II Samuel 3

Review...

- II Samuel 1-2 Two kings for Israel...
 - o An Amalekite came to David and told him about the death of Saul...
 - He found Saul mortally wounded on Mt. Gilboa killed Saul out of mercy...
 - He took the crown of Saul and his bracelet and brought them to David...
 - The Amalekite expected a reward instead David had him killed for murdering Saul!
 - Then David composed the 'Song of the Bow' in memorial of the death of the great king
 - o God told David to go to Hebron in Judah where he was crowned king...
 - But Abner the commander of Saul's army already crowned Ishbosheth as king...
 - So David was King of Judah / while Ishbosheth was king of the other 11 tribes...
 - One day Abner led the army of Israel close to the territory of Judah sparking a war...
 - Abner killed Asahel the brother of Joab from Judah Joab swore revenge!

THE TREACHERY OF JOAB... (4 THINGS)

- 1st The many wives of David... vs. 1-5 Read: II Samuel 3:1-2
 - o There was a long war between those loyal to Saul and those loyal to David... vs. 1-5
 - As time passed David became stronger and stronger while Ishbosheth grew weak…
 - During the 7 years David ruled in Hebron 6 sons were born to him...
 - David no longer had just two wives all 6 sons had different mothers!
 - While David was running for his life he did not have time to marry 'wives'...
 - But now that he was settled blessed increasing in his political might...
 - A dangerous sin was creeping in one that would almost destroy David lust...
 - One of the most dangerous times in our life is when things are going well…
 - When we are lacking we run to the Lord and depend on Him for everything...
 - But when there is plenty of money / plenty of food we are being blessed...
 - When life becomes easy it is hard for us to depend on the Jesus!
 - And if we start to drift away from Jesus it opens us to the attack of the enemy...
 - A crack in the door / compromise that can destroy us if we are not careful!
 - o One wife Maccah was the daughter of the King of Geshur (northern Jordan)
 - It seems it was a political marriage meant to give David an ally against Ishbosheth...
 - The decision to seek an alliance with a pagan king would come back to haunt David
 - Maccah was not a Jew she did not know the God of Israel...
 - So her son Absalom was raised with a mixed set of values / morals...
 - It allowed for there to be someone close to David who was not close to God...
 - And one day her Absalom would try to overthrow and kill King David!
 - To avoid compromise choose wisely the friends you allow into your life...

- II Corinthians 6:14 "Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers."
- Two different kinds of animals cannot plow together caribou / cat...
- A powerful picture you should have a TRUE friendship with an unbeliever...
- They do not have the same values / morals and they are going to pull you down!
- 2^{ND} The help of Abner... vs. 6-21 Read: II Samuel 3:6-16
 - o 1st Abner had become a powerful leader in Israel... vs. 6-11
 - In contrast Ishbosheth was a weak leader and so was threatened by Abner...
 - So he accused Abner of having an affair with Rizpah a concubine of Saul...
 - According to the traditions of the time to marry the concubine of a dead king...
 - Was the same as saying you were taking the position of the King I Kings 2:17
 - So Ishbosheth was accusing Abner of trying to replace him as King of Israel!
 - Ishbosheth had proven to be a VERY poor king yet Abner had been loyal...
 - But Abner knew God had promised the Kingdom to David...
 - So insulted by the accusation he was now ready to help David be the ONLY king!
 - It is uncertain if Ishbosheth's accusation was true or just his paranoia...
 - But judging by the quick and harsh reaction of Abner he might have been right!
 - If you want to know which kid took the last candy (ignoring the sticky hands)...
 - All you have to do is ask if they are innocent then they can look you in the eye...
 - If they are guilty a child will look away and try and change the subject...
 - If you want to know if someone is quilts look at how the react...
 - We can lie with our lips but we our actions will almost always give us away!
 - o 2nd Abner wrote to David 'Let us make an deal'... vs. 12-16
 - Abner agreed to hand over Israel to David Ishbosheth was powerless to stop him...
 - David agreed but he had one condition Michal had to be returned to David...
 - Michal was the first wife of David the daughter of King Saul **I Samuel 18:27**...
 - He won the right to marry her by killing Goliath / 100 foreskins of the Philistines...
 - She even helped David escape Saul putting a statue and wig in the bed of David!
 - After David fled Saul Saul took her from David and she married Phaltiel...
 - Ishbosheth had Michal taken from her home and delivered to David...
 - Phaltiel loved Michal so went along with them weeping behind her...
 - Until Abner threatened him so that he return home and left his Love!
 - There are those who argue David demanded Michal because he loved her...
 - But the truth she was a princess and helped David solidify his right to the throne...
 - It was a shrewd political ploy it had nothing to do with love...
 - It was a crime and as a result Michal hated David for what he had done!
 - It started off so well they used to love each other so what went wrong...
 - The simple answer is they spent too much time apart allowing their love to fade!
 - There are MANY marriage couples today that fall into this same trap...
 - They fall in love and get married but then they forget to keep the fire burning...
 - The husband gets busy with work and comes home too tired to talk...
 - The wife runs all day watching kids forgets her first ministry is her husband...
 - And what started off as LOVE ends up at best a tolerable acquaintance!
 - Take the time / make the time to keep spark alive...
 - Husbands do not have the right to go / do what they want I Corinthians 7:3...
 - When your wife wants to hear how your day went sit down and share...
 - When she wants to watch the sappy love story sit down and watch...
 - A woman wants to be held she wants her husband to listen to her...

- She wants her husband to spend time with her showing her he cares...
- Wives complement your husbands let them know they are the greatest...
- Together you will find you have a LOVE that lasts a lifetime!
- o 3rd Abner gathered the leaders of Israel... vs. 17-21
 - For some time they had been looking to make David their king...
 - It was clear to everyone that Ishbosheth was not God's choice to lead Israel...
 - David was obviously a much better leader but they had hesitated to follow him...
 - Abner provoked them saying 'Now is the time!'
 - Abner even got the tribe of Benjamin (Saul's tribe) to agree to follow David...
 - When Abner arrived at Hebron he was greeted with a feast...
 - Abner vowed to go and gather all of Israel so David could reign over them...
 - So David sent Abner away in peace confident he would help him become King...
 - If Abner and Israel knew David was to be the King why did they hesitate...
 - Because knowing the right thing to do / and actually doing it are worlds apart!
 - Knowing what the Bible tells us to do does not mean we actually do it…
 - **James 1:22-25** "For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who sees his face in a mirror... goes away, and immediately forgets what he saw."
 - Many who attend Bible studies agree with everything that is said...
 - Then go home and inexplicably forget everything they just heard!
 - The Bible is not a textbook you must learn it is an instruction manual to follow...
 - You can know all words but if it does not change your actions it means nothing!
- 3rd The revenge of Joab... vs. 22-27 Read: II Samuel 3:22-27
 - o Joab and his men were returning from a raid... vs. 22-25
 - Joab heard that Abner had been there and David had sent him away safety...
 - He immediately ran to David why had Abner been allowed to leave!
 - Abner was a liar he had only come to spy on David and the city...
 - Abner had no such plans his motives were pure but Joab had hated Abner...
 - There are two possibilities to explain his hate...
 - First Joab was filled with bitterness towards Abner because he killed Asahel...
 - He was so blinded by his hatred he could no longer see the truth!
 - Nothing good EVER comes from acting in anger it leads us into sin...
 - Ecclesiastes 7:9 "Do not be quick-tempered, for anger is the friend of fools."
 - If someone upsets you take the time to calm down pray before you act!
 - Second Joab was fighting to keep his job…
 - Abner had the support of Israel he could deliver the 11 tribes to David...
 - It meant David might make Abner the commander of HIS army...
 - A job that Joab had up to that point and Joab did not want to loose his job!
 - Gossip is dangerous because you only hear one side of the story...
 - Someone might have a personal vendetta or an ulterior motive...
 - So they tell us what they want us to hear to mold our opinion
 - **Proverbs 18:17** "Any story sounds true until someone sets the record straight."
 - A wise man does not just listen to one side of a story he hears both sides!
 - o Joab sent a message to Abner but David did not know... vs. 26-27
 - He lied and told him David wanted him to come back to Hebron...
 - When Abner arrived Joab took him aside privately as if to talk to him secretly...
 - But instead he drew out his dagger and murdered Abner in revenge for Asahel!

- Because Joab did deal with the anger he had for Abner it erupted into murder...
- Leviticus 19:17 "Do not nurse hatred in your heart for anyone. Confront your neighbors directly so you will not be held guilty..."
- Too often we hesitate to confront others when we are upset with them...
- But when hurt is like an open wound if it is not mended it becomes rancid…
- And in time it can turn into something far worse...
- **Ephesians 4:26** "Do not let the sun go down on your anger..."
- 4^{TH} The funeral of Abner... vs. 28-39 Read: II Samuel 3:
 - o 1st When David heard about the death of Abner he was furious... vs. 28-30
 - He was quick to clarify that he and Judah had NOTHING to do with it...
 - All the guilt was upon Joab and his family who plotted the murder...
 - David cursed them may each generation have a man with leprosy / or lame...
 - May one of their children die by the sword / or have to beg for food!
 - The harsh words were because David understood the potential consequences...
 - Abner had been the chief rival of David in the long war between the two kings...
 - If it appeared to the 11 tribes David had any part in his death...
 - They might very well rebel and refuse to ever come under the authority of David!
 - David was in danger because of the actions of those who were close to him...
 - If we hand out in at the plaza where everyone is drinking...
 - We may not be but everyone passing by might assume we are taking part!
 - If we hang out with unbelievers even if we do nothing wrong...
 - We may well find that we get accused of doing the same things they are!
 - o 2nd David commanded Joab to dress in morning clothes... vs. 31-37
 - Joab had to lead the funeral procession with David following behind...
 - Abner was buried with honor in the city of Hebron and David wept for him...
 - And David refused to eat the whole day in honor of Abner!
 - All of the people noticed and it made the nation VERY happy...
 - Everyone in Israel and Judah knew David had nothing to do with Abner's death...
 - We need to be different let everyone know we are not of this world...
 - **II Corinthians 6:17** "Come out from them and separate yourselves from them, says the Lord. Do not touch their filthy things..."
 - We need to be interacting with those who do not know Jesus...
 - If we are not out in the world we cannot show the world the hope of Jesus!
 - But though we are in the world we should not be acting like the world!
 - o 3rd A great leader had been murdered in Israel... vs. 38-39
 - David was the anointed King but Joab had almost undone his reign…
 - He had murdered the one man who was working to bring the kingdom together...
 - Likely David had hoped Abner would be the commander of his army...
 - But with his death and the armies of Judah loyal to Joab...
 - David had to admit that Joab and Abishai were too much for him...
 - In fact this would not be the last time David had problem with Joab...
 - So let the Lord repay these wicked men from their wicked deeds!
 - Our job is not to condemn the world God will judge one day...
 - Our responsibility is to make sure we are not blending into it instead be a light...

- So those who do not know Jesus might receive him as their savior...
 So that they do not have to face the Lord one day for their wicked deeds!