1–2 Samuel: Christ Our Compassionate King

Overview:
The books of 1–2 Samuel were initially contained in one book, which entails the dramatic transition in Israel's history from the era of the judges to the times of the kings. King Saul was the people's choice, but he failed to have the faith needed to lead God's covenant people. David was a man after God's own heart, and he would faithfully lead Israel to become a united kingdom, foreshadowing the greater kingdom Christ would establish. David stands alongside Abraham to represent God's kingdom and covenant with His people that Jesus would culminate at His first and second comings.

Introduction Starter:
When was the last time you struggled with revenge? The old saying is often true: "Revenge, like poison, consumes the vessel that holds it." Rather than seeking revenge, the gospel would have us extend grace instead. Rather than returning evil for evil, we can return evil with good. David set an example that culminated in Christ's grace toward us.

Main Idea:
Jesus is our compassionate King who grants us mercy rather than vengeance.

Expositional Outline: 2 Samuel 9:1–13

1. Rather than seeking revenge, we can choose to show Christlike mercy (9:1–5).
- King David had conquered all his enemies and began to settle into his kingdom.
- David wanted to keep a promise made to his close friend Jonathan to care for anyone still alive from Saul's family.
- A cripple named Mephibosheth was found. He was crippled as a baby when Saul died.

2. Rather than returning evil with evil, we can return evil with good (9:6–10).
- Mephibosheth was brought to the king's palace expecting judgment and death.
- David removed his fears and kept his promise to show mercy rather than take revenge.

3. Rather than using our power over the weak, we should seek to exalt them just as Christ did for us (9:11–13).
- David showed Mephibosheth mercy and made him a part of his family.
- David blessed him rather than punishing him for his father's sins.
- Christ came in the likeness of King David to bring sinners into His eternal family.

Christ Connection:
Like David's example, Jesus Christ is our compassionate King who came to show us mercy and bless those who show mercy to others.

Concluding Idea/Application:
Like Mephibosheth, we are crippled by our sins and come hobbling to the cross with nothing to offer our King. He died for our sins and now asks us to love the least of people and show mercy because we have received such great mercy (Micah 6:8).