

## Captive to Opinion

2 Samuel 5:6-10

The Lord calls you into his presence today.

Are you standing strong this summer?

You are with David in his triumph. Despite the sins of his followers, David remains righteous toward his enemies. He becomes King over all of Israel and takes Jerusalem as his new capital.

Pray that the Lord draws you out of sloth to embrace the kingly mission he has given you. Pray for the grace of freedom and humility for all Exodus Men, just as they are praying for you.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Lord and Master of my life, spare me from the spirit of indifference, despair, lust for power, and idle chatter. Instead, bestow on me, your servant, the spirit of integrity, humility, patience, and love. Yes, O Lord and King, let me see my own sins and not judge my brothers and sisters; for you are blessed forever and ever. Amen.

## A Reading from the Second Book of Samuel

And the king and his men went to Jerusalem against the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land, who said to David, "You will not come in here, but the blind and the lame will ward you off"—thinking, "David cannot come in here." Nevertheless David took the stronghold of Zion, that is, the city of David. And David said on that day, "Whoever would smite the Jebusites, let him get up the water shaft to attack the lame and the blind, who are hated by David's soul." Therefore it is said, "The blind and the lame shall not come into the house." And David dwelt in the stronghold, and called it the city of David. And David built the city round about from the Millo inward. And David became greater and greater, for the Lord, the God of hosts, was with him.

## Reflection

Jerusalem or "Zion" is not just an important site for control of the region. It is also a very strategic place for David's mission of reuniting the northern and southern tribes of Israel. But in the context of the history of God's covenant with Israel, the capturing of Jerusalem also marks the completion of the mission of God through Moses and Joshua to give the Israelites the Promised Land. It is through David, then, that God fulfills the covenant given to Moses.

The reason why it took several hundred years for Jerusalem finally to be conquered was that it was a fortress, and its occupiers were good at defending it. When David approaches Jerusalem, the Jebusites taunt him by saying David is so weak that he could be stopped by the blind and the lame. Given the lack of success Israel had previously, David would have had good reason to be unsure of his prospects. But we see David's courage and resilience. He does not allow the risk or taunts to deter him.

People who struggle with sloth will easily be discouraged and look for a reason to give up. They often do not persevere in difficult tasks, and they are easily paralyzed by insults. The moment they become aware that someone dislikes them or is critical of their work, they collapse inside and are sent into a tailspin of self-doubt and self-pity. The slothful person, thus, does not have courage because he does not know what he is truly capable of, he doubts his own strength, and he does not trust others to recognize his gifts.

Do you find yourself easily dissuaded from a task or calling out of fear of what others will say or think? Are you overly concerned about how others think of you? Do criticisms crush you? Do you fail to stick up for what is right or true out of fear of being mocked? Take these questions to the Lord in prayer.

Now place yourself before God, and converse with him.

Week 3 Action Items

Plan a summer BBQ.

Evaluate your Plan of Life.

Commit to intentional prayer time with others.