

**Series: MOVED – God Is Moved By Prayer**  
**Sermon: When Relationships Are Whole**  
**Pastor John Carmichael**

**[2Sa 21:14 NASB95] 14 They buried the bones of Saul and Jonathan his son in the country of Benjamin in Zela, in the grave of Kish his father; thus they did all that the king commanded, and after that God was moved by prayer for the land.**

- God in His sovereignty will be moved when we pray! God in His sovereignty will be moved by prayer when our relationships are whole.
- 2 Samuel 21
  - V. 1 – 3 years of famine. David sought God. God responded about blood and Saul's wrong done to the Gibeonites. (Remember: they tricked Joshua. Joshua made a covenant with them to protect them. The Gibeonites served faithfully in the temple.)
  - V.2 & 3 – David deals with the offended. "...what shall I do..."
  - V. 6 – David says, "I will give them." 7 – full, complete. FB Notes: These 7 men had been involved in the killing of the Gibeonites.
  - V. 10-11 – Rizpah (Saul's concubine) was trying to cover the bones. Rain had come, but land still not healed (see v. 14).
  - V. 12-14 – David took all the bones and buried them. God was moved by prayer for the land.

What does 2 Samuel 21 tell us about how we treat people and experiencing God moving in response to prayer?

We see three truths about relationship with people and God moving in response to prayer.

**I. God moves in response to prayer as we honor relationships with people.**

- a. God did not answer the request to heal the land and remove the famine until they made things right with the Gibeonites. Notice, it rained in v. 10, but healing of the land did not happen until v. 14. They had no harvest even though it was raining.
- b. [1Pe 3:7 NASB95] 7 You husbands in the same way, live with [your wives] in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.
- c. Seeing a move of God is not just about our relationship with God. People matter!
- d. For us to expect true healing and moves of God we need to value (honor) other people.

**II. God moves in response to prayer when we are willing to repent to people we wronged.**

- a. David did not excuse what was done to the Gibeonites. He could have said, "I am not Saul. I did not have any part with this sin." He did what he could to heal this relationship.
- b. FB Notes: These men were not innocent parties. They participated in the killing of the Gibeonites.
- c. [Mat 5:23-24 NASB95] 23 "Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering.
- d. [Rom 12:18 NASB95] 18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.
- e. Be willing to repent for your part. "I was wrong. I am sorry. I will stop/restore."

**III. God moves in response to prayer when we forgive people who have wronged us.**

- a. The Gibeonites were willing to forgive.

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- b. David could have left Saul's bones as a sign of dishonor. David buried Saul's bones showed he had forgiven Saul for the past. David honored a person who tried to hinder and kill him.
  - c. Forgiving people was especially pointed out by Jesus after teaching the Lord's Prayer. [Mat 6:14-15 NASB95] 14 "For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 "But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.
  - d. [Job 42:10 NASB95] 10 The LORD restored the fortunes of Job when he prayed for his friends, and the LORD increased all that Job had twofold.
  - e. Unforgiveness will keep you from your healing (v14) and harvest (Job 42:10).
  - f. If we want to see God move as a response to prayer, we must forgive other people.
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- When our relationships are whole through honor, repentance, and forgiveness we will see God move by prayer.
  - God is ready to move when you pray.
    - **Set a time/rhythm.**
    - **Show up.**