

How Have the Mighty Fallen

2 Samuel 1:17-27

1. The background.
 - a. The _____.
 - b. The _____.
2. What David felt.
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
 - e. _____
3. What David did.
 - a. He _____ the dead.
 - b. He _____ the dead.
 - c. He _____ the dying.
4. What David taught.
 - a. _____ men fall.
 - b. _____ places fail.

How Have the Mighty Fallen

David's Lament

2 Samuel 1:1-27

2 Samuel 1:17-27

What we learn from David

When we suffer great losses,
it is good to acknowledge what we feel,
to lament those lost, and to remind
ourselves of our source of hope.

David's Lament

Background

Background

The Relationships

Saul and David

1 Samuel 23:14

And David stayed in the wilderness in the strongholds,
and remained in the hill country in the wilderness of Ziph.

And Saul sought him every day,
but God did not deliver him into his hand.

Jonathan and David

1 Samuel 18:1-3

Now it came about when he had finished speaking to Saul,
that the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David,
and Jonathan loved him as himself.

And Saul took him that day
and did not let him return to his father's house.

Then Jonathan made a covenant with David
because he loved him as himself.

Background

The Relationships

The circumstances

God's Silence
Israel's Desertion
Saul and Jonathan's Death

David's Lament

Background

What David Felt

David's poetic expression of what he felt gives insight into common emotions in the face of loss.

What David Felt

Shock

2 Samuel 1:11

Then David took hold of his clothes and tore them,
and so also did all the men who were with him.

2 Samuel 1:17-19

Then David chanted with this lament
over Saul and Jonathan his son, and he told them to teach
the sons of Judah the song of the bow;
behold, it is written in the book of Jashar.

*Your beauty, O Israel, is slain on your high places!
How have the mighty fallen!*

Whether it is by a diagnosis
or by a declaration,
the news of death shocks.

What David Felt

Shock

Shame

2 Samuel 1:19-20

Your beauty, O Israel, is slain on your high places!

How have the mighty fallen!

Tell it not in Gath,

Proclaim it not in the streets of Ashkelon;

Lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice,

Lest the daughters of the uncircumcised exult.

The circumstances of Saul and Jonathan's deaths brought shame upon the nation and dishonored God's name.

Death is frequently followed by shame, including our “what ifs”.

What David Felt

Shock

Shame

Anger

2 Samuel 1:21

*O mountains of Gilboa,
Let not dew or rain be on you,
nor fields of offerings;
For there the shield of the mighty was defiled,
The shield of Saul, not anointed with oil.*

David's curse reveals
a measure of anger against
Israel and Saul's soldiers.

2 Samuel 1:21

*O mountains of Gilboa,
Let not dew or rain be on you,
nor fields of offerings;*

***For there the shield of the mighty was defiled,
The shield of Saul, not anointed with oil.***

Anger often accompanies death.
But our anger must give way
to God's grace.

What David Felt

Shock

Shame

Anger

Sorrow

2 Samuel 1:11-12

Then David took hold of his clothes and tore them,
and so also did all the men who were with him.

And they mourned and wept and fasted
until evening for Saul and his son Jonathan
and for the people of the LORD
and the house of Israel,
because they had fallen by the sword.

2 Samuel 1:24

O daughters of Israel, weep over Saul,
Who clothed you luxuriously in scarlet,
Who put ornaments of gold on your apparel.

Sorrow is an acknowledgement
of real losses that always
accompany death.

What David Felt

Shock

Shame

Anger

Sorrow

Anguish

2 Samuel 1:25-26

How have the mighty fallen in the midst of the battle!

Jonathan is slain on your high places.

I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan;

You have been very pleasant to me.

Your love to me was more wonderful

Than the love of women.

The grip of grief greatens when
hearts are tightly knit.

David's Lament

Background

What David Felt

What David Did

What David Did

He honored the dead.

2 Samuel 1:22-23

*From the blood of the slain, from the fat of the mighty,
The bow of Jonathan did not turn back,
And the sword of Saul did not return empty.
Saul and Jonathan, beloved and pleasant in their life,
And in their death they were not parted;
They were swifter than eagles,
They were stronger than lions.*

It is in the nature of grace to put away the wrongs and to honor that which is noble in the lives of the deceased.

**In honoring Saul,
David displayed faith in God.**

What David Did

He honored the dead.

He grieved the dead.

2 Samuel 1:11-12

Then David took hold of his clothes and tore them,
and so also did all the men who were with him.

And they mourned and wept and fasted
until evening for Saul and his son Jonathan
and for the people of the LORD
and the house of Israel,
because they had fallen by the sword.

No matter the person or the
circumstance, death is to be
grieved because death is not
as it ought to be.

What David Did

He honored the dead.

He grieved the dead.

He taught the dying.

2 Samuel 1:17-19

Then David chanted with this lament
over Saul and Jonathan his son, and he told them to teach
the sons of Judah the song of the bow;
behold, it is written in the book of Jashar.

Death is a great teacher to those
who will listen.

Ecclesiastes 7:4

The mind of the wise is in the house of mourning,
While the mind of fools is in the house of pleasure.

David's Lament

Background

What David Felt

What David Did

What David Taught

What David Taught

The mighty men fall.

2 Samuel 1:19, 25, 27

¹⁹ *Your beauty, O Israel, is slain on your high places!
How have the mighty fallen!*

²⁵ *How have the mighty fallen
in the midst of the battle!*

²⁷ *How have the mighty fallen,
And the weapons of war perished!*

Hope is not found in human strength.

It is found in the strength of
Christ who vanquished death.

What David Taught

The might men fall.

The high places fail.

2 Samuel 1:19, 25

¹⁹ *Your beauty, O Israel, is slain on your high places!
How have the mighty fallen!*

²⁵ *How have the mighty fallen in the midst of the battle!
Jonathan is slain on your high places.*

Death had triumphed on the very
places of Israel's false hopes.

False religion will always fail you.

Conclusion

Death reminds us of our human condition and can turn our hearts to worship by re-establishing Christ as our only hope in life and death.