



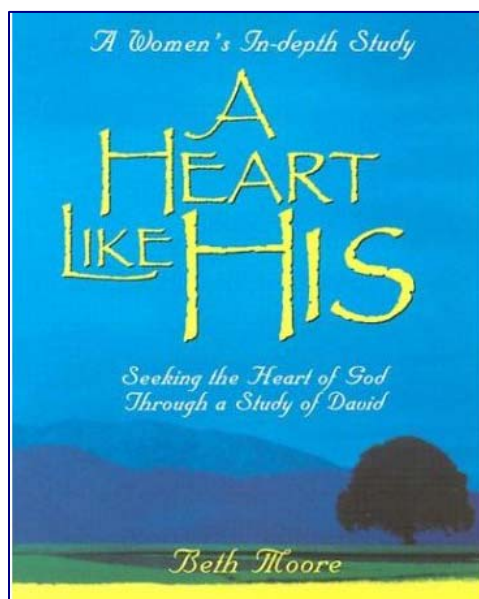
DEAN WELCH - TEACHER

NEW KING, NEW THRONE, SAME LORD!
(TIME + CONFLICT = CHANGE
[2 SAMUEL 2-6]

WEEKLY SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

MARCH 16, 2008

FROM THE *MASTER WORKS* SERIES STUDY OF:



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NEW KING, NEW THRONE, SAME LORD

[2 SAMUEL 2-6]

Max Lucado, in his book *Facing Your Giants*, reminds his readers that the God who guided David also guides you. You simply need to consult your Maker. A fact, he says, that he forgot before making a recent decision. Listen to Max's words: "I awoke early one morning for a meeting. When searching for some breakfast, I opened a plastic bag of cookies in the kitchen. Denalyn and our daughter Sara had just attended a school bake sale, so I thought, *'What great luck! Breakfast cookies. Denalyn must have set them out for me.'* I ate one and found it very chewy, almost gummy. *Interesting texture,* I thought. *Reminds me of pita bread.* I ate a second. The taste was a bit subtle for my preference, but when mixed with coffee, it made for an interesting option. I grabbed a third for the road. I would have grabbed the fourth, but only one remained, so I left it for Denalyn. Later in the day she phoned. *'Looks like someone has been in the bag.'* *'It was me,'* I admitted. *'I've had better breakfast cookies, but those weren't bad.'* *'Those weren't breakfast cookies, Max.'* *'They weren't?'* *'No.'* *'What were they?'* *'Homemade dog biscuits!'* *'Oh...'* That explained a lot. That explained the gummy texture and the tasteless taste. That also explained why all day each time I scratched my belly, my leg kicked."

Max should have heeded his own advice. He should have consulted the maker of the "cookies." We need to consult ours—just like David did in our lesson this week.

Today we complete the third week of our study from Beth Moore's *A Heart Like His* as we ushered in a pivotal season of David's life. The young shepherd boy who had been anointed by the Holy Spirit many years before finally got to occupy the promised throne, but the crown did not come easily. God used the struggles leading to the throne to prepare His chosen king. Remember last week we dealt with tragic ends and faithful friends as we studied the death

of Saul and Jonathan and ended our study with five important relationships each of us needs to encompass in our individual lives.

This week we learned that the God who guided David also guides you and I. Let's start with some confirming verses that God hasn't changed and that He still promises to guide us. These are great memory verses for you to jot down and carry with you as a constant reminder of who's really in control in our lives—and it's not us! Open your Bible to **PSALM 32:8 (NIV)** and follow along: *⁸I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you.* Now, turn to **PROVERBS 3:6 (NIV)**, the second part of a memory verse you know by heart: *⁶in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.*

ISAIAH 30:21 (NIV) says this: *²¹Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it."* Finally, turn to **JOHN 10:27 (NIV)**: *²⁷My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.*

Most of our time today will be spent in **2 SAMUEL 2-6** so I hope you had time this week in your daily study time to read these chapters and have an idea of what went on as David was ascending to the throne as the second king of Israel, anointed by God Himself. As 2 Samuel 2 opens, remember that David is thirty years old. It's been about fifteen years since Samuel went to the home of Jesse and anointed the young shepherd boy as the next king and a lot has happened to David over those years. He's been a giant-killer, a hero, a fugitive, a cave-dweller and spent many hours of discouragement and disillusionment in the wilderness. He was a broken, humbled man during those years as a fugitive and finally he becomes king. It's not been easy. But you learned this week that David did not just storm into the role and demand everyone to submit to his rule. No, he was a sensitive man. He had learned how to lead and how to rally others around him in the afflictions of his yesterdays ... especially while he was a cave dweller? Often we're better at handling afflictions than we are at handling promotions.

So, following up on last week's lesson, after David hears about Saul's death—knowing he was to be the next king—what does he do? Seems like if there was ever a chance for a person to take life by his own two fists and demand a following, it was now. But he didn't. Turn to **2 SAMUEL 2:1 (NIV)** and listen: *In the course of time, David inquired of the LORD. "Shall I go up to one of the towns of Judah?" he asked. The LORD said, "Go up." David asked, "Where shall I go?" "To Hebron," the LORD answered.*

Wow! Look what David does. He asks the Lord, "Is it time now, Lord?" He didn't rush to the throne and take charge although it'd been fifteen years. No, he waited patiently on God for further instructions. And look what happened. God said, in effect, "Begin your reign in Hebron." In those days, the Lord spoke audibly to His servants. Today He speaks from His Word. Continuing with verses 2-4, *²So David went up there with his two wives, Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail, the widow of Nabal of Carmel. ³David also took the men who were with him, each with his family, and they **settled in** Hebron and its towns. ⁴Then the men of Judah came to Hebron and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah.*

Let's pause a minute, as David's inquiring of the Lord raises an interesting question. What kind of decisions do we need to inquire of the Lord about? If we are moving? If we are changing jobs? If we are getting married? If we are getting divorced? If we are buying a house? If we are buying a movie? If we are buying a car?

Look at **Verse 3** again and tell me what David did when he got to the new city of Hebron? [SETTLED IN] What does that mean "to settle in?" In spite of his ability to handle the whole nation—not just Judah—he settled in. It's important to see his humility in waiting on God, for God's perfect timing and not his own agenda. Do we do the same thing or do we get ahead of God? How can you get ahead of God even when there's a good purpose? Why do you think David was told to go to Hebron first when God had given him the whole kingdom so many years earlier?

Although God had in fact given David the kingdom, apparently God still had to work out and build more character in David. Sometimes it takes longer to work out character than to prepare a kingdom. He was getting David mentally and emotionally and physically ready to take over that position.

Notice that not only did David obey God and go to Hebron to begin his reign, but we are told how long he remained in that limited capacity. Look at **2 SAMUEL 2:11**: *The length of time David was king in Hebron over the house of Judah was seven years and six months.* Amazing, isn't it? David doesn't complain that he's not king over all Israel. He isn't anxious. He has learned to wait on God. How many of you enjoy waiting? Is it any easier the older you get? Why?

This week, Beth Moore introduced a formula in our study: **TIME + CONFLICT = CHANGE**. Look now at **2 SAMUEL 3:1 (NIV)**: *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.* Now, notice a couple of the factors in her equation in that verse. It says there was war in the house of Saul and in the house of David and that it lasted a long time. Now, look at the results of that war and that very long time. It says that David grew stronger and stronger and the house of Saul grew weaker and weaker. And here we see our equation because inevitably, **TIME + CONFLICT = CHANGE**, and we're going to see that there are many similarities between our own experiences and David's.

In the video series that Beth Moore does for this study, in follow-up to her formula, she pointed out each of us shares three similarities with David which apply to the process described in 2 SAMUEL 3:1. First, we'll find that we all have been promised a **KINGDOM**. Turn to **HEBREWS 12:28** and follow along as we look at this: *Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe,*

We too have been promised a kingdom, so we can know that we have some similarities that we can be watching for in the process of David taking this throne.

Also, we've been told that we too will **REIGN** with Him. Listen to these confirming words from **REVELATION 5:10**, *You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.*" Thirdly, we also are being prepared for that kingdom through **TIME PLUS CONFLICT** and that's what Beth Moore emphasizes in our lesson this week.

Turn to **PHILIPPIANS 1:3-6** and here we see this is one of the most interesting passages toward this end in the New Testament. We're going to talk about change and what it takes to change. Let me ask you: Do you find that change is something you're very resistant toward? Are you one that change somehow frightens or intimidates? Or is there one in your family that dreads change and sees any kind of change as just NEGATIVE? What about here in the Church? What about with the Give To Grow Campaign?

We need to understand why CHANGE is so necessary and why we're going to have to come to a place of assuming that God is going to continue that work of change in us and accept the fact that we can't remain the same. Now, let's talk about this based on these verses from Philippians 1, **verses 3-6**: *³I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*

That promise is an assurance, is it not? He said, "I'm being confident of this," in verse 6, *that he who began a good work in your WILL CARRY IT ON...*" Notice that it does NOT say He will with our cooperation or if He's in the mood to or if He sees something that needs taking care of. No, it says, He *"WILL carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."* God always finishes that

which He starts. He always completes His Work. He never leaves a job undone and He certainly won't leave our job undone.

So, why is it such a requirement that we change? Verse 6 tells us that he will begin that good work and will carry it on to completion, but what's the good work? Turn to **ROMANS 8:28-29** and look: *²⁸And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.* It says what the good work is here. Verse 29 says that He has predestined us to be conformed to what? The *likeness of his Son*. He wants to take the likeness of Christ and impress it on us.

We've talked before about how the government trains its Secret Service agents to find counterfeit money. Anyone remember? They spend ALL of their time learning and memorizing everything about the REAL thing—not all about the counterfeit or fake money. I'd have thought just the opposite. But, isn't that what you and I are to do too? Should we not be so well-acquainted with the REAL THING that we don't have to think twice about what it means to be FAKE? God basically places Christ picture down on one side and ours on the other and says He won't be satisfied until our's looks just like Jesus'.

With this in mind, how much do you look like the Savior today? This weekend? This past week? Well, if not, then that means one thing in our agenda. That means change! Isn't that what was happening in David's life over the fifteen year period from his initial anointing until 2 Samuel 2? So, in order to look like Christ we've got to change.

But what about the role of time—that's the requirement of change? We've got a lot of work to do because we've got to look like Him. Look back at **PHIL 1:5-6** as we look at this role of time again. There are three references to time here. Listen as I read: *⁵because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until*

now, ⁶being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. What three references do you see there? [FROM THE FIRST DAY, UNTIL NOW, UNTIL THE DAY OF CHRIST JESUS] Obviously, we're living in a **NOW** and so we are living in the middle of a changing process in our lives.

That's the role of time. Did you notice that it said in **2 SAMUEL 3:1** that the conflict went on for a very long time? That's where we see the TIME + CONFLICT will always bring CHANGE. Because we see that the house of Saul grew weaker and weaker but the house of David grew stronger and stronger. They was no way for them to remain the same. And that formula worked together for change—but it took time and it took a long time to prepare him to have a seat in that kingdom.

What is God doing in your **NOW** right now? Look back at **PHILIPPIANS 1:6** again: *⁶being confident of this, that he who began a **GOOD WORK** in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.* Notice first that God's activity is GOOD. The work He is doing in your life—in your NOW—is good. What does good mean? [EXCELLENT, BEST, DISTINGUISHABLE] What God is doing is **BEST**—it's **EXCELLENT** in your life. Is that you? Is everything you are doing day in and day out being done with **EXCELLENCE**? Do we even know what an excellent life really is?

Not only is it good, but it's a GOOD WORK. Notice that it says He who began a good work in you. That word "work" there means labor or business in the Greek. Do you know that God is about His business in your life and not only that, it's work! It's work to God what we're doing. He's doing a work in our lives. He's doing a business in our life to complete what He started. Beth Moore gave an insightful verse in her video lecture this week that should make you smile. Turn to **ISAIAH 43:22-25**. Talking to His children, the nation of Israel, God says: *²²"Yet you have not called upon me, O Jacob, you have not wearied yourselves for me, O Israel. ²³You have not brought me sheep for burnt offerings, nor honored me with your sacrifices. I have not burdened you with grain offerings*

*nor wearied you with demands for incense. ²⁴You have not bought any fragrant calamus for me, or lavished on me the fat of your sacrifices. **But you have burdened me with your sins and wearied me with your offenses.***

He's saying, *"It's not you who's doing all the work. You're making me pretty weary because you're not working with me here."* And that's what I think He is saying to me sometime. I'm doing a work in your life, Dean, and it takes energy of mine to do this work. I have business to attend to in your life and when you do not cooperate with me—when you do not participate with me in this victory—YOU WEARY ME! You weary me. Can you identify here? Ever feel that way, say, with one of your children maybe?

Our **NOW** takes some work. Life doesn't always come easy and you can't have everything you want. God is doing a work in your life and that requires change over time. This work in process will have an end, however. Notice in verse 6 of Philippians 1, it says completion will arrive the day of Christ Jesus. There's another verse that tells us this. Listen to these words from the psalmist in **PSALMS 138:8**: *The LORD will **fulfill** his purpose for me; your love, O LORD, endures forever—do not abandon the works of your hands.* He will complete—fulfill—his purpose for me. He's not only completing a work in us, He's got to finish everything that concerns us. He's got a lot of work to do in us until then, doesn't He? His activity is **continuous** until that end we spoke of.

Now, let's move to the **ROLE OF CONFLICT**. We can almost take time instead of conflict. But in Beth Moore's formula, in order to get to the "EQUALS CHANGE," we got to get to have the **TIME + CONFLICT**. Remember what we read in 1 SAMUEL 3:1 about the **WAR**, it went on a long time and that's what equaled the change. Does anyone like conflict? Let's turn to **JAMES 1:2-5** and look at this conflict factor. This is a tough scripture because I don't know anyone who just loves this scripture: *²Consider it pure **joy**, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. ⁴Perseverance must **finish** its work so that you may be mature and*

complete, not lacking anything. ⁵If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.

Count it all joy, he says, when you suffer various trials because don't you see what He's working in you? That completing work. We've already talked about the process in Philippians 1:6—so you can know there will be trials. They're going to be conflicts. Now the paradox about those conflicts is that they are literally not what keep us from persevering—our conflicts cause us to be able to persevere. That's the paradox that drives us nuts. If we didn't have any trials, we'd never be able to stand the trials to come. He says the way I build up perseverance in you is I prove to you that you can do it. I prove to you that you can hang in there the next time, because you've already been there once. I prove to you through experience and I build you up and strengthen you through the many things you've suffered. Can anyone confirm what this is saying from a personal experience?

Let's look at the **PERSEVERANCE** element of conflict as we end. Turn to **HEBREWS 12: 1-2**: *¹Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. ²Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

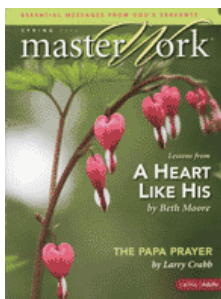
In the 1986 New York City Marathon, almost 20,000 runners entered the race. What is memorable is not who won, but who finished last. His name was Bob Wieland. He finished 19,413th—dead last. Bob completed the New York marathon in 4 days, 2 hours, 47 minutes, and 17 seconds. It was unquestionably the slowest marathon in history—ever. So, what is it that made Bob Wieland's marathon so special? Bob ran with his arms. 17 years earlier while in Vietnam, Bob's legs were blown off in battle. He sits on a 15 pound saddle and covers his fists with pads. He uses his arms to catapult himself forward one arm-length at a time. He can

run a mile in an hour. That is real endurance in the face of adversity. Now, that is perseverance ... that is effort, isn't it? And we can learn a lot from that incredible example in that man's life. We need to learn the lesson of perseverance.

That's what made David **dance** down the streets of Jerusalem in our lesson this week. Remember the verses from **2 SAMUEL 6:14-16**? *¹⁴David, wearing a linen ephod, danced before the LORD with all his might, ¹⁵while he and the entire house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouts and the sound of trumpets. ¹⁶As the ark of the LORD was entering the City of David, Michal daughter of Saul watched from a window. And when she saw King David leaping and dancing before the LORD, she despised him in her heart.*

David didn't dance in spite of the difficulty. He dance because it had been so hard, so difficult getting there—and the victory was certainly sweet. Just because you've fallen, do not give up. If you face a hurdle, keep at it until you can jump it. If you fall, stand back up again. Let God brush you off and try again. Don't give up. Keep trying. For the joy set before you; for the Christ who stands at the finish line completing that every work. He's worthy.

Let's pray!



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