Being on the wrong side: lessons from David
2 Samuel 3:1-39

V1-5

- This was not just a power struggle between individuals but dynasties, Saul's supporters withstanding David's supporters there is a correlation to what were reading and what we see today. We have political factions fighting today for control it doesn't matter whether it is right or wrong what matters is I am on the winning side. As Christians our allegiance should always be to God and which side He is on not a political party or person.

- How would you like to know that you are right and God has confirmed this yet you find yourself in a struggle that seems to go on forever, this is David's dilemma it has been **2** yrs and it's still not resolved.

V6-11

- God knows how to stir the pot and he uses a woman, Abner is enjoying the fruits of his position so by taking Saul's concubine he let Israel know that he not Ishbosheth was in control. Abner's loyalties had nothing to do with God's will **V9** tells us he knew God had chosen David but because of
    1. Family- Abner's father was Saul's uncle making him the cousin of Saul.
    2. Friendship- He did not want to alienate himself from the other supporters
    3. Selfishness- He wanted to stay as captain of the army
- This tells me that God does reveal to people what He desires whether they listen to Him is another story > **Jam 4:17**- " **to him who knows to do good but does not do it**, **to him it is sin**" Ishbosheth is more afraid of Abner than God **V11**.

V12-16

- Abner is now in backroom negotiations just like politicians to cutting a side deal for himself asking David to make a covenant with him and then he would help deliver Israel to him. David will now test this change of allegiance by asking for Michal back as his wife if agreed upon then the defection will be accepted.

- David is doing a very unwise thing here as he seeks to add to his roster of wives this makes 7, **Deut 17:15-17** gives 3 restrictions a king must follow
    1. Do not acquire many horses- his reliance is not on military strength
    2. Do not take multiple wives- don't rely on political alliances
    3. Do not accumulate silver and gold- Don't rely on wealth

- All these were put in place to protect a king from trusting in anything else other than the Lord for his protection and his provision. This will be disastrous later on in David's reign.

V17-21

- Abner now goes about solidifying David's hold notice how he puts the honus on them telling them this is what you wanted then step to it **V17-18**.

- Then he does the smart thing in talking with Saul's tribe the Benjamites before sitting down and feasting with David as he completes the agreement what a politician.

- Abner is like so many others he believes what he is doing is right and that he is looking out for the best interest of the nation but his source is not the Lord or he would have never supported Ishbosheth.

V22-30
- Joab is upset when he finds out Abner was there and there has been an agreement struck so he tricks Abner back to Hebron and takes him aside to whisper in his ear only to stab him. This was very wrong for a number of reasons

  1. Cities of refuge- **Num 35:11-12**
  2. Hebron was one of these cities- **Josh 21:13**
  3. Joab a man under authority who acts in rebellion to that authority

- David pronounces a curse upon Joab that there will always be someone with a disease or who dies a violent death.

V31-39
- David feels the pain of realizing that his nephew does not have the same desire to serve the Lord as he does. As people see David's anguish all suspicion and doubt about him is removed so even in this, God's purpose to solidify David as king is accomplished no thanks to Joab who could have ruined it.

- In closing I want to point your attention to **V39** if you are **attached** to people who cause you to cry out like David does, then **detach** yourself, because in failing to do so David is in for much more pain from the sons of Zuriah > **1Cor15:33** (NIV) "**Do not be misled bad company corrupts good character**". You hang around those who know what's right but choose what's wrong it will rub off on you.