

Discovering God: Part 5- Limitless  
1 and 2 Samuel

**I. ME**

- A. Welcome
- B. Discovering God
  - 1. **What we think we know about God keeps us from discovering God**
  - 2. Most misunderstood/misused- SIN

**II. WE**

- A. Not a word we use outside of religion.
  - 1. Friends/family/ co-workers
- B. Uncomfortable
  - 1. Heavy, guilt, final, impending judgment
  - 2. Explain it away... only human, everyone messes up.
  - 3. Make it sound like accidents.
  - 4. No accidental affairs, robberies, lies, judgmental attitudes.
- C. Uncomfortable b/c we have all sinned.
  - 1. **Sin is breaking the Law of Love**
  - 2. Three times a day for year- 1095
- D. Can't do anything to take it away...
  - 1. Try but can't
  - 2. Stuck
  - 3. **Blender**
- E. God hates sin...
  - 1. **Sin separates**
  - 2. Yourself, others, him
  - 3. Hide, avoid, cover

- F. What we think we know about sin and God
  - 1. God hates sinners and he's angry
  - 2. We're testing his patience
  - 3. Ready to judge
  - 4. Won't accept me
  - 5. Or won't keep me.
  - 6. If I don't clean up my behavior he'll never let me in or he'll kick me out.

G. **Fact: God's love is not based on our behavior.**

- H. Don't believe me... let's look at one of the most famous historical characters recorded in the Jewish Scriptures.
  - 1. A man after God's own heart.
  - 2. Given everything anyone could hope for
    - a. Wealth, influence, fame, power.
    - b. Wrote part of the Bible
  - 3. Squandered potential, failed husband and father, nepotistic king, adulterer, murderer.
  - 4. Never lost God's love.
  - 5. Proves... **God's love and forgiveness has no limits**

**III. GOD (1 and 2 Samuel)**

- A. Samuel background
  - 1. Hannah/Samuel
  - 2. Saul- Blech

**B. 1 Sam. 16:1**

- 1. Jesse- Great Grandson of Rahab
- 2. 8 sons, Jesse only brings 7- youngest couldn't possibly be the one
- 3. God- All 7 Nope
- 4. Brings youngest- David... YES
- 5. Why David? Deserve? Earn?
  - a. Not even part of royal family
  - b. His own family didn't think he was worth inviting
- 6. **Our qualifications don't qualify us for God's love.**

### C. More Story- Saul still king

1. David in service
2. Goliath
3. Saul's Jealousy
4. Hunted
5. Lies to priests at Nob
6. Saul kills entire town... all but one

### D. 1 Sam 22:20-23

1. **Making amends doesn't change the past.**

### E. Saul and sons die

1. David becomes king and unifies tribes into one nation of Israel.
2. Defeats enemies
3. Enjoys a time of peace

### F. Decided God needed a temple

1. God through Nathan said it's not going to be you... but
2. Gives him an unbelievable and UNCONDITIONAL promise
3. **2 Sam 7:8-9** (you've heard of David)... goes on
4. **2 Sam 7:11b-16**

### G. God promised David...

1. His name would be great- done
2. His son would reign after him and build the temple
  - a. Solomon's temple is still something of legend
3. His kingdom would endure forever
  - a. FOREVER- interesting
4. Any conditions on this promise?
  - a. NO- not "if you, then I"
5. Jews later would see this promise as promising the Jewish Messiah, Savior would come out of David's descendents.
6. They were right... Why Matt established Jesus in David's lineage

7. Why the angels to the shepherds made a point to say... "Today in the town of David a savior has been born"
8. God kept his promise to David
9. But David didn't deserve it.

### H. More Story- BATHSHEBA

1. Army out... David stays home... sees young woman bathing... curious
2. **2 Sam 11:3**- "She's the daughter of one of your friends and the wife of one of your best warriors... both of whom are out fighting for you."
3. Knew better... no accident
4. Sleeps with her, pregnant, uh-oh.
5. Uriah- tries to trick... nope.
6. Kill him- **Murder and Abuse of power**
7. Nathan confronts
8. Consequences- **2 Sam 12:10-12**
9. David repents (**2 Sam 12:13**)... can't make up for his past
10. Relies solely on God's mercy and love.
11. **The only source of forgiveness and redemption is God's unfailing love.**

### I. More Story- Next years did not go well

1. Oldest son Amnon raped half-sister Tamar
2. David's response **Sam 13:21**--- Anger no action.
3. 2 yrs Tamar's full brother Absalom waits for David to make it right... has Amnon murdered
4. Absalom flees.
5. Comes back and David refuses to see him.
6. More intrigue until Absalom decides he needs to be king
7. Would stop people on their way to get judgments from David
8. **2 Sam 15:3-4** for 4 years.

### J. Absalom starts a civil war

1. Forces David to flee the capitol
2. Ends with Absalom being hunted down and slaughtered against David's orders.
3. All of it was **David's fault**.
4. He was a terrible father,
5. Held himself and his family above the law of God
6. Squandered everything God had given him...
7. Hundreds if not thousands had died b/c of his choices.
8. If God's love had limits David would have blown them apart.

### K. But God never took back his promise.

1. He never changed his mind
2. David's choices and behavior were never a surprise.
3. B/c it was never really about David and his behavior
4. He was given the promise based on nothing but God's love and he received the promise based on nothing but God's love.

### 5. **God's promises are based on his love.**

### L. End story-David and Bathsheba have a 2<sup>nd</sup> son, Solomon

1. Becomes king and leads Israel into it's golden age
2. Built the temple
3. Any consider to be wisest man
4. Author of 3 books of the Bible
5. Jesus
6. Proof that God's love is not based on our behavior.

### **IV. YOU**

- A. You might not have a lot in common with David
1. But like him we've all put God's love to the test
  2. We've broken his law of love
  3. We've made promises to others, ourselves, and even God that we have broken over and over.
  4. How many times can you expect God to forgive you?
  5. How could he ever forgive or love someone like you?
  6. If God's love could be lost we would have all lost it years ago. (toddler/teens/20's)

### 7. **Your sin is not stronger than God's love**

### 8. **Romans 5:8**

9. He died for you before you were for him.

B. Which is why Jesus came to destroy the power of sin and it's ultimate consequence death, without destroying you.

**1. Freedom Fighter**

C. Only requirement is to trust in his payment.

1. Can't earn it.
2. Don't deserve it
3. Free Gift you just have to receive

D. Once you receive it... this is his unconditional promise...

1. **John 5:24 and John 6:37**

2. **Your behavior does not cancel God's promise**

3. Citizenship cannot be revoked b/c of crimes

4. My kids' DNA doesn't change when they rebel

E. So we can do whatever we want?

1. I guess you can... but if you become a Child of God... your identity starts to transform.
2. You start looking, acting and thinking like your heavenly Father... not looking for loopholes or how close to sin you can get
3. **When you follow Jesus your life becomes love not self.**
4. Following Jesus makes your life better and you better at life.

**F. Decision**

1. Ever a moment you accepted his offer?
2. Or feel like he must have revoked his offer?
3. It's yours to accept and rely on and enjoy.
4. **Opportunity today.**

**V. WE**

A. God doesn't hate you b/c of your sin.

B. God loves you so he waded into the mess we had made... and destroyed sin.

C. He orchestrated human history in order to bring YOU into his family.

D. You and your behavior have no power to change God's love.

E. There is nothing that will make him love you more bc there is nothing that can make him love you less.

F. Trust him, rely on him, believe his promise.

G. **When you discover God you discover complete and unconditional love.**