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**Title:** Life Comes at You Fast: Happily Ever After?

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**Text:** [2 Samuel 5:1-5](#) and [2 Samuel 22:2-3a](#)

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[Watch the service.](#)

[Jim Gaffigan Car Commercial](#)



I resonate with that commercial. When we were engaged, Mary Michael and I would talk and dream about the future. We were in our mid-20s and would think about what life might look like for us twenty years down the road. At the time, we were both pretty adamant that we would *never* live in the suburbs and that we would absolutely *never*

drive a minivan. Fast forward just a couple of years later and of course, we bought our first home in, yes you guessed it, the *suburbs* of Atlanta. We told ourselves at the time, well, at least we still will never purchase a minivan. A few years later, right after our oldest daughter Bella was born, we were car shopping and picked out a SUV to purchase. On the car dealership lot, while waiting on the salesperson, we looked inside a minivan. All of that room. "What if Bella wants to bring a friend places as she gets older?" What if we have a second child? What if they want to bring a friend with them? That would be 4 kids and that's a tight fit in an SUV. "Look at these doors, they slide open and closed with the push of a button. Look at all of that room. Remember, we said we would never drive a minivan."

Well, about an hour later, we drove off the dealership lot in a brand-new minivan. And it's still one of my favorite cars that we've ever had. What do they say about the best-laid plans? It is true what they say, life comes at you fast.

We are in the midst of a four-week worship series called Life Comes at You Fast, looking at the different stages of life and the lessons to be learned from each stage. We've been using the life of David as a guide, looking at his childhood the first week, his teenage years last week, and now we arrive at his adulthood, what many consider to be the prime time of life.

Adulthood is that time in life when we find a career, discover those things which we are passionate about, discover those whom we wish to share life

with, have a family. I remember in my young adulthood, thinking that this would be the point in my life when I would have everything figured out and everything would be easy. Early on in David's adult years, it seems like he is in that place.

Following the death of Saul, David is made king of Judah, the southern part of Israel and after a period that we believe to be 7 years, the leaders of the northern tribes come to David, recognizing God's wishes that David should lead all of Israel.

*"The Israelite tribes came to David at Hebron and said, "Listen: We are your very own flesh and bone. <sup>2</sup> In the past, when Saul ruled over us, you were the one who led Israel out to war and back. What's more, the Lord told you, You will shepherd my people Israel, and you will be Israel's leader.<sup>3</sup> So all the Israelite elders came to the king at Hebron. King David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the Lord, and they anointed David king over Israel. <sup>4</sup> David was 30 years old when he became king, and he ruled for forty years. <sup>5</sup> He ruled over Judah for seven and a half years in Hebron. He ruled thirty-three years over all Israel and Judah in Jerusalem."* (2 Samuel 5:1-5 CEB)

It was soon after David became king that he takes Jerusalem, which sits on the border of the tribes of Israel and Judah and makes a nice neutral capitol, and it becomes recognized as *David's city, the royal city of David.*

Things seem to be going well for David, so much so that this section of the Bible is known in many circles as the "rise of David."

*"David grew increasingly powerful, and the Lord of heavenly forces was with him."* (2 Samuel 5:10 CEB)

He has reached that point where it seems like he will live happily ever after.

But as we know, Life Comes at you fast. David will find trouble, David will find heartbreak, David becomes a bully who is at times addicted to war and violence. Many of David's stories in the book of 2 Samuel are not stories that we would tell our kids, some of these stories we wish we had not heard. One such story is the story of David and Bathsheba. David wants to marry Bathsheba so he sends her husband Uriah to the front of battle, the fiercest battle so that Uriah might be killed.

*"When Uriah's wife heard that her husband Uriah was dead, she mourned for her husband. After the time of mourning was over, David sent for her and*

*brought her back to his house. She became his wife and bore him a son. But what David had done was evil in the Lord's eyes." (2 Samuel 11:26-27 CEB)*

If you are a fan of the television writer Shonda Rimes, who has created shows such as Grey's Anatomy and Scandal, you would recognize that parts of David's adulthood would fit right in as a plotline on one of these shows.

David lived in a different time and place and his story is much different than our stories. It can be difficult for us today to see what many things in the Bible might have to say to us today because it is such a different time and different place. Here is what is clear though about David that I suspect intersects with our stories and our lives. David does not have life figured out. The one who has a city identified as David's royal city does not have it all together. He is flawed. He does not always do what God would have him do.

I don't know if it is because this is the stage of life that I am in or as a pastor I'm aware of the many stresses of being squarely in this adulthood place, where many in my generation, generation X find ourselves today. Sometimes we just feel like this:



The stress of making ends meet and keeping up with proverbial Joneses.

In a time when one rarely spends 30 years with the same employer anymore, finding and the right career and in many households figuring out if it makes sense for both adults work full-time, one to work full-time, and one to stay home. Trying to figure out what works.

There is the stress of finding the right partner, deciding whether or not to have children, perhaps adopt children. Deciding how many to have and then there is the challenge of actually parenting in this day and age. Virtual school during the pandemic has only added to this stress. It often feels like our kids today need an uber driver, not a parent, with the schedules they keep. We want to give our kids the best, and we want them to be grounded and compassionate and loving, and be equipped for life.

There is also stress for many of caring for parents with health challenges. This is called the sandwich stage of life, one where we are caring for both children and parents.

And of course, there is the challenge of faith, of finding enough time to recognize the presence of God in our lives and to live the life God calls us to live. The more time we take away from religious life, the more guilt we carry.

In the 1989 movie Parenthood, Steve Martin and Mary Steenburgen play parents trying to navigate life, firmly in this adulthood place. Martin is frustrated and expressing his need to control and some guarantees in life. Steenburgen's character looks at him and says "life is messy" and Martin says back to her "I hate messy."

There are no guarantees in life...except for one- God's faithfulness. That is a pretty good guarantee. We know this because we see it in David's story. Throughout all of David's missteps, trials, and tribulations, God is faithful. God's love for David does not waver. It is God's love and faithfulness that enables David to confess his sins and missteps that enable David's heart and life to change.

David knows of God's faithfulness because he has experienced it firsthand. David was a prolific writer, composing many Psalms, once of which is contained in 2 Samuel.

*"He said: The Lord is my solid rock, my fortress, my rescuer. My God is my rock- I take refuge in him! He's my shield and my salvation's strength., my place of safety and my shelter. My savior!" (2 Samuel 22:2-3a CEB)*

That is a powerful testimony to God's faithfulness- My God is my rock- my savior.

Through all of David's ups and downs, when life was happily ever after and also when it was not so happily ever after, even when he lost sight of God, God never lost sight of him.

The same is true for each and every one of us. God never loses sight of you.

In Parenthood, right after Steve Martin proclaims that he "hates messy" grandmother offers this piece of wisdom. "When I was young, Grandpa took me on a roller coaster. Up and down, up and down. What a ride! I was fascinated by the idea that a ride could make me so frightened so scared yet so excited all at the same time. Some prefer to go on the merry-go-round.

That this goes round and round. I prefer the roller coaster- it's way more exciting and you get way more out of the ride. "

Life can be like a rollercoaster. The good news is that because of the love and grace of God that we know through Jesus Christ, we never ride alone.

God is always faithful.

In all things, God is your rock, God is our solid rock.

Let's Pray.