

II SAMUEL 3

REVIEW...

- **II SAMUEL 1-2 – TWO KINGS FOR ISRAEL...**

- 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
- 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**

- 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!**
- One wife – Maccab – 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
 - Maccab 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!
- **2ND – THE HELP OF ABNER... VS. 6-21** **READ: II SAMUEL 3:6-16**
 - 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!
 - 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 safely...
 - 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 lose 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...”
- **4TH – THE FUNERAL OF ABNER... vs. 28-39 READ: II SAMUEL 3:**
 - 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 hang 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!
 - 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!
 - 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!