

## 2 Samuel 5:12

***So David knew that the LORD had established him as king over Israel, and that He had exalted His kingdom for the sake of His people Israel.***

There are several things that the Lord has blessed me to do. One is a love for His word and the ability to study His word and learn from it. But even though it's a blessing to me, He not only gave it to me for the bettering of myself, but also for the "*sake*" of others as I teach them God's word.

Another thing is that, I am on the worship team at church, but I also write and record worship songs for the Lord as well. Yes I do get a huge joy out of doing this and I pray that the Lord is blessed with the songs I write and sing to Him, as well as playing on the worship team. But not only has God given me the gift and ability to do this because I enjoy doing it, but He has also given me the ability for the "*sake*" of the church, as I help usher the church into the presence of the Lord in song and worship.

The third is that I love to write novels, stories, etc... and the Lord has given me a wonderful imagination to write these, and in my writings I always include the gospel and God's word. It's a real joy for me to write, but God has not given me this ability for my sake only, but for the "*sake*" of both the lost and saved, because my writing shares the gospel to all that read the stories, and possibly that the lost may be saved as they read God's word in the pages of the stories that I write, or encourage and help the believers, once again as God's word is included in the pages of the stories.

With all this in mind, read today's verse again which says:

✠ ***So David knew that the LORD had established him as king over Israel, and that He had exalted His kingdom for the sake of His people Israel.***

Did you notice that David was made king for Israel's "*sake*" not for David's "*sake*" (***He had exalted His kingdom for the sake of His people Israel***)? And God blesses us all for the "*sake*" of others, not for ourselves. Yet how many times do the thoughts come to our mind that, "*If I do this for the Lord, I will feel so much better with myself and my walk with the Lord will be better.*" Which is somewhat true, because when I do the things God has given me to do, I do feel good and I know as I do them I am spending time with the Lord.

But have you ever thought, "*Lord, help me to do this, for the "sake" of your people, the Church, as well and for the building of Your Kingdom.*" We even read in Ephesians how it talks about the gifts of the Holy Spirit, but Paul tells us that the gifts are not for our benefit, but for the equipping of the saints, or as our verse today says, "***for the sake of His (God's) people***".

† **Ephesians 4:11-12** *And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ*

Yet, how many do not do in the church, because they think that what they do will not make themselves feel better.

*“I can’t serve in the children’s ministry, it will make me miserable.”*

*“I can’t be an usher, I can’t feel built up doing that.”*

*“I can’t help clean the church, no one will see me if I do, and how can I feel good about myself if others do not tell me what a great job I am doing...”*

Today, it has become all about, me, me, me, when serving the Lord, and when it becomes all about me, then all of Christianity and the focus is now on what I want it to be on, which is “me”, no longer on “Jesus Christ”.

For me, when I got saved, I didn’t start out teaching God’s word, or being on stage on the worship team or even writing Christian novels. No, it took time, and when God knew I was ready, HE put me into those rolls; sure God knew I enjoyed doing them, but He did it more so that HE would be glorified and for the “*sake*” of HIS children, the believers.

So what has God called you to do, but you are refusing to do it, because you are taking God’s calling and making it all about you, and your feelings and your own glory, and not His?

† **Isaiah 42:8** *I am the LORD, that is My name; And My glory I will not give to another, Nor My praise to carved images.*

† **John 14:12-13** *“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.”*

† **1 Corinthians 10:31** *Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*

† **1 Peter 4:11** *If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.*