

2 Samuel 3 “A Kingdom Divided!”

Review: (1Sam.13:14; 24:20-22; 23:17; 2Sam.3:9-10)

*Bible teacher Allan Redpath gives us an idea of what we might learn from this account...

“In the lives of many Christian people today there is raging, literally, a civil war. The flesh – the kingdom of Saul, struggles with the spirit – the kingdom of David, and the conflict is bitter. We do everything we possibly can to hold up the tottering kingdom of self, so that it might exist just a bit longer. If only we could preserve some rights; if only we could have at least part of our own way; if only we could keep this or that at any cost! We feel we must bolster up this kingdom of self, that we cannot let ourselves be crucified with Christ.” (Redpath)
(Phil.1:6; 1Jn.4:4; Gen.2:24; Matt.19:4-6; Deut.17:17)

[#1] Never confuse God’s _____ with us for His _____ with our choices.

(John 14:15)

[#2] If you love Jesus, with His help, choose to follow Him... choose to _____ in His wisdom for your life no matter what this world is doing around you.

(Rom.12:18-19; 1Sam.13:14; Prov.24:17)

[#3] Learn from David... Live under the _____ and leading of God’s Spirit and you’ll grow stronger and stronger.

Galatians 5:25, 22-24

²⁵ If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

²⁴ And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

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(Phil.1:6; 1Jn.4:4; Gen.2:24; Matt.19:4-6; Deut.17:17)

[#1] Never confuse God’s **PATIENCE** with us for His **PLEASURE** with our choices.

(John 14:15)

[#2] If you love Jesus, with His help, choose to follow Him... choose to **TRUST** in His wisdom for your life no matter what this world is doing around you.

(Rom.12:18-19; 1Sam.13:14; Prov.24:17)

[#3] Learn from David... Live under the **POWER** and leading of God’s Spirit and you’ll grow stronger and stronger.

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Luke 17:7-10 - "7 "And which of you, having a servant plowing or tending sheep, will say to him when he has come in from the field, 'Come at once and sit down to eat'? 8 "But will he not rather say to him, 'Prepare something for my supper, and gird yourself and serve me till I have eaten and drunk, and afterward you will eat and drink'? 9 "Does he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I think not. 10 "So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.' ""

Why do you think Jesus gives us this example above?

TAKING IT HOME

- 8) What do you most need to remember or put into practice from this week's message or homework?

- 9) Is there an area in which you're living after the kingdom of the flesh rather than the kingdom of Christ? What can you do this week to change?

PRAYER REQUESTS

- ▶
- ▶
- ▶

Life Group Homework For the week of November 6, 2022

MY STORY

- 1) As we continue learning about the life of David, we are reminded that *David* is not the hero of the story - God is! When you were in high school, who did you consider to be your hero? Who did you aspire to be like, and why?

QUICK REVIEW

- 2) In your own words, what happened in 2 Samuel 3?

- 3) What stood out to you from this Sunday's message? (Favorite point, favorite verse, questions, etc)

DIGGING DEEPER

- 4) Even though Abner had been an adversary to David, he was very upset when he heard of Abner's death. What does the following passage reveal about God?
Ezekiel 18:23, 32 - "23 "Do I have any pleasure at all that the wicked should die?" says the Lord GOD, "and not that he should turn from his ways and live? ... 32 "For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies," says the Lord GOD. "Therefore turn and live!""

David knew that Joab (as commander of David's army) represented him. So David went to great lengths to show

that he did not support Joab's murder of Abner. How might Christians give Jesus a "bad name"?

How might Christians give Jesus a "good name"?

5) Paul calls himself an "ambassador for Christ" (2 Cor. 5:20). What do the following passages teach us about representing Jesus?

Acts 1:8 - *"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

John 13:34-35 - *"34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."*

John 17:15-19 - *"15 I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. 18 As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. 19 And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth."*

John 17:20-21 - *"20 I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; 21 that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me."*

Based on the previous verses, what can you do differently to better represent Jesus?

Is there somebody specific you believe God has called you to be an "ambassador" to? What might be the "next step" of representing Jesus to them?

6) Many of Abner's actions reveal how he was self-seeking. Abner put Ishbosheth on the throne, but he didn't submit himself to the king's leadership. In 2 Samuel 3, Abner was accused of sexual immorality with Saul's concubine. Do you think Abner felt *entitled* to this sin of sexual immorality? Why or why not?

Do you think people today can feel *entitled* to things? Do you think they think they *deserve* blessings or privileges? Why?

How might Christians be tempted to feel entitled to give into temptation or compromise obedience?

Imagine if a Christian friend told you they are struggling with sin. They explain they are trying to love God, but often find themselves in defeat. What would you say to encourage them?

7) According to the following passage, what kind of attitude does God want us to have towards Him?