II Samuel 20-21

Review…

- **II Samuel 18 – Civil war in Israel…**
  - The servants of David were victorious in the battle against Absalom…
  - But when they arrived – all King David wanted to know was how was Absalom…
  - When he found out he was dead – he went up to his room and wept bitterly
- **II Samuel 19 – King of Israel again…**
  - The soldiers of David crept back into the city – feeling ashamed Absalom had died…
    - Joab confronted the King – would you rather we were dead and Absalom alive…
    - Stop loving those who hate you – and start caring for those who love you!
  - There was a lot of discussion in Israel as to who should be King…
    - They had chosen Absalom – but he was dead – so they decided to make David king again…
    - Judah hesitated – but David offered to make Amasa his new general – and won them over
  - Everyone came out to the Jordan to welcome David back to Israel…
    - But when the people from Judah were 'too helpful' it upset the other 11 tribes…
    - They argued David was King of all Israel – why should Judah get special treatment!

It is not easy being King… (*5 things*)

- **1st – The rebellion of Sheba… vs. 1-3** Read: II Samuel 20:1-3
  - 1st – There was a troublemaker from Benjamin – his name was Sheba… vs. 1-2
    - He blew his trumpet and shouted – 'we want nothing to do with David – lets go home!'
      - And all the men of Israel followed Sheba – and deserted Judah and King David…
      - One moment they were fighting for the privilege of helping out the King…
      - The next moment they were all walking away abandoning him…
      - Like the blowing of the wind - the people changed their mind on a whim!
    - People tend to follow the crowd – listening to what other people say…
      - The problem is everybody has an idea – and wants to tell you what to do…
      - One person tells you to do this – the next tells you to do just the opposite!
      - If we listen to them - we will be like a ship tossed about in a bagio...
      - Never knowing where we are - where we came from - or where we are going!
      - It is only as we are grounded in the Word – that we will know what to do!

- **Ephesians 4:14** – "We will no longer be like children, forever changing our minds about what we believe because someone has told us something different or because someone has cleverly lied to us and made the lie sound like the truth."

- 2nd – David returned to his capitol of Jerusalem… vs. 3
  - The ten concubines he left behind – whom Absalom slept with to humiliate David…
  - David put into seclusion – took care of them – but never spent time with them again…
  - They ended up living like widows – for the rest of their lives…
  - Men food and clothing is not enough – our wives need our attention and affection…
  - Our wives want us to spend time with them - showing them we care!

- **2ND – THE DEATH OF AMASA… VS. 4-13** READ: II SAMUEL 20:4-13
  - 1st - David ordered Amasa to gather all his troops… vs. 4-7
    - He gave him three days – he did not want to give time for Sheba to get established…
    - But Amasa took too long – so David turned to Abishai to lead out the troops…
    - He needed to stop Sheba – but even if Amasa could not do it – he would not use Joab!
    - David was done with him – he was a murder – he had killed Absalom!
    - You do not lean on a broken stick – you know if will only stab you in the hand…
    - If someone has a bad character – do not depend on them – they will only hurt you!
  - 2nd - Amasa met up with Abishai and Joab – near the great stone of Gibeon… vs. 8-13
    - Joab came up to the 'New General' pretending to show respect…
      - But he intentionally tripped – allowing his sword to fall onto the ground…
      - He distracted Amasa by greeting him – then as he picked it up in his left hand …
      - He plunged the sword into Amasa stomach – pouring out his entrails!
      - Joab and Abishai left him there to bleed out on the road!
    - One of Joab's young men cried out – 'If you are for Joab and David – follow Joab!'
      - But all of the troops stopped by the body of Amasa when they went by…
      - So the men took the body and dragged it into a field – covered it with a cloak
    - For the 2nd time – Joab killed to keep his job…
      - When David made Abner commander of the army – Joab murdered him…
      - And now again when David made Amasa commander – Joab murdered him…
      - Joab was willing to do anything to keep his job – but it would cost him his life…
      - At the end of his life – David commanded King Solomon to kill Joab!
      - **I Kings 2:5-6** – "You know that Joab murdered my two army commanders, Abner and Amasa… do not let him die in peace."

- There is an old saying – what goes around also comes around…
- Meaning the way you treat others – is how you are going to be treated!
- A lot of people will do just about anything for a Peso – to keep their job…
- Only to find others will do just about anything to take their money / job from them!

- **3RD – THE END OF THE REBELLION… VS. 14-26** READ: II SAMUEL 20:14-16
  - 1st – Sheba had traveled across Israel – trying to raise an army… vs. 14-19
    - But Joab caught up with him at the city of Abel…
      - The troops quickly surrounded the city – and began to build siege ramps…
      - But a wise woman came and called for Joab – rather than defend the city…
      - She began to ask questions of Joab – why was he attacking in the first place…
    - Joab explained he did not want the city – he was only after Sheba…
      - So the wise old woman went in and talked to the leaders of the city…
      - And they killed Sheba and threw his head out to Joab!
      - Joab blew his trumpet – and called off the attack – and the army went home
      - When people come up to us and attack us – our first instinct is to defend ourselves!
      - But often that just escalates the problem – and leads to all out war…
      - Rather than defend – ask questions – why are they so upset…
      - You might just find out they are not upset with you – and you can even help them!
  - 2nd – Joab once again became the commander of the army… vs. 23-26
    - While David hated Joab – he had the respect of the army – and got things done…
    - But because David could not remove Joab – he ended up defining much of his reign!
    - We are constantly bombarded by the influence of this world…
    - Friends – family – neighbors – adds – try to get us to follow the world's example…
    - If we are not careful – we will find like David their bad influence defines our lives!
    - **II Corinthians 6:17** – "Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord."
    - We are called to live in this world – but we are not to be apart of this world…
    - We are called to be a light – example – to those who are around us!

- **4TH – THE FAMINE IN ISRAEL… VS. 1-14** READ: II SAMUEL 21:1-6
  - 1st – There was a famine in Israel that lasted for 3 years… vs. 1
    - David asked the Lord – and God said it was because Saul murdered the Gibeonites…
      - Interesting that a famine in the land – was in response to the sin of a nation…
      - Makes you wonder – if a county is devastated by floods / earthquakes / typhoons…
      - It is possible that God judging that nation for its sins…
      - Yet the motive of God is not to destroy – but to get the people to remember…

- Because in those times of natural disaster – like David – people call out on the Lord!

- The sin of Israel was breaking their vow…
  - When Joshua came into the Land – the Gibeonites deceived Israel – **Joshua 9:22**
  - They dressed in old clothes – took old food – and said they were from a far land…
  - Israel looked at their clothes - but did not ask the Lord – and made a treaty...
  - When Joshua discovered the lie – God made them stick to their treaty!

- King Saul at some point – only recorded here – sought to kill the Gibeonites…
  - God had commanded Saul to wipe out the Amalekites – **I Samuel 15:1-3**
  - But Saul had failed to obey the command of God – and was rejected as King…
  - To try and 'make up' for his mistake – Saul tried to wipe out the Gibeonites instead!
  - The problem was Israel had made a vow to God to keep spare their lives!
  - Kids often try to substitute when it comes to obeying their parents…
  - No I did not do the dishes – but I did all of my homework…
  - But no amount of homework – will undo the fact the child disobeyed!
  - We also cannot offer a substitution when it comes to obeying God…
  - Lord I cannot make it to church – but I will read my Bible for an extra hour…
  - No amount of Bible reading – will makes up for disobeying the Lord!

- 2nd – David called together the few Gibeonites who were left… vs. 2-8

  - He asked them what he could do to right the wrong – restore the blessing of God…
    - The Gibeonites did not want money – or revenge against the citizens of Israel…
    - Instead they wanted justice against Saul – the lives of 7 of his descendants!

  - Mephibosheth – the only son – was spared because of David's promise to Jonathan…
    - But David agreed and gave them 7 grandsons of Saul…
    - 5 of the 7 grandsons (*children of Merab*) were the adopted children of Michal…
    - Michal – the first wife of David – who was taken by Saul and married to Palti…
    - When David became King he took her back – but she despised him…
    - As a result he never slept with her – and she never had kids – **II Samuel 6:23**

  - Now David was not just ignoring his wife – he was attacking her…
    - He took her 5 adopted sons – and turned them over to be executed!
    - Like an open wound – time does not heal a bad marriage – it makes it worse…
    - What was once just indifference to a spouse – can become outright spite / hatred…
    - The only cure is to bind up the marriage – in the love of Jesus!

- 3rd – The Gibeonites executed all 7 grandsons… vs. 9-14

  - They left their bodies out under the sun – throughout the barley harvest…
    - The mother of 2 of the grandsons – Rizpah – stayed by the bodies day and night…
    - She chased away the vultures / wild animals – protecting the bodies for 5 months!
    - When David found out he took them – along with the bones of Saul and Jonathan…
    - And buried them in the tomb of Kish – the father of Saul – then the famine ended!

- God did not demand the lives of these men to stop the famine…
  - The grandsons were not accountable for Saul's mistakes – **Ezekiel 18:20**
  - It was the men of Gibeon who wanted revenge – blood for blood…
  - We naturally want to get back - take revenge - on those who attack us!
  - Even after they apologize - we want to hold onto our hurt - we want 'justice'!
  - **Romans 12:19** - "Never avenge yourselves. Leave that to God..."
  - But we are called to forgive - no matter what anyone has done to us - **Luke 17:1-10**

- **5TH – THE FOUR GIANTS OF GATH… VS. 15-22** READ: II SAMUEL 21:15-17
  - 1st – Once again Israel went to war with the Philistines… vs. 15-17
    - A giant named Ishbi cornered King David – and was ready to kill him…
      - Abishai rushed in to rescue the aging King - and killed the giant…
      - After that the King David was no longer allowed to go out to battle…
    - Everyone gets old – the bodies that were once strong – get weak and frail…
      - It can often be thought of as a bad thing – the loss of your youth…
      - But aging is God's grace - as you look in the mirror and see you body getting old...
      - It is God's way of telling saying – you are getting close to the end...
      - If you never aged - just one day died - there would be no warning to prepare...
      - You are going to see Jesus soon - aging is God's way to get us ready!
      - We get tired of this old achy body - it makes us long for the new model!
      - **II Corinthians 5:1** – "We know that when this earthly tent we live in is taken down - when we die and leave these bodies - we will have a home in heaven, an eternal body made for us by God himself…"
  - 2nd – David had defeated the Philistines… vs. 18-22
    - But every time they had a giant – they became bold and rebelled…
      - One of the giants was named 'tall' / another was the brother of Goliath…
      - Another had 6 finger and 6 toes – and mocked the God of Israel…
      - But David and his mighty warriors killed all of them!
    - Satan is a defeated foe – God conquered him on the cross of Calvary…
      - But that does not mean satan does not like to rebel – and cause problems…
      - He likes to send giants into our lives – HUGE problems to try and distract us…
      - But as we keep our eyes on Jesus – no matter how big they are – they fall down!