

God's Interruption

1 Chronicles 21:1-2 - David Counts the Fighting Men - Satan rose up against Israel and incited David to take a census of Israel. 2 So David said to Joab and the commanders of the troops, "Go and count the Israelites from Beersheba to Dan. Then report back to me so that I may know how many there are."

1 Chronicles 21:8-13 - 8 Then David said to God, "I have sinned greatly by doing this. Now, I beg you, take away the guilt of your servant. I have done a very foolish thing."

9 The Lord said to Gad, David's seer, 10 "Go and tell David, 'This is what the Lord says: I am giving you three options. Choose one of them for me to carry out against you.'"

11 So Gad went to David and said to him, "This is what the Lord says: 'Take your choice: 12 three years of famine, three months of being swept away before your enemies, with their swords overtaking you, or three days of the sword of the Lord—days of plague in the land, with the angel of the Lord ravaging every part of Israel.' Now then, decide how I should answer the one who sent me."

13 David said to Gad, "I am in deep distress. Let me fall into the hands of the Lord, for his mercy is very great; but do not let me fall into human hands."

God's interruption

There are many times that God must deal adversely and hard with people.

- I don't believe that it's really the desire of the Lord to have to do that.

But God lets things happen.

- And those things happening many times are intended to change us. And our thinking.
- And the way that we live.

God does his best to change us.

- But if we refuse the kinder hand of the Lord.
- He does know how to speak a language that you will understand.

God chose the foolishness of preaching—not only to save—

- But to serve as **the sharpening edge of ministry...**
- **The honing stone** that brings the church into alignment with - -
- His purpose and perspective.

Romans 10:17 - So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

But when people refuse to hear the ministry of the Word that is anointed, then God has no alternative but to speak to us in a way that we'll understand.

James 1:22 - But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

And the truth is—sometimes, in our affluence, our comfort, and our routines—**we stop hearing His voice.**

Hebrews 13:5 - Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

So, He shakes us, not to punish us, **but to draw us near again.**

Philippians 2:8 - And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

If God has been talking to you over a period of time, remember this.

- **It's to your benefit to hear Him** because He can talk a language that you'll understand.

Many times despite all that God does, we still rebel against **what He really wants** and His desire in us.

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It was so devastating—so out of line—that even Joab, David's hardened military captain, couldn't hold his peace.

- He came to the king and pleaded, **"David, why would you want to do this?"**
- **All the people belong to the Lord**—and they serve you already.
- Don't number them. Don't do it.

Joab begged him—warned him.

- But David, drunk on the wine of his own success and power, **hardened his heart.**
- **"I want to know,"** he insisted.

Joab obeyed, but reluctantly.

- When he returned with the number, **he came back with another desperate plea:**
- ***“David, please don’t do this.***
- **If you go through with it, you’ll bring a trespass against Israel.”**

What you do affects the kingdom

When you bring reproach, you don’t just carry the weight of your own mistake—you bring a *trespass*.

- An ***obstacle***.
- A ***stumbling block***.
- A foothold the enemy will use and magnify to hinder others.

What you thought was *personal becomes public*.

What you thought was minor becomes a magnified distraction in the hands of the accuser.

The devil is a master of distortion.

He’ll take your lapse and turn it into leverage

- **Not just against you**
- But ***against the church***
- Against ***your witness***
- And ***against the move of God***.

Joab *begged* him. Not once, but repeatedly:

- ***“Don’t. Don’t bring a trespass, David, we’re struggling.”***
- ***“Please, David.”***
- ***“David, don’t do this.”***
- ***“Don’t number the people.”***
- ***“You’re stepping into dangerous ground.”***

“You’re trespassing against God.”

But David, ***intoxicated by the power of his own success***, pushed forward anyway.

- Finally, Joab gives the report. ***“Here’s the number, my king.”***
- And it was ***as if the count sobered David***.

In that moment—**when the results of his rebellion were laid before him**—David’s mind snapped back to clarity.

- **His heart smote him.**
- **Conviction hit** him like a crashing wave.
- ***“I have sinned greatly in what I’ve done,”*** David cried.
- ***“I’ve done a very foolish thing.”*** (2 Samuel 24:10)

2 Samuel 24:10 - The Judgment on David’s Sin - And David’s heart condemned him after he had numbered the people. So David said to the Lord, ***“I have sinned greatly*** in what I have done; but now, I pray, O Lord, take away the iniquity of Your servant, for ***I have done very foolishly.”***

How quickly conviction can come...

- But oh, **how devastating the consequences can still be**—even when the heart repents.

Then here comes the man of God.

- “David, the Lord sent me to tell you that **you’ve got to choose one of three things**. ***What are you going to choose?***”
- He said, **“I’m going to send famine.”**

David closed his eyes.. I can’t choose that. I won’t choose that.

David! David - - - You’re going to lose all of Israel if you’re not careful.

“All right God said... I’m going to *let you flee in front of your enemies*.

- It’ll be for several days, David. **They’ll die by the sword.”**

David said, Let me fall into the hands of the Lord, for his mercy is very great!

All because he dared to trespass

- If only you would have **listened to God** from the beginning David.
- **In the beginning—God sent a man** to tell you not to do it.

But you were so drunk on what you were doing that you couldn't hear Him.

Am I talking to a David today?

- **The first wave** of trouble came to Israel.
- Seventy thousand **died**.

David saw the sword of the Lord drawn against Israel again, to kill a third part of all of Israel.

- **David fell on his face and began to pray.**

What's it going to be like when God really has to interrupt you?

- What's it going to **be like**?
- How long has it been since you've **really been interrupted**?

When we get to the place that we're not intoxicated by our own successes...

- When the **job title**, the **income bracket**, the **applause of people**—
- When those things **stop mattering more** than simply knowing ***we're right with God...***
- When we're **no longer drunk on busyness**, **distracted by status**, or **obsessed with** "getting ahead" ...
- Then—and ***only*** then—can we see clearly again.

Clarity doesn't come when life is loud.

- It comes **when our soul gets still**.
- It comes **when we lay down the idols** of ***self-made identity*** and say:

"God, I just want to walk with You again."

That's when the fog begins to lift.

That's when we remember who we really are—

- Not in the eyes of this world, but *in the eyes of the One who formed us*.
- Not *a success story*. Not *a failure*.
- Just a child..... His child.....

And that's where healing begins.

David couldn't see it at first.

- Success had *dulled his spiritual sensitivity*.
- The victories *were stacking up*.
- The kingdom *was secure*.
- The people *were many*.

But rather than trust in the God who gave the increase, he said, *"I want to know how many I have."*

That one moment of pride—of *misplaced confidence*—*became a trespass* that cost the lives of 70,000 people.

But here's the mercy of God:

When David finally saw the angel of the Lord standing between Heaven and earth—sword drawn over Jerusalem—something broke inside him.

- He tore his royal robes and fell on his face, *crying*, *"I have sinned, and I have done wickedly. But these sheep—what have they done?"*

And right there, in the middle of judgment, David did what every true child of God must do:

- He built an altar.
- Not in his palace.
- Not surrounded by praise singers.
- Not on a stage with a spotlight.

He built it in the *threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite*—*the place where the wheat is separated from the chaff*.

- And it was *there* that the plague stayed.
- It was *there* that God turned judgment into mercy.
- It was *there* that **the site of destruction** became *the future location of the temple*.
- All because a man got low.
- All because a king let go of his pride and *fell into the hands of a merciful God*.

CLOSE:

Listen... If you've drifted...

- If you've numbered when you should have trusted...
- If you've lost your grip on the presence of God—
- Then build an altar. Right where you are.

Fall into the hands of the Lord, for *His mercies are great*.

And what began as a trespass—can end in the temple.