’s wife. Bathsheba got pregnant through him for desire had conceived and it gave birth to sin. (Jas 1:14-15)

※【Live in the desert, proclaim the Word and save men】1-6 John lived in the desert. He suffered to preach and was away from sin. He waited for God’s will and came out to preach a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. David lived in the palace and did not go to war again. He was complacent and indulging. He sinned and led others sin. John was a Nazirite all his life and he was separated to the Lord. He prepared the way for the Lord so all mankind would see God’s salvation. On one side was to preach to save men and on the other side was to harm oneself and others.

2.【Sin and shirk the wrong】6-13 After David sinned, he was not contrite. He tried in vain to shirk and cover his sins. He sent men to summon Uriah the husband of Bathsheba from the battlefield. The hypocritical David pretended to show care and repeatedly let him go home to rest. The faithful Uriah denied himself and slept together with the troops at the entrance to the palace without going home. On the third time David purposely set a feast to make Uriah drunk so he might escape from sin. But that night Uriah went out to sleep among the servants without going home.

※【Rebuke and attack sin】7-14 John hated evil as one’s enemy. He rebuked and attacked sin; while David indulged to sin. He repeatedly shirked and covered his sins. He even abused his power. He added crime to his crime! John rebuked the hypocritical people as brood of vipers. If they did not repent, how could they flee from the coming wrath? Do not be self-deceiving for the ax is already at the root of the trees. If David did not repent, he would be cut off. The tax collectors and the soldiers came to confess their sins. They had to produce fruit in keeping with repentance. David sinned and covered his sins deceitfully. He was also a brood of vipers. His flesh was ruined and gave birth to fruit of evil. He was worse than the tax collectors and soldiers.

3.【A real warrior】6-13 Though Uriah (the light of God) was a warrior, he was faithful and loyal to his country. He was absolutely watchful and had a spirit to suffer. He did not consider his body and he did not accept any bribery. He forsook his personal pleasure and had in mind of the ark of God. He bore his nation’s safety. His reply and actions were like the light of God and reflected David’s hypocrisy, scheme and sin. Uriah was truly a warrior who denied himself!

※【The pioneer of Christ】15-17 John exalted Christ all his life. He was humble and led men completely before Christ. He acknowledged that the one who came after him would be more powerful. He would baptize them with the Holy Spirit and with fire. John was the pioneer of Christ. He and Uriah revealed God’s light and controlled his temper. He overcame evil and was a true warrior! (Pro 16:32)

**B. Borrow a knife to kill others and God is enraged; deny oneself to save men pleases God**

Kill others (2 Sam 11:14-27) - Save men (Lk 3:18-38)

1.【Conspire to kill an innocent】14-17 The deceitful David saw that Uriah was unwilling to go home. So he was unable to cover up his sins. He thus thought of another plan and attempted to use the sword of the Ammonites to kill Uriah, so he might openly grab his wife. Then he wrote a letter publicly and ordered Joab to send Uriah to the most dangerous battle array so he might be killed.

※【Hate and kill the prophet】18-20 John exhorted the people and preached to save men. But David was cruel to lay his hand to plot to harm others. King Herod was rebuked by John as he married the wife of his brother. He was filled with hatred and put the prophet to prison. Then he killed him. David and king Herod were the same. Their sinful lust ruled them and killed the innocent faithful warriors.

2.【Kill a man and take his wife provoke God's anger】18-27 The cruel David aggravated his action. He became unscrupulous to satisfy his natural lust. When he heard the messenger declared of the death of Uriah in the battle, he falsely comforted Joab on one side and he brought Bathsheba to the palace to be his wife on the other side. But all these evil deeds displeased God.

※【Deny oneself and obey pleases God】21-38 Jesus the beloved Son of God came down on earth to humble and deny Himself. He fulfilled all righteousness and was baptized by John. When He came out of the water, the heaven was opened. The Holy Spirit descended on Him and a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with You I am well pleased.” David borrowed the knife to kill and seized someone’s wife. His sins were evident and God was greatly displeased. On one side was filled by the Holy Spirit to deny oneself to save men. On the other side was filled with sinful lust to seize someone’s wife and kill. Joab tried to please David. So he acted when he saw the opportunity. He also shared in David’s killing and shed innocent blood. Uriah was faithful and denied himself. He loved God and loved his country. He was killed innocently but he pleased God and was forever remembered.

**Ps 58 / Rev 13:11 Main theme: The enemy seems to be a lamb and seems to be a dragon; the Lord's words measure and will discern and pierce through**

 **-The Lord's word / The enemy's shape**

(1)【Be able to see through the enemies】1-5 Do not be led astray by the beast’s outward tender appearance of a lamb. Do not see that he seemed outwardly silent. We must see through their inner malignity. It sits on high position but it is away from God. It gives a deaf ear to the words of the Lord. This beast is the false prophet just like Balaam who was greedy for the fee for divination. Whoever is greedy for wealth and fame or be mortally afraid of death becomes the instrument of anti-Christ. They act in collusion with the enemies to plot against God’s children.

(2)【Plead and attack thoroughly】6-11 May God break the teeth of the enemies and destroy all their plot and action. May they be swept by the whirling wind so the righteous may rejoice and the evil be avenged.

**Central point of the wheels: The flesh must die completely, pray watchfully, proclaim the Word and not be led astray**

Dear Lord, may You let me take the warning deeply and always pray watchfully so I may dwell in You. Let my flesh die completely and be guarded till the end.

**2 Sam 12 / Lk 4**

**Main theme: Fail and be contrite, press forward and overcome, reject the glory and obey the will**

 **-Fail / Overcome (be contrite/obey the will)**

Golden verses: 2 Sam 12:10 Lk 4:18-19

A discussion on failure and victory - on one side it concerned David sinned and failed. He did not repent. But after the rebuke of Nathan the prophet he was filled with remorse. Then he was contrite and favored. On the other side it concerned that after Jesus overcame the temptation, He was filled with power to proclaim the Word and save men. This teaches us we ought to be contrite and get up after failure. We ought to hide ourselves after our victory and continue to obey and press forward.

**A. Fall into temptation, be rebuked and penalized; overcome the temptation and be filled with power**

Is rebuked and penalized (2 Sam 12:1-15) - Filled with power (Lk 4:1-21)

1.【Fall into temptation】1-6 David indulged in grace and fell into temptation. He was unaware to be contrite. But the loving God rebuked him through Nathan the prophet and gave him the chance to repent. When David was in sin, he rebuked others but did not rebuke himself. He was angry at those who did not show mercy. And it was he himself who was like the rich man. In order to satisfy his own natural lust, he suppressed the poor and harmed others for his own benefit. He seized someone’s wife. God is righteous and he had to pay back four times. (Exo 22:1)

※【Overcome the temptation】1-13 Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, was led to the desert for forty days. He was tempted by the devil. He fasted and prayed. He was watchful tirelessly. He kept God’s words firmly and overcame all the trials of the devil. David was complacent and fast asleep. He disregarded God’s word and thus failed. He fell into temptation. On one side was filled by the Holy Spirit and overcame the tests. On the other side was filled by the natural lust and fell into temptation. It is God’s will that we should be sanctified; that we should avoid sexual immorality. We are bought at a price. Therefore honor God with our body. (1 Co 6:20; 1 Th 4:3)

2.【Fail and is rebuked and penalized】7-15 Nathan rebuked David severely, “You are the man!” He was such depraved in grace. He despised God’s command and borrowed the knife to kill. Thus calamity would not leave his house. He did it in secret, but God would do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel. This shows God is righteous and cannot be mocked! So David confessed his sins and was contrite. He acknowledged he had sinned against the Lord. God had forgiven him. But due to his wrong, he had to bear the punishment.

※【triumph and be filled with power】14-21 After Jesus overcame the trials, He was filled with the power of the Holy Spirit. News about Him spread through the whole countryside and everyone praised Him. He taught in the synagogues so the poor had the good news and the prisoners were freed which fulfilled the Scriptures. David sinned and failed. He lost all the power, honor and was punished. Even his house bore the calamity. Only when he was willing to confess and was contrite, then his blind eyes could see and was released from sin. Nathan and Isaiah the prophets were faithful and brave to proclaim the prophecy and rebuke sin.

**B. Be contrite and favored, obey the will and overcome**

Be contrite (2 Sam12:15L-31) - Obey the will (Lk 4:22-44)

1.【Be contrite and return to God】16-23 As God struck the child, David went into his house to mourn and was contrite for seven days. He refused to get up until the child died. Then he got up to consecrate and went into the house of the Lord to worship God. He wrote a psalm to be contrite. (Ps 51) Due to his sin he had a child who was struck to death by God. He had to reject the sin and be done away with it without lingering on it.

※【Stubborn and reject the Lord】22-30 Jesus suffered all kinds of despise in His hometown. They were stubborn and unwilling to repent. They rejected their Savior and even drove him out of the town. The widow in Zarephath received Elijah the prophet. Naaman who had leprosy, humbled to listen and was cleansed. These represented the foreigners were favored. But God’s people rejected salvation. David was thoroughly contrite and separated from evil. Then he was favored to return to God and he praised Him for His abundant love and salvation.

2.【Return and be loved】24-25 Our God loves righteousness and hates evil. He will not despise a broken spirit and a contrite heart. After David was contrite, he was favored by God to have a son Solomon (peaceful) who was loved by God. He was named by God through the prophet as Jedidiah (loved by the Lord).

※【Escape from the evil spirit】31-37 Jesus was full of power. He rebuked Satan and drove out evil spirits. He saved men from the darkness into the light. After David was contrite, he was saved by God from the evil power. He was loved by God and produced choice fruit.

3.【Have control over the strong enemy】26-31 After David was contrite he was able to destroy his inner enemies to control his temper. Thereafter he fought against Rabbah (great) the royal citadel of Ammon. He took the crown from the king and a lot of plunder. He was able to control over the inner and outer enemies. After Joab had fought against Rabbah, he was unwilling to name it after him. As a result it was thoroughly taken by David.

※【Obey the will and overcome】38-44 Jesus went to the home of Simon and healed the high fever of Simon’s mother-in-law. She immediately got up and served the Lord. Jesus also healed all sorts of sickness. Joab had the zeal only for a while. He did not request for the superficial name. But thereafter he was arrogant and killed two commanders for the sake of fame. His sickness was not completely healed. Jesus retreated to the desert. Many tried to keep Him from leaving them. But the Lord was sent not by the desire of men. He only obeyed the Father’s will. He hid Himself and rejected any honor of men. He went to other places to preach and continued forward. He triumphed completely. After David failed, he got up and hated sin. He took the lead in the battle and turned failure to victory. He ruled the strong enemies and overcame the Ammonites completely.

**Ps 59 / Rev 13:12 Main theme: The enemies united, turn back to cry out to the Lord to destroy the enemies and save men**

 **-God arises / The enemies united**

(1)【May the Lord save me from the strong enemies】1-9 May the Almighty God arise to help me and look on my plight.

(2)【May God's might consume the enemies】10-17 Understand the power of God and do not be afraid of the ferocious and sinister enemies. They unite and turn back. They prowl about to do evil. God will turn them to nothing. God will give power, authority and unfailing love to His people. But we must not look down on the inner and outer enemies. Though they seem to retreat, they will turn back and be fiercer. They will unite to attack you. We must have the determination to keep the Lord’s Word and resist them by Him, then we will see the manifestation of God’s glory. Just like the three friends of Daniel, when the furnace was heated seven times hotter than usual, they still insisted not to worship the image of gold. Then the miracle came.

**Central point of the wheels: Be contrite and seek help, overcome and praise**

Dear Lord, may You make me humble and be contrite, to overcome the temptation, to reject glory from men and be guarded by You till You come!

**2 Sam 13 / Lk 5**

**Main theme: Woe to follow evil, it is not good to weep, but to plead the Lord is blessed**

 **-Follow evil / Follow good**

Golden verses: 2 Sam 13:34 Lk 5:37-39

A discussion on following evil and following good - on one side it concerned Amnon the eldest son of David indulged in lust. He was deceptive and pretended to be sick and sullied Tamar, the sister of Absalom. Finally he received his retribution and was killed. (Heb 13:4) On the other side it concerned the disciples followed the Lord's words and let down the nets for a catch. God's grace was unlimited. This teaches we ought to listen to the Lord's words and obey the Holy Spirit to sow, then we will be favored with abundance. After David had sinned, God's retribution came to his family. After Jesus had overcome the temptation, He brought God's salvation, healing and the peace of forgiveness to the people. We ought to 'put the boats out into deep water' and let our lives and our knowledge of the truth advance to a deeper level. Then we may have an abundant life to overcome the temptation to obey God's will and bring people to an abundant life.

**A. To please the sinful nature will reap destruction, follow the Lord's words will be abundant**

Please the sinful nature (2 Sam 13:1-22) - Follow the Lord's words (Lk 5:1-22)

1.【Thirst for the sinful nature】1-2 Amnon was the eldest son of David. He did not value the blessings and honor of a firstborn. He only wanted to satisfy his sinful nature. He indulged in grace. He fell in love with Tamar his sister and even frustrated to the point of illness.

※【Thirst for the Lord's Word】1-3 Jesus stood by the lake and the people crowded around Him thirsting to hear the Word of God. Amnon did not thirst for the Lord’s Word but his heart was led astray. He blindly pursued for the satisfaction of his sinful lust. Jesus was filled with God’s love, so due to a lot of people He sat on a boat to teach the people. Amnon became frustrated to the point of illness due to the love of sinful nature. Due to the thirst for the Lord and His Word, the people still squeezed to get together to hear it. The Lord’s Word is life and a good medicine so we may be sanctified. It is also our true satisfaction!

2.【To please the sinful nature will sin】3-6 Amnon had a very cunning friend Jonadab. He knew that Amnon was frustrated due to Tamar. So he taught him to pretend to be sick and request his father to tell Tamar to prepare food to give to him. Then Amnon pretended to be sick and deceived his father. Sure enough he was granted by his father to fulfill his wish.

※【To follow the Lord's words will be abundant】4-11 Simon and his partners fished all night and had not caught anything. But they did as the Lord said and took the boat to the deep water. They led down the net and caught fish that filled two boats. The Lord was their good companion. He cared for all the physical and spiritual needs of his disciples and made Simon and his partners full of shame. Thus they responded to the Lord’s calling and repaid His love. They left everything and followed Jesus. However Amnon listened to the instigation of his friend and lived according to the sinful nature which trapped him to the depth of sin. Only by listening to the Lord’s words and let Him be our friend, then grace is abundant!

3.【Do not escape will be sullied】7-22 Tamar was absolutely obedient before her father and brother. She was not on guard and alert. She made bread in his sight. Poor Tamar was weak before evil. She was not jealous and did not hate sin. She did not even know to escape just like a piece of dough being rolled in the hands of Amnon. As a result she was unable to resist before the test and was defiled! Poor Tamar was like a raw cake being baked. Afterwards she was hated and driven out by Amnon. She regretted and cried in vain. Absalom and Tamar were from the same mother. When he heard his sister was humiliated by Amnon, he bore a grudge against him. He temporarily endured it and waited for a chance to revenge.

※【Plead the Lord will be healed】12-22 A man covered with leprosy came along and fell face down before the Lord. He requested the Lord and was cleansed. He saw God’s glory. In her distress Tamar did not cry out to God. She did not escape from sin and was thus defiled. It was too late to regret and she was humiliated forever. The love of the sinful nature turned to hatred in a moment. Only the love of the Lord is wide and long and high and deep so sins may be forgiven and sickness be healed. Those who carried the paralytic were filled with faith and love. They led men to be favored before the Lord. The servant of Amnon was merciless and drove Tamar out of the door. David had always spoiled his children When he heard this, he was very angry. But he did not punish them. Only the Lord was full of power, love and discernment.

**B. Hatred out of envy conspires to murder; follow the Lord and cast away everything to save men**

To kill in revenge (2 Sam 13:23-39) - To save (Lk 5:23-39)

1.【A feast of revenge】23-33 Two years later Absalom planned to revenge for his sister. He invited his eldest brother to the feast and told his servant beforehand to assassinate him while he was drinking in high spirit. He who sows to please his sinful nature will reap destruction.

※【A feast of salvation】23-32 Jesus had the power of forgiveness to let the paralytic walk. Tamar lost her virginity and was paralyzed for the rest of her life without getting up. Levi the tax collector was called by the Lord and he immediately left everything to follow Him. He also set a big feast for Jesus. Many tax collectors and sinners were invited to sit with the Lord and were favored to enjoy the feast of salvation. Absalom planned a feast of revenge to kill his brother. Jesus disregarded the objection and complaint of the Pharisees and was close to the sinners to be their friends. (Mt 11:19) The Son of Man came to call the sinners to repent and be healed. He sowed to please the Spirit and reaped eternal life. Amnon sinned and was not contrite. He drank presumptuously and died in sin. He himself was to be blamed. We ought to be like Levi to listen and follow the Lord, to save men with love. We ought not to be the servant of Absalom to obey to kill in a brave way.

2.【How can one be favored without repentance】34-39 Absalom killed his brother. He absconded to avoid punishment and did not dare to see his father. David mourned for him everyday and missed him a lot, exhibiting the heart of the heavenly Father longing for the return of the Prodigal son. When David faced with the evil act of aggression of Absalom, he still did not make him accountable or gave him any severe punishment. He connived him all the more from impunity. How can he be favored without repentance?

※【An old wineskin cannot hold the new wine】33-39 The Lord replied the Pharisees no need to fast if the bridegroom was there. They would fast when the bridegroom was taken from them. Jesus pointed out they were unwilling to forsake their tradition. They only paid attention to the outward godliness just like a piece of new cloth could hardly match an old garment. New wine could not be put in an old wineskin. Similarly, Absalom had to confess his sin and remove his evil and be renewed, then he might see his father again. The Lord’s lesson does not care for the superficial thing. He wants us to have the inner change so our life may be transformed to be a new creation. Absalom killed his brother and ran away. He did not repent and was an old wineskin. David had not taught his children strictly and caused the disasters in the family.

**Ps 60 / Rev 13:13 Main theme: The enemies did a great thing; cry out and rely on God to overcome them and gain the land**

 **-Rely on God / Overcome the temptation**

(1)【Pray to mend the fractures and to revive】1-4 The enemies did great wonder and deception. We call to God to heal the breach and bestow the victorious banner to those who fear Him to be unfurled against the bow for revival.

(2)【God promised we will gain the land】5-8 Through darkness God tests the saints who are obedient and belong to Him. They may gain the promise land. We ought to open our mouth wide to gain more land.

(3)【Rely on God to overcome and gain the land】9-12 With God we will gain the victory to trample down our enemies and besiege the fortified city to gain the land which is hard to win over.

**Central point of the wheels: Put the sinful nature to death and overcome the enemies to gain the land**

Dear Lord, may You make my flesh die completely and only thirst for your Word, so I may cast away everything to follow You till the end and gain people like fish!

**2 Sam 14 / Lk 6**

**Main theme: Woe for being crafty for self; obey the Word and save men will be rewarded greatly**

 **-Hypocrisy / True love (for self / deny oneself)**

Golden verses: 14:14 Lk 6:46

A discussion on hypocrisy and true love - on one side it concerned Joab knew David missed Absalom. Thus he used crafty and false means to let Absalom return. But without God's love, we cannot lead a Prodigal son to see the king. On the other side it concerned Jesus was full of God's love. In spite of the opposition of the Pharisees, He boldly did good to save men. He also taught the disciples to deny themselves to walk the path of love like the merciful Father. We ought to pursue God's love without hypocrisy and self-deception, so we may lead the Prodigal son to see God.

**A. Do not be hypocritical, consider God's love, lead men to return and be blessed**

Intercede (2 Sam 14:1-20) - Do good (Lk 6:1-30)

1.【A hypocritical intercession】1-7 Joab knew David missed Absalom. So he thought of a scheme and taught a woman to pretend to be a widow to ask favor for a son who had killed his brother to avoid the only left over burning coal being put out. The woman was wise and had the gift of the tongue. But she was hypocritical like the behavior of Joab who was hypocritical and without true love.

※【A hypocritical accusation】1-11 The hypocritical Pharisees rebuked the disciples of Jesus for picking some heads of grain and violated the Sabbath. Jesus cited the example of Ahimelech the priest who broke the rule and gave the consecrated bread to the hungry David showing God’s love surpassed the law. (1 Sa 21:1-6) In Joab’s mind, he had no love of God. He would not pay the price but he asked someone to intercede. What he did was also hypocritical. Only Jesus is full of the love of God. He did not care of the close watch and objection of the enemies. He save men bravely and did good as usual on the Sabbath. This teaches us whether we intercede or do good, we ought to do it honestly without pretending. Do everything in love. (1 Co 16:14)

2.【Intercede for a banished son】8-17The king granted the request of the woman and issued an order on her behalf and swore no one might destroy her son. The woman requested the king again so that a banished person might be brought back unlike water spilled on the ground, which could not be recovered lest he would be cut off from the inheritance of God.

※【Pray for the whole night on the mountain】12-19 Jesus went up a mountain to pray for the whole night to pay the price to select twelve apostles. Joab did not pay any price for the fleeing prodigal son. Jesus preached the Word on one side and trained the apostles on the other side so as to grab to save the prodigal son to return. Wherever the Lord went, the people listened to His Word and were healed to gain life. Joab did not pay attention to listen to the Word, nor was he able to make Absalom gain the true grace.

3.【Man's idea】18-20 King David had guessed that the words of the woman were all by the hand of Joab and not from the intercession of the Holy Spirit to change the present situation. All was taught by Joab.

※【The Lord's teaching】20-30 Jesus spoke to the apostles of the four blessings and the four woes so as to teach men to be poor in spirit and be contrite, to humble t obey the Word and to suffer for righteousness. Then we will gain the blessings and the reward. Jesus also taught the people to love their enemy and to bless and pray for them. Give way in everything and be kind to others. Only this type of love might restore the heart of the prodigal son. Joab was too wise and gave a human decision. But it could not restore Absalom so he might avoid the disasters to gain blessings. Only God’s Word and love may change a prodigal son and restore him. (1 Jn 4:10) If Absalom was not contrite and confessed before God and men, disasters would come.

**B. Blessed is he who listens and walks the Way; woe for being wayward and self-deceiving**

Be wayward (2 Sam 14:21-33) - Walk the Way (Lk 6:31-49)

1.【Favored before men】21-27 David granted the request of Joab and ordered to bring back Absalom. Joab fell with his face to the ground and was surprisingly happy. He thought he was favored by the king. Then he brought back Absalom, but David rejected to see him. He was waiting for him to be thoroughly contrite. Absalom was extraordinarily handsome. His hair was beautiful beyond comparison. But his beauty was just like a flower which withered in an instant. What he boasted of finally became the root of his disaster. His glory turned to disgrace.

※【Like the merciful Father】31-42 Jesus taught his apostles to be merciful, just as the Father was merciful. (Mt 5:48) But Joab was favored only before men; while Absalom was extraordinarily handsome and gained men’s praise. They would wither like the flower and the grass and turned to nothing in an instant. They did not have the mercy and perfection of the heavenly Father. Therefore we have to pursue the Way of love, to overcome evil with good, to forgive others, to be good to others, to give more and even to love our enemies who are ungrateful and do evil. Then we will be blessed by God. We will be poured and ran over. These people will always see God’s face. Absalom was externally handsome but could not see the king. Both Joab and Absalom were filled with jealousy and killing. They hurt others to benefit themselves. How could they be blessed?

2.【Bad tree and bad fruit】28-33 Joab was like a bad tree producing bad fruit. He was unable to lead Absalom to be contrite to see the father. Absalom was also a bad tree like the thorns and thistles. He wanted to see the father for he was eager to seize the father’s throne. He was unscrupulous and set the field of Joab on fire. He finally reached his goal and saw the king’s face. He did not think of repenting but tried to conspire to usurp and rebel against his father.

※【Two kinds of foundation】43-49 The two kinds of good and bad trees produce different kinds of good and bad fruit. Joab was like the thistle and could not bear figs. The evil stored in Absalom would outflow evil. One who hears the Word but does not put into practice or unwilling to confess his sins is like a man who built a house on the sand. Though he met the king’s face, he did not see God’s face. (Isa 59:1-2) Joab felt happy secretly for he thought he did a deed of merit by bringing Absalom back to see the king. In fact he was crafty and self-deceiving. He was selfish and did only for himself. This was also the foundation of the sand and would finally collapse. Only by listening and practicing the Lord’s Word and set the foundation on the rock, then we will be able to stand firm without shaking.

**Ps 61 / Rev 13:14 Main theme: Do not be led astray to set up an image, pray to gain the heritage and fulfill the vow to repay the kindness**

 **-Gain the heritage / Set up an image**

(1)【Pray and take refuge in the Lord and dwell in Him forever】1-4 We ought to cry out to the Lord when we grow faint in great temptation, so we may be led to the rock that is higher than us and dwell deep in Him to avoid the enemy’s harm.

(2)【May the Lord bestow the heritage】5-8 May the Lord protect those who revere Him and obey His Word by Him and those who are not led astray with His unfailing love and faithfulness. So they may gain the inheritance and the everlasting blessing of eternity. Then we may fulfill our vows to God day after day.

**Central point of the wheels: Consider God's great love, lead men to return and obey the Word without being led astray**

Dear Lord, may You let your faithful love fill me, so I may consider the Father's mind to bring back the Prodigal son by prayer to see You!

**2 Sam 15 / Lk 7**

**Main theme: Do not be deceived, great faith and great love, deny yourself and follow the Lord**

 **-Follow the Lord / Love the Lord**

Golden verses: 2 Sam 15:25-26 Lk 7:47

A discussion on following the Lord and loving the Lord - on one side it concerned Absalom used a means of rope in to conspire to usurp the throne. Thus many were led astray to follow the rebellious influence. But the officials and warriors of David all followed him closely. They suffered and escaped together. On the other side it concerned Jesus suffered to proclaim the Word and many loved the Lord in one heart and followed Him till the end.

**A. Do not be rebellious, do not rope in, pray by faith and receive the true grace**

Rebel (2 Sam 15:1-12) - Have faith (Lk 7:1-17)

1.【A means to rope in】1-6 After Absalom had seen David his father, he thought his chance had come. So he actively provided himself with a chariot and horses and planned ambitiously to overthrow. He used all his smooth talks to rope in and led the people to himself. He secretly stole their hearts.

※【Intercede by faith】1-10 A centurion’s servant, whom his master valued highly, was sick and about to die. He sent some elders of the Jews to ask Jesus to come. He believed that only if the Lord would say the word, his servant would be healed. Jesus commended him for his great faith which was not found even in Israel. On one side was the foreign centurion who loved his people and his servant. He humbled and trusted and thus was favored. On the other side was Absalom loved his people falsely. He tried to rope in with all sorts of means. He led the people to himself and stole the hearts secretly.

2.【Follow the rebellious power】7-12 After Absalom had planned everything, he made an excuse to go to Hebron to fulfill a vow. He cheated the trust of David and conspired to seize his throne. Two hundred men were deceived to follow him innocently. He also invited Ahithophel, David’s counselor. The conspiracy gained strength and Absalom’s following kept on increasing.

※【Escape from the power of death】11-17 Jesus entered Nain (pleasantness) and a dead person was being carried out towards His direction. He was the only son of a widow. Jesus had mercy on the widow and comforted her. He ordered the young man to rise up from the dead. All the people praised God. Jesus came to turn the city filled with sorrow and hopelessness to a happy city. He brought life, peace and hope to men. Absalom came to turn the spiritual Hebron (friendship) to a rebellious city which brought darkness and death. On one side was sin ruled and death was the king. Rebellion gained strength. On the other side was Jesus ruled in our lives. (Ro 5:17) The dead child rose up and glory be to God.

**B. Follow the Lord no matter life or death, love the Lord and repay His kindness, and be a wise man**

Follow the Lord (2 Sam 15:13-37) - Love the Lord (Lk 7:18-50)

1.【Swear to follow the Lord till death】13-23 David quickly fled from Absalom. All his people and the officials followed him closely. His officials and the six hundred able men marched before the king. Though Ittai was a foreign fugitive, he swore to follow David. “Wherever my lord the king may be, whether it means life or death, there will your servant be.” He was willing to follow the suffering David and not the new king.

※【Suffer to follow the Lord】18-30 John suffered for the truth and was put to prison. It was inevitable that he was puzzled and thus sent men to ask the Lord. In times of darkness, our faith will be tested. Blessed is the man who follows the Lord till the end and does not fall away on account of Him. Jesus commended John was not a reed swayed by the wind. He was also not a complacent man in the palace. The six hundred able men and Ittai were foreign people who took shelter in David. Whether it meant life or death, calamities or blessings, they were willing to follow the king and suffer. They were not the reed swayed by the wind and they followed him till the end.

2.【Submit to the king's order】24-29 Zadok the priest and Abiathar and all the Levites who carried the ark all submitted to David. They preferred to follow David and wander in suffering together only to obey the king’s order. They did not care for anything and carried the ark back to Jerusalem and waited to be informed. They were brave and faithful. They waited for the return of David.

※【The heart turns after the Lord】31-35 John was the pioneer of the Lord. He neither ate nor drank. Jesus came eating and drinking. He was the friend of the tax collectors and sinners. But wisdom is proved right by all her children. Zadok and Abiathar obeyed the king’s order and returned to the holy city. They worried what the king worried and rejoiced what the king rejoiced. The king’s heart was their heart and they turned as the king turned. They did not seek their own benefit. They did not care for their own safety or danger. They were also the children of wisdom.

3.【Be the king's friend】30-37 David had to face this national crisis. Ahithophel also betrayed him and followed Absalom. David brought his followers up the Mount Olive, weeping as he went. His head was covered and he was barefoot. David prayed that the Lord would turn Ahithophel’s counsel into foolishness. When they arrived at the summit where people used to worship God, Hushai the Arkite came in his robe torn and dust on his head to meet the king. He was willing to sacrifice and obey the king’s order firmly to go into the tiger’s den. He would go back to the city to ruin the plot of Ahithophel. He was worthy of the king’s friend.

※【Love the Lord all the more】36-50 Jesus had dinner in a Pharisee’s house. A woman went close to Him and wept for her sins. She wet the Lord’s feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. She kissed His feet and poured perfume on them. She was commended by the Lord that her many sins had been forgiven for she loved the Lord much. Ahithophel was ungrateful. He betrayed David and joined the rebel party. But Hushai broke himself and risk his life to enter the tiger’s den to ruin the enemy’s plot. It was because he loved David deeply and he was the king’s friend. What he and the woman did was not understood by men. However, it was out of true love and thus was remembered by God forever!

**Ps 62 / Rev 13:15 Main theme: The temptation is greater; trust in God only and gain salvation and honor**

 **-Trust only in / Forced induction**

(1)【Silently wait for God】1-7 In the great temptation and persecution, only the Lord is my rock, my salvation, my hope, my glory and my strength. We must stand firm in the truth by the Lord.

(2)【Trust in Him at all times】8-12 We ought to pour out our hearts before God because He is our refuge. Do not be afraid of the brutality of the lowborn men or the strength of the wealth of the highborn. We ought to believe in God’s words firmly. All the strength and unfailing love belong to God. His strength will attack all evil men. His unfailing love will go to those who fear Him. He will reward each person according to what he has done.

**Central point of the wheels: Great faith and great love, trust in the Lord only and follow Him closely**

Dear Lord, may You let me not be led astray in trials, to love You more and be faithful to You till the end!

**2 Sam 16 / Lk 8**

**Main theme: Believe and call on the Lord, He is Almighty; those who disbelieve and do evil will decline and fall**

 **-Be wayward / Walk the Way (be faithful to the Lord/love the Lord)**

Golden verses: 2 Sam 16:10 Lk 8:15

A discussion on being wayward and walking the Way - on one side it concerned that when David was in his suffering and escape, he was viciously cursed and gloated by Shimei. When darkness is in power, many will become perfidious and unable to stand the trial. On the other side it concerned many women truly loved the Lord and followed Him. They had a part in Jesus' preaching. This teaches us we should not be opportunistic, or to fawn on others. We need to listen and walk the Lord's Way, be faithful to love and follow Him till the end.

**A. Do not be opportunistic, do not fawn on, obey the Word to love and follow the Lord**

Forsake the Lord (2 Sam 16:1-14) - Love the Lord (Lk 8:1-35)

1.【Be opportunistic and fawn on】1-4 Ziba the servant of Mephibosheth was an opportunist and crafty. He betrayed his master and brought his master's bread and wine to meet David and fawned on David. He also slandered Mephibosheth his master before David and said he was seeking for a chance to overthrow him. He deceived the trust of David the king. Thus the king gave all that belonged to Mephibosheth to Ziba.

※【Love and follow the Lord】1-8 The apostles followed Jesus to travel about to preach the Word. Some women who loved the Lord also followed to serve Him. Among them had been cured of evil spirits and diseases by the Lord. Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out was favored and relieved. They faithfully loved the Lord and repaid His favor. They helped to support Jesus and the apostles out of their own means. Ziba was after all, the servant of Saul. He did not faithfully surrendered to David. Though he brought a lot of bread, he betrayed his master. He was opportunistic and fawned on David. He had other intention and did not truly love David.

2.【Hit a person when he is down and be filled with bitterness】5-8 There Shimei of the Saul's family also came to curse David and pelted him and his officials with stones. He gloated and hit David when he was down. He took the chance to revenge and expressed his personal hatred on him. He was filled with the bitterness and evil of Saul.

※【The soil is thin without root and filled with thorns】9-18 Jesus taught the parable of the sower. The seed was the living and enduring Word of God. (1 Pe 1:23) Only through trials will it exhibit if the Word is rooted, grown and flourished. The heart of Shimei was like the thin soil and the rock without root. It was filled with bitterness and evil like thick growth of thorns. He cursed David viciously. His hidden evil was all displayed. David endured the curse and kept the Lord's Word like the good soil yielding a hundred times.

3.【Greet the waves and go forward】9-14 Abishai wanted to kill Shimei by the flesh but David strictly prevented him. David accepted the punishment humbly. He deeply knew it was God who ordered Shimei to curse him or may be the Lord would see his distress and repay him with good. So he took his followers forward greeting the waves.

※【Subside the storm and rebuke the evil spirit】19-35 In order to obey the Father's will, Jesus preached the Word and saved men. He did not care if His family was looking for Him. He treated those who obeyed God's Word as His mother and brothers. How broad was His heart! David prevented his followers to revenge on Shimei. He allowed his enemies to persecute him. He was also filled with the broad mind of God. When the apostles got into a boat, a squall came down. The Lord was asleep to train their faith. Only if they would cry out, the Lord would calm down the storm for them. When they arrived Gerasenes, the Lord rebuked the legion of demons and saved the man. He ordered the demons to come out and go into the pigs. The curse of Shimei was like the power of the demons crouching around David. He trusted in God and overcame the rebellious power. He took his followers forward in the storms because he strongly believed God would calm down the storms for him.

**B. Do not be stained, be loyal till the end, believe and plead will be favored**

Lose the grace (2 Sam 16:15-23) - Plead for grace (Lk 8:36-56)

1.【Risk death to sacrifice】15-19 Ahithophel betrayed shamefully. He followed Absalom to Jerusalem. Hushai the friend of David bored the assignment of David to risk his life. He joined the enemy boldly with a sure win faith. He pretended to be after Absalom. By wisdom and courage from God, he gained the trust of Absalom.

※【Bent solely for profit】34-48 Due to the great loss of the herd of pigs, the people of Gerasenes asked the Lord to leave them. They were mercenary and cared only for their property. They did not value the importance of the soul. The Israelites also forsook David. Only Hushai was not afraid to sacrifice and dared to take the risk to ruin the enemy's plot. So he came to see the new king. How precious it was! The man who had the demons driven out came to beg to follow the Lord, but the Lord ordered him to go home to proclaim God's deed. The woman who was subject to bleeding grabbed the chance to touch the Lord by faith and was healed. They and Hushai were grateful and wanted to repay the kindness. They gave a good witness.

2.【Fear, yield and humiliated】20-23 The plot which Ahithophel offered to Absalom was despicable. His means was diabolical. He let him openly lay with his father's concubines in order to seize the kingdom successfully. The ten poor concubines were defiled because they were afraid and yielded to him.

※【Firmly believe the Lord's words that she will be raised from the dead】49-56 When Jesus arrived the home of the ruler of the synagogue and saw his daughter was dead, the Lord said she was asleep. Then He told them not to be afraid and just believe. The plan of Ahithophel was the intention of man and desired to harm others. But the comfort and encouragement of Jesus was to save men. The ten concubines were of little faith under the power. They did not cry out to God in their distress and finally surrendered and lost their chastity. Though they lived, they were as dead like men entering a tomb. The ruler of the synagogue listened and believed in the Lord's words. He gained a child who had risen. He saw God's glory. On one side was the king of the world (representing the devil) defiled men. On the other side was the king of heaven saved men.

**Ps 63 / Rev 13:16 Main theme: Seek earnestly, follow closely and receive a mark of the Lord will rejoice finally**

 **-The Lord's mark / The beast's mark**

Every level of people, great or small, received a mark of the beast on the right hand and the forehead. They are dominated by the beast both in thought and action. Thus those who belong to God must escape to the desert (so spiritually they will see no one except Jesus).

(1)【Seek earnestly and follow closely】1-5 Thirst for the Lord in times of dry and weary. Be watchful day and night. Think of the Lord and follow Him closely even through the watches of the night.

(2)【Two kinds of different endings】6-11 Seek and follow the Lord closely and bear the Lord's sign, then no one can disturb him. His heart will be like with the richest of foods. He will rejoice in God and gain His help to sing in His shadow. Those who have the mark of the beast and do evil will encounter disasters. They will go down to the depths of the earth. Their mouths of liars will be silenced.

**Central point of the wheels: Love the Lord and obey the Word, follow Him closely and reject the mark of the beast**

Dear Lord, I am willing to follow your suffering footpath, to love You and keep your Word loyally without yielding to repay your love!

**2 Sam 17 / Lk 9**

**Main theme: Cross the river quickly, die to the world, deny oneself to preach and destroy the enemy’s plot**

 **-Risk death / Deny oneself (destroy the plot/save men)**

Golden verses: 2 Sam 17:22 Lk 9:23

A discussion on risking death and denying oneself – on one side it concerned Hushai risked death to destroy the scheme of Ahithophel so David and his followers might escape and not be harmed. He saved David and God’s people. On the other side it concerned the disciples were sent to preach the Word. The Lord ordered them to deny and break themselves, to carry the cross, to follow the Lord and lead men to enter God’s Kingdom.

**A. Be sent to preach the Word, destroy the enemy’s scheme and deny oneself to save men**

Harm men (2 Sam 17:1-14) – Save men (Lk 9:1-30)

1.【Be crafty to harm others】1-4 Ahithophel was crafty and vicious. He quickly offered his plan to Absalom to allow him to select some able men to pursue and strike David in the night while he was weary and weak so the people would come back to the new king.

※【Preach the Word to save men】1-9 Jesus called the Twelve to preach the kingdom of God and gave them the authority to drive out all demons. They obeyed and went out to cure diseases and saved men to be warriors and lead men back to Christ. Ahithophel also selected able men, but it was to pursue and kill David and seized God's people to the new king. It was the Satan's vicious plan to harm the anointed one of the Lord.

2.【Destroy the enemy’s plot to save the country and the people】5-14 When Absalom heard the plan of Ahithophel, though it seemed good, he still summoned Hushai to offer his plan. Hushai boldly asserted Ahithophel's plan was not good. Then he continued decisively to offer an installing tactics and purposely lengthen the time so David and his people were able to cross the river to avoid being killed.

※【To break oneself completely so men can be fed】10-17 When the apostles returned, the Lord took them to another town. But the crowd learned about it and followed them. Jesus taught the people and healed those who needed healing. When the night was getting dark, the Twelve wanted to send the crowd away. they were unwilling to set themselves. But the Lord had compassion on them. He denied and broke Himself so they all ate and were satisfied. Hushai was willing to break himself and he was given wisdom, boldness and faith by God to ruin the enemy's plan. He saved David and his people. The apostles were unwilling to break themselves. They did not have in mind of the flock of sheep. They failed the expectation of the Lord.

3.【Witness for David to overcome the enemy’s plot】5-14 Hushai was courageous before the enemy. He emphasized that David and his followers were fighters who were not easily subdued by small number of people. They had to summon all the people to attack together. Absalom and all the men of Israel thought his plan was good. God heard the prayer of David and decided to ruin the plan of Ahithophel. God's will triumphed to set calamities on Absalom.

※【Understand Christ and follow the Lord】18-30 Jesus asked the crowd who He was. Peter knew Jesus was the Christ of God. The Lord then told them the Son of Man had to suffer many things and be rejected by men. On one side was Hushai knew David and witnessed for David. On the other side was Peter knew Jesus who He was. Further Jesus said we had to deny ourselves every day, take up our cross to follow Him, and not to be ashamed by the Lord's Word. Then we would gain glory with Christ. Hushai was brave to witness David and not be ashamed of him. He was not afraid of risking his life for him and thus ruined the enemy's plan. Jesus brought the apostles up a mountain to pray. There His appearance showed the light of righteousness and holiness. There were also Moses and Elijah who talked with Him. Hushai was able to ruin the enemy's plan because his spirit was up the mountain. His life was renewed and the light of righteousness shone.

**B. Be courageous to report the news, deny oneself to follow the Lord and be humble to offer love**

Cross the river (2 Sam 17:15-29) – Follow the Lord (Lk 9:31-62)

1.【Risk death to report the news】15-21 Zadok quickly sent men to report to David to cross over without fail lest they might be swallowed up. But a young man saw the reporters and told this to Absalom. They quickly hid in a well of a woman's home. They were nearly disclosed like escaping from the dead. They reported everything to David.

※【Grab to save the sinners】31-43 The three apostles followed the Lord up the mountain. But they were all very sleepy. When they awoke they saw the glory of the kingdom. How could they put up shelters in the mountain and be complacent! We ought to go downhill to grab to save the sinners for God's kingdom. On one hand Jesus rebuked the evil spirit, healed the boy and gave him back to his father. On the other hand He sighed for the unbelieving and perverse generation because the apostles could not drive out the spirit. The reporters risked their lives to sacrifice for the kingdom of David. The Lord also wanted the apostles to pay the price for the kingdom of God to grab and save sinners. They too needed faith and courage. We ought to send the news so the people of God may cross the river and escape from the power of death!

2.【Cross the river quickly】22-23 So David and all the people with him crossed the river quickly. By daybreak, no one was left who had not crossed the Jordan. They experienced dead out alive. When Ahithophel saw that his advice had not been followed, he was ashamed and went home to hang himself. He was unwilling to deal with his old self. He abandoned God and was forever doomed for destruction.

※【Nail the old self to death】44-50 Again Jesus told the apostles the Son of Man would be betrayed into the hands of men. But the apostles did not understand, nor did they bear the mind of the Lord. Instead they argued who would be the greatest. David and the people who followed him had to cross the Jordan to experience death and be arisen. Then they might be able to escape from the power of Absalom. The apostles were unwilling to cross the river to nail their old self to death. The Lord led a little child out to teach them to be the least among them, he was the greatest. They also had to welcome the little child; that was to welcome the Lord. Ahithophel was haughty and arrogant. He forsook David and fell and was destroyed. (Pro 16:18)

3.【Provide timely help and offer everything】24-29 David crossed the river safely. Shobi of the tribe of Ammon, Makir from Lo Debar and Barzillai from Gilead all brought abundant food and articles to the wandering David and his followers. They loved David deeply. They provided timely help and were very considerate. They offered everything and were compassionate to David. They had a share in his suffering.

※【Suffer to follow the Lord and deny everything】51-62 Jesus turned His face to Jerusalem. When he arrived a village, the people there did not welcome Him. Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of man has no place to lay his head. No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God. Only those who are willing to suffer and deny everything to sacrifice to follow the Lord till the end like Shobi, Makir and Barzillai who offered to David would be remembered by God forever. He who follows the Lord simply needs to press forward without turning back to proclaim the kingdom of God. All abundance comes from God! On one side was a lot of denial and sacrifice to love David in suffering. On the other side was complete denial and sacrifice to follow the suffering Lord and had a share in the kingdom of God.

**Ps 64 / Rev 13:17 Main theme: Pray watchfully and obey the Word, destroy the enemy’s wicked scheme, save the people by God**

(1)【Pray to escape from the enemies’ conspiracy and evil plans】1-6 The enemies make a lot of effort to conspire. Their minds are very cunning. May the Lord protect my life and hide me from their noise and threat.

(2)【God will deal with the enemies】7-10 God will act suddenly and the enemies will be ruined. They ruin themselves and others. Let the righteous rejoice and praise.

**Central point of the wheels: Deny and offer completely, destroy the enemy’s scheme and save all people**

Dear Lord, I am willing to carry the cross to follow You, to destroy the enemies’ plot, to preach the Word and save men. May I be humble, to hide away all my life and be guarded till the end!

**2 Sam 18 / Lk 10**

**Main theme: Do not mind about the result of the battle, listen quietly and consider God’s heart to save the sinner**

 **-Listen quietly / Obey the will (destroy the enemy’s power / consider the Father’s mind)**

Golden verses: 2 Sam 18:33 Lk 10:19-20

A discussion on listening quietly and obeying the will – on one side it concerned David ordered troops to be sent to the battle so as to destroy the rebellious power of Absalom. Joab did not consider the King’s mind and violated his order. He personally pierced Absalom to death. Externally, it seemed they had won the battle but this broke the King’s heart completely. On the other side it concerned Jesus sent seventy disciples to preach the Word. Before the dispatch, they had to pay attention to consider the Lord’s mind, to have compassion on their neighbors to satisfy the Lord. This teaches us not to mind about the splendor of the battle result but to consider the love of God and be His sweetheart.

**A. Be sent to attack the enemy, preach the Word and save men, be careful to obey**

Obey the order (2 Sam 18:1-16) – Listen (Lk 10:1-20)

1.【Tremble to obey the order】1-5 In order to completely destroy the rebellious power which was the anti-God power of Satan, David set his troops into three divisions under Joab, Abishai and Ittai respectively. Before they set out David gave orders to his commanders to be gentle with the young man Absalom for the sake of David, exhibiting the love of our heavenly Father towards the Prodigal son. All the troops heard the king's order.

※【Be careful to obey the order】1-12 Jesus sent out seventy to preach His Word. Before they were sent, He encouraged them that the harvest was plentiful but the workers were few. We ought to ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field. When they went out, they were like lambs among wolves. The troops of David were also facing a strong and rebellious power. They ought to obey in trembling and do not take a purse or bag or sandals. But they had to remember the Lord's order in the heart to attack and overcome evil, to grab to save the souls and bring peace to men.

2.【Pierce through the King’s heart】6-16 The two armies fought against each other. The enemy was disastrously defeated. The forest claimed more lives than the sword. Absalom accidentally passed through a large oak. The hair which he boasted of got caught in the tree and he was left hanging in midair. Joab did not care for the king's order or the objection of the man who told him this. He quickly pierced him to death. Even the man who reported to Joab obeyed the king's order not daring to put a hand on the king's son. But Joab dared to kill Absalom without any regard for the king's order. So he sounded the trumpet and thought himself had a complete victory. In fact he had pierced through the heart of the king.

※【The name be recorded in heaven】13-20 The disciples went out to heal the sick, saved men and proclaim the kingdom of God. Jesus sighed woe to Korazin, Bethsaida and Capernaum. Though Jesus had performed many miracles, they still did not repent. Absalom did not repent till death. Woe to him. It would be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for those towns! Similarly, the man who reported to Joab was more righteous than Joab. The seventy returned with joy. But the Lord told them not to rejoice that the spirits submitted to them, but rejoice that their names were written in heaven. Joab had very splendid military successes. He triumphed externally. But he had greatly damaged the heart of David and even lost the heart for God which was a warning.

**B. Listen to the Word quietly, consider the Father's heart and love men compassionately**

For self (2 Sam 18:17-33) - Deny oneself (Lk 10:21-42)

1.【Set a pillar for oneself and leave a notorious name forever】17-18 Absalom betrayed David and conspired to seize his throne. He overthrew his father. His carcass was thrown instantly into the pit he dug, (Pro 26:27) forever in a heap of rubble. The wicked harm themselves and their result is tragic! He once erected a pillar in the King's Valley as a monument to himself that was the man of lawlessness, the shadow of anti-Christ. He opposed the Lord and exalted himself. He left a notoriety.

※【Delight in the Father's will and be blessed to see the Lord】21-24 Jesus came to His hometown. But His people would not welcome Him. (Jn 1:11) However He was inspired by the Holy Spirit and He rejoiced and praised for the good pleasure of the Father. The elect forsook the Lord and salvation came to the foreigners. This was revealed to little children but hidden from the wise and learned. Blessed were the disciples who saw the Lord whom the ancient prophets had not seen. Absalom was arrogant and tried to be smart. He overthrew his father and set a pillar for himself. He was notorious like a wayward folly and destroyed himself. (Pro 1:32) Woe to him! We ought to imitate the Lord to delight in the Father's will and forever be humble to be a child and be blessed.

2.【Strive to report the news but run in vain】19-33 Ahimaaz was strong and fast. He scrambled to report the news to the king. But he did not even know the king's mind. He pleaded to run ahead. As a result he was rebuked by the king to stand aside without gaining the reward. David was shaken and wept for Absalom. If only he had died instead of him revealing the heart and love of the Father God towards a Prodigal son.

※【Listen to the Word quietly and consider the Lord's love】25-42 The Lord replied the expert in the law that since he knew the greatest commandment was to love God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and, to love your neighbor as yourself, then he ought to do it and he would live. Joab was like a hypocritical expert in the law. He knew but he did not act. He abandoned the Way of love. We ought to imitate the good Samaritan who loved his neighbor and had pity on him. He took care of the man who was beaten to half dead on his way. Martha was worried and upset. She served the Lord in chaos and was the same as the fleeting Ahimaaz. (Ps 147:10-11) He could not touch the heart of the Lord and did not understand the love of the Father God. Only Mary sat quietly at the Lord's feet and listened to His teaching, then she could consider the Lord's heart and understand His love. She had chosen what was better which could not be taken away from her. On one side was Ahimaaz rebuked by the king. On the other side was Mary gained the Lord's praise.

**Ps 65 / Rev 13:18 Main theme: The number of the beast is to struggle; pray and wait for the revival of the whole land**

 **-Wait / Struggle**

The number of the beast is also the code of the beast - 666. This is also the number of men which is to struggle by ourselves. Human sympathy, human affection and man's ideas have often taken advantage by the wicked to hinder God's will. The Lord rebuked Peter, "Get behind me, Satan!" because he did not consider God's mind but considered man's intention. (Mk 8:33)

(1)【Pray and wait】1-4 Come before the Lord and our transgressions are forgiven. We may be brought near to God and dwell in Him and be filled with the good things.

(2)【The effect of praying and waiting】5-13 God will answer us with righteousness and still the roaring waves and the turmoil of the nations. He waters the land so it may revive and where the sun rises and sets will rejoice.

(3) The enemies rely on man's power and struggle diligently. They resist God's will and harm themselves as well as others. How foolish that they have run down to the grave.

**Central point of the wheels: Be careful to obey the command, consider God's love, overcome the number of the beast and pray for revival**

Dear Lord, may You bestow me your heart to grab to save the sinners and to reap the harvest. May the Holy Spirit grant revival to the whole land!

**2 Sam 19 / Lk 11**

**Main theme: The difference between loving the Lord truly or falsely and the different endings**

 **-Sincerity / Hypocrisy (Love the Lord / plead the Lord)**

Golden verses: 2 Sam 19:37 Lk 11:12-13

A discussion on sincerity and hypocrisy - on one side it concerned that after the rebellion of Absalom was suppressed, the matter of welcoming the return of David exhibited who loved him sincerely and wanted to bring the king back. On the other side we ought to go according to the Lord's will and request for the promised Holy Spirit and the coming of God's kingdom. This teaches us not to be like the hypocritical Pharisees. We will be blessed if we love and plead the Lord sincerely.

**A. Do not be arrogant and disdainful, request the king to come, obey God's will and plead fervently**

Rebuke (2 Sam 19:1-23) - Plead fervently (Lk 11:1-28)

1.【Worry together with the king and request his return】1-10 When the people were rejoicing in their victory, they heard the king mourned for Absalom. They then also mourned with the king. Joab was arrogant and self-centered. He knew well the king was saddened. Not only did he not worry with the king, he even rebuked and threatened him. The Israelites were arguing with each other that the king had delivered them from the enemies. Now Absalom had died in battle and they ought to bring back the king.

※【Be persistent and plead according to the Lord's will】1-13 Jesus taught His disciples to obey God's will and pray for His kingdom to come. Joab did not consider the king's heart. He did not teach the people to request the king to come back. Instead he blindly rebuked the king. For our friend's need, we will persist to request for bread and also ask the Father for the promised Holy Spirit so revival may come to welcome the kingdom of Christ. The Jews were the last to bring the king back. Instead the Israelites already had word to bring him back to welcome the rebuilding of the kingdom of David.

2.【Restore the people's heart】11-15 David cared for his kindred, so he sent men to remind the elders of Judah to encourage them to bring the king back. Why should they be after the Israelites? In this way, it restored the hearts of the people of Judah like one man. They came to Gilgal to meet the king and brought him across the river. Joab murdered Abner and violated the order to pierce Absalom to death and saddened David. Thus David decided to set Amasa as commander of the army to replace Joab.

※【Refute the slanderous talk】14-23 Jesus drove out a demon that was mute. Then the man began to speak. Due to the reminder and encouragement of David, the Jews no longer were mute and were positive to bring the king back. Jesus was full of love and power. But the Jews said the Lord drove out the demon by the prince of demons. If Satan was divided against itself, how could his kingdom stand? Jesus was filled with power and refuted man's slander. David was filled with the love of God and thus restored the people's heart.

3.【Tolerate the evil】16-23 When David was about to cross the river, Shimei and Ziba hurried to meet him. Shimei fell prostrate before the king to ask for forgiveness. He expressed his repentance. David took the interest of the whole into account and prevented Abishai to put him to death right away. This was also his tolerance to wait for his true repentance.

※【Become more wicked in future】24-28 Jesus warned this evil generation was like an evil spirit that came out of a man and swept clean and put in order. But he did not receive the Holy Spirit into his heart and truly repented, so seven other spirits more wicked went in and the final condition of this man was worse than the first. The situation of Shimei was just the same. He despised the tolerance of king David and disregarded the warning of king Solomon. As a result, he did evil and harmed himself. His ending was more tragic. (2Ki 2:36-46; Ro 2:3-4)

**B. Do not contend, do not be hypocritical, love the Lord sincerely and be blessed**

True love (2 Sam 19:24-43) - Hypocrisy (Lk 11:29-54)

1.【Suffer and enjoy glory together】24-30 Since the day the king suffered in wandering, and fled outside till he returned in peace, Mephibosheth had not taken care of his feet or trimmed his mustache or washed his clothes. He suffered together with the king to repay his grace. He came to meet the king. Though he was betrayed and slandered by Ziba, he was satisfied even he lost everything; only if the king had arrived home safely.

※【Die and live together】29-36 Faced with the wicked generation who asked for a miraculous sign, Jesus said none would be given it except the sign of Jonah. He was inside the fish three days and three nights representing Christ arise from the dead after three days and three nights. If we will die with the Lord, then we will live with the Lord. (Ro 8:17; 2 Ti 2:11-12) Mephibosheth and David suffered and enjoyed glory together. He was utterly wholehearted to the king and became a bright light in the dark. He had light in his heart. But Ziba was dark in his heart. He conspired his plot and took the opportunity to fawn on the king and finally was disclosed!

2.【True love is blessed】31-39 Though Barzillai was aged, he came personally to cross the river with the king. He refused the invitation of the king as he did not want to make a burden to him. He did not request for any reward or any pleasure. He was satisfied to cross the river with the king. He let his son follow David and go with him. He had no request for himself. The king blessed him and he went back to his home.

※【Woe for being hypocritical and self-deceiving】37-54 The Pharisees were hypocritical and self-deceiving. They rebuked Jesus for eating without washing His hands. They cleaned the outside of the cup and dish, but inside was full of greed and wickedness. Woe to them for they were ungodly and unrighteous. They built tombs for the prophets but they shed their blood. God would condemn them. Barzillai was righteous and godly. He truly loved David and was blessed by him. (1 Co 8:3)

3.【Contend with each other】40-43 The Israelites and the Jews contended with each other. They argued who was closer with the king which was an external argument for vanity. The words of the Jews were harder than the Israelites. The truth testified the Israelites acted according to the circumstances. Their mouth did not tally with their heart. They were unable to stand the test. They had once betrayed king David and followed a troublemaker Sheba. (2 Sa 20:1-2)

※【Do not strive for yourself】53-54 The teachers of the law and the Pharisees did not seek the fundamentals. They disregarded the warning of Jesus and conspired to harm the Lord. They opposed Him fiercely and besieged Him with questions, waiting to catch Him in something He might say. Jesus was silent and did not contend for Himself. The people of Judah and Israel contended and grumbled against each other. They also did not seek the fundamentals and were inevitable to be judged. (Jas 5:9) If we do not keep God's Word, when darkness reigns, we will be led astray and fall. Therefore we must remove our hypocrisy and pursue to love God and keep His Word, to love and follow the Lord truly!

**Ps 66 / Rev 14:1 Main theme: Through refinement obey the Word completely, be favored greatly and ought to preach it extensively**

 **-Refinement / The Lord's name**

(1)【Keep the Lord's Word firmly and all the earth shout with joy】1-4 Learn from the Lamb and the one hundred and forty four thousand to keep the truth firmly; (the Lord's name is the Word of God, Rev 19:13) be gentle and obey the will. God's name will be greatly glorified. The enemies will surrender and the whole land will worship the Lord.

(2)【God does awesome deeds】5-7 Keep the Word and obey the will. God turned the sea into dry land, so the people passed through it . Let not the rebellious rise up against Him. Though there was the promise, they would fall.

(3)【Through trials to a place of abundance】8-12 By the Lord we may be released from sin and live. We may be able to stand firm in the truth and go through the test of fire and water like Joseph was induced by the prostitute every day. He was being bitten and wronged. He was put to jail for a long period. He was silent but he delighted in the Lord. Finally he reached a place of abundance.

(4)【Ought to fulfill the vows and repay the kindness】13-15 Offer the best in great quantity to repay the Lord's goodness, just like Paul made every effort for the Lord.

(5)【Witness our own corruption and God's unfailing love】16-20 I cherished sin in my heart and the Lord should not have listened. But He has compassion and is good to me. (Lk 18:1-8)

**Central point of the wheels: Love the Lord truly, follow till end, through water and fire, and enter the kingdom of God**

Dear Lord, may You let me be refined and love You sincerely without change till death and follow You till the end!

**2 Sam 20 / Lk 12**

**Main theme: Remove the yeast and remove the greed without worry, be faithful and watchful for the Kingdom of God**

 **-Remove evil / Remove the yeast (destroy the enemies /guard against the enemies)**

Golden verses: 2 Sam 20:21 Lk 12:6-7

A discussion on removing evil and removing the yeast - on one side it concerned Sheba (drunk) a troublemaker of the Benjaminite rebelled. He attacked the kingdom of David. David the king ordered his army to pursue and destroy the enemies. Joab was honey-mouthed and dagger-hearted. On the way he murdered Amasa the commander. He was the greater hidden trouble in the kingdom of David. On the other side it concerned the Lord taught the disciples to guard against the hypocrisy of the Pharisees and all kinds of greed. He taught them also to pursue the Kingdom of God. This teaches us to destroy all inner and outer enemies, to be on guard watchfully and wait for the Kingdom of God.

**A. Do not be greedy, do not worry, follow the Lord closely and pursue the enemies.**

Pursue the enemies (2 Sam 20:1-13) - Guard against the enemies (Lk 12:1-30)

1.【Follow the king closely and not be led astray】1-3 A troublemaker Sheba rose up to renegade. He instigated the Israelites to betray David. He led men to himself and split the kingdom of David. Only the Jews followed their king David closely. He returned to his palace and took the ten concubines who were defiled by Absalom in a house under guard till the day of their death. This showed that God is a holy God, a jealous God who will not tolerate evil.

※【Be careful to keep the Word and guard against hypocrisy】1-12 That time a crowd of many thousands gathered to hear Jesus' teaching. The Lord encouraged the disciples to be on guard against the hypocritical yeast (teaching) of the Pharisees. Sheba instigated the Israelites to betray David. The power of rebellion was also like the yeast which spread. But the Israelites were not on guard and they were led astray to follow him. Jesus encouraged the disciples not to be afraid of those who killed the body but could not kill the soul. Even the very hairs of our head were all numbered. The ten concubines were mortally fear of death and thus humiliated. Their ending was tragic! We ought to be brave to acknowledge the Lord's name by the Holy Spirit to keep the truth and keep our virginity and be calm to see the Lord.

2.【Delay the king's order and is killed on the road】4-10 King David ordered Amasa to summon the men of Judah and himself to go to him within three days. But he had delayed the appointed time. In the critical moment, David could not but ordered Abishai to lead the troops to pursue Sheba. Joab and his men followed after. When they were at Gibeon, Amasa came up to meet them without being on guard. He was plunged into the belly by the insidious Joab and fell dead.

※【Ignorant and covet wealth, and is killed that very night】13-21 The Lord taught the disciples to watch out and be on guard against all kinds of greed. A rich fool planned to build a big barn for himself to take life easy and enjoy. That very night he died. Joab externally seemed to be chasing after Sheba. He was filled with the lust for power and jealousy. So he took the opportunity to get under the hand. He killed others unscrupulously and finally ruined his life. (2Ki 2:32-34)

3.【Do not stand still and pursue the enemy closely】11-30 Joab did not care for the national safety and crisis. Unexpectedly he killed the commander of David for some personal grudges. Amasa laid wallowing in his blood blocking the people to chase after the enemy. They dragged his body aside and continued the pursuit.

※【Do not worry and seek God's kingdom】22-30 Do not worry what to eat and what to wear. Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. The birds in the air do not sow or reap, yet God feeds them. How much more valuable we are than birds! Therefore, do not be of little faith. We ought to be like the holy lily not craving for vanity and do not seek what the pagans seek. We put our trust in God's provision. Joab was overweening and his old self was above everything. He led men after him not for the kingdom of David but for his own power and vanity.

**B. Prepare watchfully, overcome the enemy with wisdom and be faithful to the Lord's assignment**

Wisdom (2 Sam 20:14-26) - Watchfulness (Lk 12:31-59)

1.【Destroy the enemies with wisdom】14-22 Sheba passed through all the tribes of Israel to Abel. Many were led astray to follow him. Joab and his troops chased after the enemy and came to Abel. They besieged Sheba and battered the wall to bring it down. A wise woman from the city who loved God's property persuaded the people with wisdom and cut the head of Sheba and threw it to Joab. She saved the whole city.

※【Prepare watchfully】31-48 The Lord taught the disciples only to seek the kingdom of God and they would be blessed. Do not be afraid for the Father has been pleased to give the kingdom to the disciples. Therefore they had to sell their possessions and give to the poor and be dressed and keep their lamps burning ready for the Lord's coming. Be watchful and ready to provide food timely like the wise woman who was alert for the whole city. She saved the whole city with wisdom. Obey the Lord's will and act lest they will be beaten for knowing and not acting. Joab knew the king's order but he did not obey him. He was unfaithful and unrighteous. He conspired with tricks and killed. He was entrusted with importance but he clung to revenge.

2.【Faithful officials follow closely till the end】23-26 David reigned with justice and all his officials were faithful in their duty. Benaiah was over the faithful and courageous Kerethites and Pelethites. He followed David till the end. The hands of Joab were filled with innocent blood. Though he was over Israel's entire army, he lost the trust of the king.

※【Suffer to obey the will and follow the Lord's footpath】49-59 Jesus obeyed the Father's will and faced toward the cross. He had a baptism to undergo. How anxious He was! The Lord told the disciples He came not to bring peace on earth. Mother against daughter, father against son and mother-in-law against daughter-n-law. The Holy Spirit against the natural lust. God's will against men's intention like water is incompatible with fire! Joab struggled for fame and wealth. He conspired to murder. He could not get out until he had paid the last penny. We ought to follow the suffering path of the Lord and obey the Lord's will above affection to be the six hundred warriors. They overcame the flesh, the old self and the world. They followed the Lord faithfully till the end.

**Ps 67 / Rev 14:2 Main theme: Hear a sound from heaven, pray for mercy, lead all the people to gain salvation**

 **-Pray humbly / A sound from heaven**

The heavenly sound was like the roar of rushing waters, can cleanse us and like a loud peal of thunder to shake and warn us. We ought to wake up and do good. The sound was also like a harp to rejoice and praise God.

(1)【Pray for all the nations and all the peoples】1-5 Do not receive the Lord's grace in vain and be silent in the complacent palace. We ought to open our mouth to pray for everyone. (1 Ti 2:1-4) May God have mercy and bless us so His salvation be known among all nations. Observe the Lord's Word and be glad and sing for joy so all people will come to worship Him.

(2)【God will bless us】6-7 Let us bear God's mind and make every effort to work more for the Lord. God will bless us so the land will yield its harvest and extend our territory. Then all the ends of earth will fear Him.

**Central point of the wheels: Destroy the enemies resolutely, gain God's kingdom, pray for mercy to save all people**

Dear Lord, may You destroy all our inner Joab completely, do not covet the worldly fame and wealth, be watchful to prepare to be your faithful servant and lead all people to sing the new song!

**2 Sam 21 / Lk 13**

**Main theme: Repent, act righteously with mercy and press forward diligently**

 **-Remove evil / Repent**

Golden verses: 2 Sam 21:14 Lk 13:24

A discussion on removing evil and repenting - on one side it concerned David was full of God's righteousness and mercy. Faced with the nation's famine for three successive years he confessed and examined his sins. He was determined to remove evil and do good with all his heart. He buried Saul and his son so the whole nation was freed from disasters and was blessed. On the other side it concerned Jesus saved men from the bondage of sin. He helped them to repent and bear fruit. The Lord took the cross to obey the Father's will. He overcame the enemy and became our example. This teaches us not only to remove evil and do good, but also to be diligent to enter the narrow gate. We need to be courageous to destroy the enemy and follow the Lord to suffer and press forward.

**A. Examine the sin and bring out the sin, repent to bear fruit**

Examine the sin (2 Sam 21:1-11) - Repent (Lk 13:1-17)

1.【Investigate on the root of the sin after three years' famine】1-6 During the reign of David, there was a successive three year famine. He inquired of God and was instructed it was due to Saul and his blood-stained house. He killed the Gibeonites whom he should not have done so because the Israelites had once swore not to destroy them. (Jos 9:3-15) This matter did not involve any right to demand silver or gold, nor did they have the right to put anyone in Israel to death. This was to let seven of Saul's male descendants (the flesh and the old self) be given to them to be killed and exposed. (Isa 59:1-2)

※【Bear no fruit for three years need toiling the soil and to add some fertilizer】1-9 Jesus pinpointed at the action of Pilate who had mixed the blood of the Galileans with their sacrifices and replied the people. If they did not repent they too would perish. It was as if a fig tree did not produce any fruit within three years, it had used up the soil in vain. It ought to have been cut down. But if it would be dug around and fertilized and then it bore fruit, it would not be cut down. During the famine David sought God and found out Saul had violated the treaty and shed innocent blood. Therefore we ought to consider God's great love of tolerance. We ought to examine and bring out the sin on one side. On the other side we ought to confess and repent; dig the ground and fertilize it so our life will be abundant to produce without suffering famine.

2.【Bring out the evil and nail the flesh to death】7-11 David ordered to give out the descendants of Saul. But as he had a covenant with Jonathan, he did not give his son Mephibosheth. David sought humbly and removed the evil sincerely. He handed them over and were exposed. That was the time of the beginning of the barley harvest and the whole nation was saved from the disaster and blessed.

※【Set free from sin and get straightened up】10-17 A woman who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years was redeemed by the Lord. The Lord's merciful hands were put on her and she was immediately released from the bondage of sin to straighten up. The synagogue ruler was indignant when he saw the Lord healed the sickness on the Sabbath. But the words of the Lord put the enemy ashamed and the people gave glory to God. The Lord was full of mercy to heal men but Saul was merciless. He killed the Gibeonites and would be avenged for his sin. Mephibosheth was like the crippled woman. He belonged to Saul and was bound by sin. Due to the rich grace of David he had peace. Therefore we ought to give out our sin and nail our flesh to death. Do not be a slave any more but enjoy the abundance and peace!

**B. Do good with a loving heart, be diligent to go forward, obey the will and triumph**

Do good (2 Sam 21:12-22) - Go forward (Lk 13:18-35)

1.【Do good with a loving heart and the whole nation is favored】12-14 David was moved when he learned that Rizpah, Saul's concubine watched over the bodies day and night to avoid the trampling of the wild animals. He buried the bones of Saul and Jonathan and gathered up the bones of those who were exposed. David did good with love and repaid evil with kindness. He did not take into account of the previous wrong which Saul did on him. Instead he buried him. He kept the Way of love and was regarded by God. The whole nations was also blessed. When we deal with our flesh and old self, we also ought to nail it to death and bury it by faith, never to be seen again. (Ro 6:4-11)

※【The effect of faith will extend the kingdom of God】18-21 The kingdom of God is a like mustard seed which grew and became a tree. It is also like yeast mixed into a large amount of flour until it worked all through the dough. The effect of faith and love is also the same! "The beginnings will seem humble, so prosperous will the future be" (Job 8:7) David loved God and men. He even loved Saul who persecuted him. He overcame evil with kindness and buried him. There was a great effect on his kindness. By faith we will not only bury our 'Saul', we also have to bury the 'Saul' who is against us with love because love covers over a multitude of sins. (1 Pe 4:8)

2.【Follow David to overcome the enemy courageously】15-22 The Philistines went to war with the Israelites. David went down to fight against them and became exhausted. But Abishai came to David's rescue. Though the Philistines seemed strong and insufferably arrogant and was descended from Rapha who taunted the Israelites, they died under the hands of David and his followers. The warriors of David were faithful and courageous. They sacrificed and protected the light of Israel and defended the kingdom of David!

※【Faced with suffering and overcome to go forward】22-35 Jesus turned His face to Jerusalem. He taught the people on the way and encouraged them to make every effort to enter through the narrow door. Many tried to enter but would not be able to. People will come from east and west and north and south, and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God. Indeed there are those who are last who will be first, just like Saul and Joab who were first would be last. Herod was like the descendant of Rapha who wanted to kill Jesus. But Jesus would still go forward courageously. He would continue to heal the sick and save men. He was not afraid of the cunning fox. The servants of David were also courageous and good in battle. They were not afraid of the huge enemy of twenty four toes. We ought to pay attention to listen to the sigh and the calling of the Lord. We do not need to care about the taunt of the enemy. We hide under the shelter of God's wings from the enemies and overcome them. The chosen people reject salvation and become a desolate till they are contrite and look on the one they have pierced and praise He who comes in the name of the Lord.

**Ps 68 / Rev 14:3 Main theme: Grab the Lord's words, pray in obedience to the Holy Spirit, sing a new song and revive greatly**

 **-A triumphal song / A new song**

Only have in mind the matters of the Lord and follow Him faithfully can sing a new song. This new song is also a triumphal song which is to grab the promise by faith and to consider God's mind to praise God for the peoples. This influence is the greatest and the farthest.

(1)【Sing out the righteousness of God】1-6 May God arise, may His enemies be scattered. God is a father to the fatherless and a defender of widows. He sets the lonely in families, He leads forth the prisoners with singing. But the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land.

(2)【Sing out God's Almighty】7-18 God's bounty is provided for the poor. The Lord announced the word, and great was the company of those who proclaimed it. When the Almighty scattered the kings, it was like snow. God will forever dwell in the holy mountain.

(3)【Sing out God's unfailing love】19-27 Lord our Savior bears our burdens daily and saves us. He will crush the heads of His enemies so the captivated people will be restored.

(4)【Praises and glory be ascribed to God】28-35 It is God who gives power to His people. May God show us His strength as He has done before. God has scattered the nations who delight in war. All people will return to the Lord. Praise God and ascribe the glory to Him.

**Central point of the wheels: Do not follow men's idea, obey the will and overcome the enemies, and sing a song of revival**

Dear Lord, may You let me learn righteousness and mercy, to walk your Way of love, be diligent to enter the narrow gate and sing out a new song so the whole land will revive!

**2 Sam 22 / Lk 14**

**Main theme: Cry out and overcome the enemies, obey the Lord's words completely and cast away everything to follow Him**

 **-Praise His grace / Reject His grace**

Golden verses: 2 Sam 22:31 Lk 14:26

A discussion on praising the grace and rejecting the grace - on one side it concerned David was delivered from all his enemies by God. So he made a song to praise God of His greatest deliverance. On the other side it concerned the people of God despised His salvation. They used all sorts of excuses to refuse and were unwilling to attend the feast of salvation. Only the poor and unworthy Gentiles enjoyed salvation. We ought to cast away everything to carry the cross and follow the Lord, to invite people to attend the feast so it may be fully seated to accomplish the mission of gospel preaching.

**A. Cry out in affliction, the humbled will be saved, be compassionate to those in privation**

Cry out (2 Sam 22:1-20) - Be saved (Lk 14:1-14)

1.【Cry out in affliction and be saved】1-7 In David's distress, he made a song to praise God for delivering him from the hands of all the enemies and Saul. All his life he experienced God was his rock, his savior, his refuge and everything. Though there was the torrents of destruction and the waves of death which overwhelmed him, he was delivered by God when he called out to Him in his distress.

※【Healed by the Lord in sickness】1-6 Jesus was brave to do good. He disregarded the objection of the Pharisees and healed a man dying from dropsy on the Sabbath. If an ox or donkey falls into a well, we will pull him out. What about men? The Lord's words made the enemy silent. As David called out to God in his distress, he was delivered. Those who are dying come before the Lord will be healed by Him. This shows how wide and long and high and deep is God's love! David overcame the torrents of destruction by God. Jesus had even overcome all the perilous situation of his enemy.

2.【God comes personally to draw me up】8-20 David praised God was majestic and made the enemies scattered. He overcame evil with goodness and treated his enemies with God's love. God came down personally drew him out of deep waters and rescued him from his powerful enemy. He also brought him out into a spacious spiritual space.

※【Whoever humbles will be exalted】7-14 The Lord made a parable to rebuke those who picked the places of honor lest a more distinguished person came and you would be invited to sit elsewhere and be humiliated to take the lowest place. David was in such a lowly situation. He was in the deep waters and God drew him out. He humbled himself in his trial and understood himself was like a dead dog and a flea. God exalted him as king. Saul was arrogant but was humbled. We ought to bear the Lord's mind and set feasts for the poor and crippled. Blessed is he who will be repaid by the Lord at the resurrection of the righteous. David overcame in his distress by God and his spiritual life was abundant to a spacious place so he led men to enjoy the abundance.

**B. Obey the Word and overcome the enemies, lead men to attend the feast and cast away to follow the Lord**

Praise (2 Sam 22-21-51) - Follow (Lk 14:15-35)

1.【Obey the Word and be favored】21-31 David obeyed the Word and was favored in distress. He understood the Lord's Word was perfect and every word was flawless. He was a shield for all who took refuge in Him. He walked in righteous and was far from evil. He advanced against a troop and scaled a wall. God rewarded him according to his pure and faithfulness.

※【Refuse and reject salvation】15-24 The banquet of salvation was all ready. The master sent the servants to invite men to attend the feast. But due to the worldly treasure and pleasure the people rejected salvation. The master was angry and sent men to the roads and lanes to make the poor to come in to enjoy the feast for free. Saul despised God's grace and was finally rejected. David treated the Lord's Word as the great feast. He valued God's words. Therefore he overcame the enemies and praised and triumphed.

2.【Praise God for bestowing the greatest deliverance】32-51 David experienced there was no other rock except God all his life. God was his strong refuge so he was able to destroy all his enemies by God. God preserved him as the head of nations and all people came cringing to him. He praised God's name among the nations because He was the tower of salvation.

※【Cast away everything to follow the Lord and be favored】25-35 Large crowds were traveling with Jesus. But if anyone comes to the Lord and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters, and even his life, he cannot be the Lord's disciple. Anyone who does not carry his cross and follow the Lord cannot be the Lord's disciple. Therefore he has to sit down and consider whether he is able to lest he began his work and was not able to finish or be the salt which has lost its saltiness and be thrown out. David contended by the Lord and destroyed all his inner enemies. He put his old self to death and left everything behind to walk with God. He praised and proclaimed God among the nations. Jesus finally cried out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

**Ps 69 / Rev 14:4 Main theme: Follow the Lord in a virgin way, cry out in affliction and destroy the enemies to possess the land**

 **-Suffer / Follow closely**

(1)【Suffer for the Lord】1-12 We are hated for no reason, and ridiculed and forsaken by family and friends and the mortal man. Even ourselves have folly and guilt.

(2)【Cry out to the Lord】13-29 May God answer me with His great love and do not let suffering to engulf me. In our distress may God answer me quickly to deal with my enemies so their eyes become blind and their backs are bent and are overtaken by God's fierce anger.

(3)【Repay the kindness to the Lord】30-36 I will give thanks and praise God. I will witness humbly that God heard my prayer. He does not despise His captive people. He will save and rebuild the holy city so His people and those who love him will inherit the possession and accomplish His will and plan.

**Central point of the wheels: Cast away everything to follow the Lord, invite men to attend the feast and overcome to praise**

Dear Lord, I am willing to cast away everything to follow You faithfully till the end, to invite men to attend your abundant feast of salvation and to praise your name among the nations!

**2 Sam 23 / Lk 15**

**Main theme: Do not be thorns, deny oneself to save others, be grateful and repay the kindness**

 **-Be warriors / Save the Prodigal son**

Golden verses: 2 Sam 23:15-17 Lk 15:4-5

A discussion on being warriors and saving the Prodigal son - on one side it recorded the names of the warriors of David, how they considered the king's heart to risk death to sacrifice and their military successes of destroying the enemies and saved the people courageously. On the other side it concerned Jesus set the parables to reveal God's loving heart for the sinners. He waited for their repentance. We ought to be a warrior of heaven to consider the mind of the Father to risk death to save men and to seek the lost sheep to satisfy God's heart.

**A. Consider God's mind, seek the lost sheep and risk death to save men**

Destroy the enemies (2 Sam 23:1-19) - Save men (Lk 15:1-16)

1.【Give thanks and praises to write a beautiful song】1-7 David gave thanks to God in his last days as an oracle of Israel to praise Him. God's Spirit spoke through David to prophesy Christ who rules men in righteousness in His reign in the fear of God. He is like the light of morning at sunrise and the brightness after rain. David believed God would secure the covenant with him and grant him fruition of salvation. (2 Sa 7:10-16) But the evil men would all be cast aside as thorns like Saul, Absalom and Sheba. They would be burned up by God's fire of judgment.

※【The sinners repent and sing a song of praise】1-7 The tax collectors and 'sinners' were all gathering around to hear Him. The Lord's Word is like the morning light which shines on the sinners of the shadow of death so they may repent and gain eternal life. Through God's Spirit and His words David wrote a beautiful song to witness God's salvation and everlasting covenant. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law were like the evil men and thorns who muttered and did not have the heart of the Lord. We ought to be like David to be a good shepherd to seek the lost sheep and risk our life to save the people from the evil men and the power of anti-God till they are in the barn. Then we will rejoice with our friends and neighbors. The repentance of sinners will be the same and heaven and earth will rejoice together!

2.【Destroy the enemies and save the people】8-12 The warriors of David had passed from death to life. They charged forward bravely to destroy the enemies to save the people. Shammah stood at the field full of lentils to strike the enemies and defended the field. He gained a great victory. (1 Co 3:9) Workers stand firm in the truth and are brave to sacrifice. They keep and protect the Word and restore the church of God.

※【Seek the sinners】8-10 Jesus made another parable to bear the mind of the Lord to seek the sinners like a woman who meticulously sought a lost coin till she found it. Then she rejoiced with her friends and neighbors together. There is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents. The warriors of David sacrificed bravely to destroy the enemies and save people. We ought to use the spiritual power to control over men's heart to restore to Christ (2 Co 10:3-5) because the Lord sees a soul more valuable than everything on earth.

3.【The warriors who satisfy the king's heart】13-19 There were another three warriors who went down to David at the cave of Adullam and heard David longed for the water from the well of Bethlehem. At that time the Philistines were camping at that place. Without caring for their safety, the three warriors risked their lives and broke through the enemy's camp to draw water to bring it to David to satisfy him. The water which they drew was like a drink offering before God. God's workers ought to retreat deeply into the Lord to see Him and hear His voice. Then they may be able to catch His heart and satisfy Him to risk their life to save men! Abishai was chief of the Three. He bravely fought against the enemies to save the people. He was held in great honor.

※【The Prodigal son who break the father's heart】11-16 Again Jesus set another parable of a younger son who was not satisfied with the house of the father. He requested to divide the property and went far away. He led a wild living and broke the father's heart. There was a famine when had spent everything. He was in great agony and was forced to take refuge in others. He fed pigs in the field but he was not fed. We ought to learn from the three warriors who risked their lives to break through the enemy's camp to grab to save the prodigal's son to satisfy the Lord who thirsted for the souls on the cross! (Jn 4:7; 19:28)

**B. Consider the Father's love, destroy the enemies resolutely and save the Prodigal son**

Lose the king's heart (2 Sam 23:20-39) - Break the father's heart (LK 15:17-32)

1.【Love God and love the people, and consider the king's heart】20-23 Benaiah was more honorable that the thirty. Not only was he brave to destroy the enemies, he loved God and men. He was tested for a long period and proved to be faithful till the end. He monitored a faithful troop - the Kerethites and Pelethites. (2 Sa 15:18; 1 Ki 1:38) He had the mind and love of the king. Finally he replaced Joab as the commander of king Solomon (2 Sa 20:23; 1 Ki 2:35)

※【The heart of the Prodigal son considers the love of the father】17-24 After the Prodigal's son had suffered thoroughly, he came to his senses and returned to his father. The father who had been waiting stretched out his loving hands to embrace him and kissed him. The Prodigal son confessed before his father. He died and now arose. He lost and now gained back. He enjoyed the father's love. We ought to be like Benaiah to consider the king's heart to be filled with God's love to grab to save the sinners from the bondage of sin, so the Prodigal son will return to the father's embrace. Joab was a commander all his life but he was not after David's heart. He personally killed two commanders. At the end his position as a commander was replaced by Benaiah. (1 Ki 2:35; Rev 3:11)

2.【The name is finally removed for not considering the king's heart】24-39 Asahel and Abishai the brothers of Joab were listed in the Thirty. Even the armor-bearer of Joab was listed as warriors except Joab's name was removed. He was vigorous all his life as a chief commander. Though he knew David's mind, he did not consider his heart. He even broke his heart. His ending was tragic. (1Ki 2:5-6) Uriah the Hittite (God's light) was though an alien, he was courageous and faithful. He had a suffering spirit and had in mind of God's ark. He was killed by David, a warrior who drank but did not fall. He was remembered by God forever.

※【Do not consider the father's heart like the elder son】25-32 The older brother returned from the field and heard the father had set a feast to rejoice for his younger brother. He was angry and jealous. He refused to go in. He did not consider the father's mind nor did he love his brother. He only loved himself. He was self-righteous and thought he should bear all the credit. He complained about the father. Though Joab was the chief commander, his behavior was worse than Uriah. He did not have in mind the kingdom of David nor was he satisfied of God's presence; just like the older brother who was selfish and self-righteous. He was arrogant. He was unable to catch David's heart. He did not love the Prodigal son. He conspired to kill. He did evil and harmed himself. As a result his gray head was brought down to the grave.

**Ps 70 / Rev 14:5 Main theme: Seek fervently, make every effort to be perfect, be holy and blameless**

 **-Pray fervently / Be blameless**

(1)【Pray fervently and the Lord delivers】1-3 As sins have overtaken me and troubles have awaited for me (Ps 40:12-17), may the Lord help me from the pit of sins so the enemies will be disgraced and turn back.

(2)【Seek the Lord and be glad in Him】4 It is because they have experienced the Lord's salvation.

(3)【I am urgently in need of the Lord】5 It is because I am poor and needy. I cannot mature to a blameless situation unless with the Lord's help.

**Central point of the wheels: Be blameless, consider the Father's heart, be willing to risk death and grab to save men**

Dear Lord, may You let me be your warrior to grab to save many Prodigal sons to return, to consider your mind and satisfy your heart!

**2 Sam 24 / Lk 16**

**Main theme: Remove all unrighteousness, pay the price to obey the Word and be free from disasters and blessed**

 **-Not loyal / Not righteous**

Golden verses: 2 Sam 24:10 Lk 16:10

A discussion on disloyalty and unrighteousness - on one side it concerned Satan came up to attack the Israelites. He instigated David to count his people and covet fame. He would not listen to dissuasion. Thereafter he was remorseful and took the lesson. He confessed to God and sacrificed offerings to restore His anger. On the other side it concerned Jesus discussed about an unrighteous manager. This teaches us we ought to be a faithful manager and a man of the light to be zealous to do good and save men for God. We also ought to be wise to help others through our worldly wealth and make friends, so that we may be remembered by the Lord in heaven. (Araunah the Jebusite and Ornan in 2 Ch 21:18-25 were brothers by blood. They were godly and loved God. One sacrificed a threshing floor and the other sacrificed the site of the threshing floor).

**A. Do not be foolish, be deeply remorseful and be God's faithful manager**

Foolish (2 Sam 24:1-14) - Wise (Lk 16:1-17)

1.【Covet fame】1-9 Satan incited David to sin because there was a gap in him. His old self coveted fame and he ordered Joab to take an unauthorized census. He took the position of God and stole His glory. He did not listen to Joab's dissuasion. (1 Ch 21:1-8)

※【The unrighteous manager】1-12 There was a dishonest manager. He wasted his master's possessions and was dismissed by him. He used his master's possession generously without authorization. He made friends and looked for a way out. David was supposed to be a son of light. In his merits and achievements he was arrogant. He craved for fame and glory. He cared only for the things before his eyes and not the result. His shrewdness was no better than the people of this world. The Lord encouraged His disciples to use worldly wealth to gain friends and they would be welcomed into eternal dwellings. David ought to have been God's faithful manager. How could he seek his own honor to take a census and posed himself as one who had rendered great service!

2.【Willing to be remorseful and have mercy from God】10-14 David was conscience-stricken after he had counted the fighting men. He prayed and confessed, and acknowledged he had done a very foolish thing. He had sinned greatly for doing this. God's words came upon Gad the prophet. He allowed David to choose an option. He had to think it over and decide whether three years of famine or fleeting from the enemies or three days of plague. David was willing to fall into the hands of God for His mercy was great.

※【Hard to enter the kingdom of God if not diligent】13-17 No servant can serve two masters. We cannot serve both God and Money. The Pharisees were greedy for money. When they heard the words of Jesus, they did not feel remorse. Instead they sneered at Jesus. They were self-righteous before men. What men find as honorable, God sees it detestable. They were unwilling to be diligent to keep the Word by God and were thus hard to enter the kingdom of God. After David had sinned, he was conscience-stricken. He knew he did a foolish thing and was shown mercy by God.

**B. By redemption, cease God's anger, consider the Lord's mind and grab to save men**

By grace (2 Sam 24:15-25) - Save men (Lk 16:18-31)

1.【God is grieved and gives mercy】15-17 So God sent a plague and seventy thousand people died. When the angel stretched out his hand to destroy Jerusalem, God was grieved and showed His mercy. He told the angel to withdraw his hand. The angel of God was then at the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite. This was the place where Abraham sacrificed Issac, (Gen 22:2; 2 Ch 3:1) the place where the lamb (representing Christ) was killed. After David was contrite, he returned and understood God's mind. He cried for his flock and was willing that God's hand fell upon him and his family.

※【God examines and executes righteousness】18-22 There was a rich man who lived in luxury. He was complacent and enjoyed himself. But Lazarus the beggar was covered with sores and with no one to show him mercy. Only the dogs came and licked his sores. God was righteous. Lazarus was justified by faith. After he died, he was brought beside Abraham full of comfort. The rich man died and was buried. But he was brought to the grave to suffer because he rejected salvation and was without mercy. He only longed for the satisfaction of the present life. After David's failure, he knew God was righteous. He had in mind of God's compassionate heart. He confessed and interceded for his flock. The rich man only cared for himself. He had no regard for the life and death of Lazarus and he was condemned.

2.【Build an altar and sacrifice to save the flock】18-25 David obeyed and built an altar for God on the threshing floor of Araunah. He paid the full price to buy the threshing floor. He built an altar and sacrificed for the sins of himself and his people. Thus God answered prayer in behalf of the land and the plague was stopped. Due to this David also found the determined place to build the temple. (2 Ch 3:1)

※【Quickly sacrifice yourself to save the souls】23-31 The rich man was in agony in the fire in hell. He looked up and saw Lazarus by the side of Abraham. He regretted. It was the result of despising God's abundant mercy, tolerance and endurance. Araunah the Jebusite gave thanks humbly. He grabbed the chance to sacrifice everything willingly. He was remembered forever. Between the rich man and Lazarus there was a great chasm which could not be passed over. David built an altar to sacrifice. He was redeemed by the blood and God's wrath was restored. The rich man requested Abraham to send Lazarus to dip some water to cool his tongue and to warn his five brothers. This was a wishful thinking. The rich man was not contrite when he was on earth and it was in vain to be sad after death. David quickly obeyed to build an altar and paid the full price to offer and redeem his sins to restore God's wrath. While we are still alive, we ought to warn our kindred so they may be redeemed by faith lest they may go to hell and doom to destruction. Though Lazarus suffered while he was on earth, he was redeemed by the cross of Christ to enjoy the eternal pleasures in his afterlife!

**Ps 71 / Rev 14:6 Main theme: Seek righteousness persistently, fly to proclaim extensively, increase honor and the enemies will be ashamed**

 **-Increase honor / Fly to proclaim**

God's children should not be willing to turn back and be disgraced, instead they should pray to increase their honor to fly and proclaim the gospel extensively to repay the Lord's goodness.

(1)【Always dwell in the Lord and praise all day long】1-8 Dwell in the Lord always by Him. Be delivered from the hands of the enemy and never be ashamed. Fill your mouth with praise and declare His splendor all day long.

(2)【Pray to increase my honor】9-24 Always pursue righteousness and exalt the salvation. Though we are in bitter troubles, the Lord will save us. We shall continue to proclaim the Lord's grace even when we are old without waiting for death negatively. Let us pray to increase our honor. We ought to be like the angel fleeting in the air to proclaim the gospel widely to save all people and declare the power of the Lord to all who are to come to comfort the Lord's heart.

**Central point of the wheels: Deny oneself and be faithful, proclaim the Word and save men**

Dear Lord, may You make me humble to be a faithful manager without coveting fame and wealth but repay your kindness with all my heart and save the souls!