

Psalm 3

“Grace that is Greater”

Sermon Handout

Key Principle: God is greater than all our worst sins, our deepest brokenness and our most profound betrayals.

I. The Greatness of David's Sin (Psalm 3:1-2)

"O Lord, how many are my foes!

Many are rising against me;

many are saying of my soul, There is no salvation for him in God." Selah

Psalm 3:1-2 (ESV)

"Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord." Ephesians 6:4

This is an example of how a parent exasperates their children:

- **David fails to be protective. 2 Samuel 13:1-22**

"Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife." 2 Samuel 12:10 (ESV)

"When King David heard of all these things, he was very angry." 2 Samuel 13:21 (ESV)

Parenting is not pretending things aren't wrong. It is often managing sin. It is stepping in and protecting and correcting. It's being clear and present for the sake of the most vulnerable.

- **David fails to be Restorative. 2 Samuel 13:23-39**

"And the spirit of the king longed to go out to Absalom, because he was comforted about Amnon, since he was dead." 2 Samuel 13:39 (ESV)

Modeling a sacrificial determination to restore a relationship with a child and to forgive their sins is a parental responsibility no matter what the response is on the other end.

- **David fails to be Accessible. 2 Samuel 14:1-33**

"We must all die; we are like water spilled on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again. But God will not take away life, and he devises means so that the banished one will not remain an outcast." 2 Samuel 14:14 (ESV)

"And the king said, 'Let him dwell apart in his own house; he is not to come into my presence.' So Absalom lived apart in his own house and did not come into the king's presence." 2 Samuel 14:24 (ESV)

"Then Joab went to the king and told him, and he summoned Absalom. So he came to the king and bowed himself on his face to the ground before the king, and the king kissed Absalom." 2 Samuel 14:33 (ESV)

Being emotionally available to your children is crucial to conveying to them the mercy and love of our heavenly Father.

- **David fails to be Sacrificial. 2 Samuel 18**

"Thus Absalom did to all of Israel who came to the king for judgment. So Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel." 2 Samuel 15:6 (ESV)

"But David went up the ascent of the Mount of Olives, weeping as he went, barefoot and with his head covered. And all the people who were with him covered their heads, and they went up, weeping as they went." 2 Samuel 15:30 (ESV)

"And he came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. And when he came to the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation." Luke 22:39-40 (ESV)

"And when he rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping for sorrow." Luke 22:45 (ESV)

"And the king ordered Joab and Abishai and Ittai, 'Deal gently for my sake with the young man Absalom.'" 2 Samuel 18:5

Parenting is having a willingness to protect our children, forgive them, restore them, rejoice over them, and lay our lives down for them.

II. The Greatness of God's Grace. Psalm 3:3-8

- God protects His children even when we are struggling. Psalm 3:3

"But you, O Lord, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head."

Psalm 3:3 (ESV)

- God hears and responds to his children when we cry aloud to him. Psalm 3:4

"I cried aloud to the Lord, and he answered me from his holy hill. Selah"

Psalm 3:4 (ESV)

- God preserves his children when we are absolutely weary and discouraged. Psalm 3:5

"I lay down and slept; I woke again, for the Lord sustained me." Psalm 3:5 (ESV)

- God stands with his children when we are surrounded by those that oppose you. Psalm 3:6

"I will not be afraid of many thousands of people who have set themselves against me all around." Psalm 3:6 (ESV)

- God will deliver his children from all their enemies. Psalm 3:7

"Arise, O Lord! Save me, O my God! For you strike all my enemies on the cheek; you break the teeth of the wicked." Psalm 3:7 (ESV)

- God will save whoever He chooses. Psalm 3:8

"Salvation belongs to the Lord; your blessing be on your people! Selah" Psalm 3:8 (ESV)

Praise God that He is the parent that we all long to be. He loves us even in our worst seasons and keeps every promise to his children.

Group Study Questions – Psalm 3: "*Grace that is Greater*"

1. Read Psalm 3:1–8 together.

What stands out to you most about David's prayer? How does knowing the historical background (Absalom's rebellion after David's failures as a father) deepen your understanding of this psalm?

2. David's family crisis did not happen in a vacuum.

Looking at the examples from 2 Samuel, what parenting failures contributed to the brokenness in David's family? Which of the four areas—being protective, restorative, accessible, or sacrificial—do you think is most difficult for parents today? Why?

3. David faced consequences for his sin, yet he still turned to God.

Why do people often hesitate to seek God after they've failed? How does Psalm 3 challenge the idea that our worst sins place us beyond God's grace?

4. Psalm 3:3 says, "But you, O Lord, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head."

Which of these three descriptions of God—our Shield, our Glory, or the Lifter of our head—speaks most to your current circumstances? Explain your answer.

5. Notice the progression in verses 3–8: God protects, hears, sustains, strengthens, delivers, and saves.

Which promise do you find yourself needing to trust most right now? How have you experienced God fulfilling that promise in the past?

6. The sermon emphasized that God is the perfect Father we all long for.

How has your experience with earthly parents (whether positive or painful) shaped your view of God? In what ways does Scripture correct or expand that view?

7. David's story reminds us that sin has real consequences, yet God's grace is greater.

How can we hold these two truths together without minimizing either the seriousness of sin or the greatness of God's forgiveness?

8. The key principle of the sermon was: "God is greater than all our worst sins, our deepest brokenness, and our most profound betrayals."

Where do you need to believe that truth more deeply this week? What practical step can you take to trust God's grace instead of living under guilt, fear, or shame?

Closing Challenge:

Read Psalm 3 aloud one more time. Spend a few minutes praying for one another, specifically thanking God for being the perfect Father who protects, hears, sustains, delivers, and saves His children through Jesus Christ.