



25: Crown Him King! (2 Sam 3:22-5:3)

What kind of king earns loyalty through integrity instead of power? Our journey through Samuel leads us to David finally being crowned as king. Discover how his character points us to Jesus, the greater Shepherd-King who laid down His life for His people. **Crown HIM King!**

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* All Scripture is from the Christian Standard Bible (CSB) unless otherwise noted.

Catch the Context

Abner, once the leading ENEMY of King David, **changed teams**, submitted to David as king over all Israel and influenced others to do the same. After having a face to face meeting with King David where David honored him and his men...

2 Samuel 3:21-23

Abner said to David, "Let me now go and **I will gather all Israel to my lord the king. They will make a covenant with you, and you will reign** over all you desire." So David dismissed Abner, and **he went in peace**. So David dismissed **Abner**, and he **went in peace**. Just then David's soldiers and Joab returned from a raid and brought a large amount of plundered goods with them. Abner was not with David in Hebron because David had dismissed him, and **he had gone in peace**. When Joab and his whole army arrived, Joab was informed, "Abner son of Ner came to see the king, the king dismissed him, and **he went in peace**."

Notice in this few sentences the author has made it *clear* that Abner had left **in peace**. But this is just NOT acceptable for Joab - he wants REVENGE.

2 Samuel 3:24-27

Joab went to the king and said, "What have you done? Look here, Abner came to you. Why did you dismiss him? Now he's getting away. You know that Abner son of Ner came to deceive you and to find out about your military activities and everything you're doing." Then Joab left David and sent messengers after Abner. They brought him back from the well of Sirah, but David was unaware of it. When Abner returned to Hebron, Joab pulled him aside to the middle of the city gate, as if to speak to him privately, and there **Joab stabbed him in the stomach**. So Abner died in revenge for the death of Asahel, Joab's brother.

The general from the North who had changed teams and was influencing others to do the same had now been brutally murdered by the leader of David's army. This could certainly have a massive impact reconciling the northern tribes with Judah and David.

BUT...there's a bigger reality here. David was NOT faking the peace he had extended to **Abner** and the people of Israel. David is sincere in his graciousness towards those who once fought against him.

2 Samuel 3:28-30

David heard about it later and said, "I and my kingdom are forever innocent before the LORD concerning the blood of Abner son of Ner. May it hang over Joab's head and his father's whole family, and may the house of Joab never be without someone who has a discharge or a skin disease, or a man who can only work a spindle, or someone who falls by the sword or starves."

Joab and his brother Abishai killed Abner because he had put their brother Asahel to death in the battle at Gibeon.

David was not okay with this. He was genuinely pleased to have Abner changing teams, but Joab would have none of it. David's response to Abner's death, was similar to David's response to the death of King Saul, years earlier.

2 Samuel 3:31-32 NET

David instructed Joab and all the people who were with him, "Tear your clothes. Put on sackcloth. Lament before Abner!"

Now King David followed behind the **funeral pallet**. So they buried Abner in Hebron. The king cried loudly over Abner's grave and all the people wept too.

David instructed Joab...Lament before Abner! The king forces the man who **MURDERED** Abner, to **MOURN** over him - to tear his clothes and mourn as if this was his brother who died and not his enemy. *What a humiliating moment for Joab!* David commands the others from Judah to do the same. **David followed behind the funeral pallet**, grieving as if a dear family member just died.

The *Hebrew word* used here is the normal word for *BED (mittah)*, which the **NIV, ESV, & KJV** translate as "**bier**" and the **NET** translates as "**funeral pallet**". The CSB used "**coffin**" - doesn't convey the best meaning.

2 Samuel 3:33-34

and **the king sang a lament for Abner**: "Should Abner die as a fool dies? Your hands were not bound, your feet not placed in bronze shackles. You fell like one who falls victim to criminals." And **all the people wept over him even more.**

✱ **John Woodhouse** writes: "Joab may have imagined that in the events of that day he had taken matters into his own hands and had won a victory for his king. But Joab had treated David as a fool, accusing him of being deceived by Abner, and then deceiving David himself. In truth the events of that day presented qualities of the king that contrasted starkly with all that Joab had done. The people could see it."¹

2 Samuel 3:35-37

Then they came to urge David to eat food while it was still day, but David took an oath: "May God punish me and do so severely if I taste bread or anything else before sunset!" All the people took note of this, and it pleased them. In fact, **everything the king did pleased them.** On that day all the troops and all Israel were convinced that the king had no part in the killing of Abner son of Ner.

David's sincere mourning over Abner put conspiracy theories to rest. From this text it should be obvious that no one should belittle the character of the king (David) based on what someone under his authority (Joab) supposedly does *in his name*.

- Don't think less of King Jesus due to the disobedience of those who claim Him as King yet refuse to obey his commands.
- This should remind those who say they follow Jesus NOT to misrepresent Him before others, as people have a tendency to view Jesus like they view those who claim His Name.

❓ If others based the character of Jesus on YOUR character, what conclusions would they draw? Would they see Jesus as kind, patient, loving, truthful, & holy. OR...would your disobedience to Jesus tarnish His image to others?

2 Samuel 3:38-39

Then the king said to his soldiers, "You must know that **a great leader has fallen in Israel today.** As for me, even though I am the anointed king, I have little power today. These men, the sons of Zeruiah, are too fierce for me. **May the LORD repay the evildoer according to his evil!"**

David is proving himself worthy of following & honoring as a compassionate king. Meanwhile, things aren't looking good for his rival up north who rules over 11 of the 12 tribes. He is quickly losing his grasp & hope.

2 Samuel 4:1

When Saul's son Ish-bosheth heard that Abner had died in Hebron, he gave up, and **all Israel was dismayed.**

Abner, the great military leader from the reign of Saul, the one who had established Ish-bosheth as king over Israel after Saul died (2 Sam 2:8-9), had not only defected to David, but now was DEAD. **Who would lead the troops of Israel?** Would David now come and CRUSH Ish-bosheth and those who had supported him? That was likely the concern of others, which leads us to what happens next.

2 Samuel 4:2-3

Saul's son had two men who were leaders of raiding parties: one named Baanah and the other Rechab, sons of Rimmon the Beerothite of the Benjaminites. Beeroth is also considered part of Benjamin, and the Beerothites fled to Gittaim and still reside there as aliens today.

That these men were **Benjamites** means that they were directly related to Ish-bosheth as they were from the same tribe.

2 Samuel 4:4

Saul's son Jonathan had a son whose feet were crippled. He was five years old when the report about Saul and Jonathan came from Jezreel. His nanny picked him up and fled, but as she was hurrying to flee, he fell and became lame. His name was **Mephibosheth.**

This 5 year old was the son of David's best friend, **Jonathan**. When his father was killed in battle along King Saul, and 2 other brothers, many people of Israel fled in fear of the Philistines - especially those who were from the house of Saul - as they would be hunted. This is when **Mephibosheth** fell and broke something, something that never healed right, and made him **lame** for the rest of his life. At this point, Mephibosheth is probably about 12 years old (7 years later) and will soon become the last surviving member of Saul's household. (That's all we hear of this lame boy until chapter 9.)

2 Samuel 4:5-7

Rechab and Baanah, the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, set out and arrived at Ish-bosheth's house during the heat of the day while the king was taking his midday nap. They entered the interior of the house as if to get wheat and **stabbed him in the stomach.** Then Rechab and his brother Baanah escaped. They had entered the house while Ish-bosheth was lying on his bed in his bedroom and **stabbed and killed him.** They **removed his head**, took it, and traveled by way of the Arabah all night.

These guys were likely trusted family members who had served Ish-bosheth, so it was easy to enter the house while Ish-bosheth was **lying on his bed in his bedroom** and **stabbed and killed him.**

¹ John Woodhouse, 2 Samuel: Your Kingdom Come, ed. R. Kent Hughes, Preaching the Word (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2015), 122.

2 Samuel 4:8-10

They brought Ish-bosheth's head to **David** at Hebron and said to the king, "Here's the head of Ish-bosheth son of Saul, your enemy who intended to take your life. Today the **LORD** has granted vengeance to my lord the king against Saul and his offspring." But David answered Rechab and his brother Baanah, sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, "As **the LORD** [YaHWeH] lives, **the One who has redeemed my life** from every distress, when the person told me, 'Look, Saul is dead,' he thought he was a bearer of good news, but **I seized him and put him to death** at Ziklag. That was my reward to him for his news!

These men obviously think they will be hailed as heroes and honored by King David. When they reminded David of Saul's attempt to take his life, David is quick to give credit to Yahweh Who **redeemed his life** - from the bear & lion, from Goliath, from the Philistines, and from Saul who had hunted him for years. Despite Saul considering David as an **enemy**, David never treated Saul as an enemy. Instead, David MOURNED over Saul when he died (2 Sam 1:11-12) and even **put to death** the man who claimed to have run Saul through with a sword (2 Sam 1:6-16). That was his '**reward**'.

2 Samuel 4:11-12

How much more when **wicked men** kill **a righteous man** in his own house on his own bed! So now, should I not require his blood from you and purge you from the earth?" So **David gave orders** to the young men, and **they killed Rechab and Baanah**. They cut off their hands and feet and hung their bodies by the pool in Hebron, but they took Ish-bosheth's head and buried it in Abner's tomb in Hebron.

David continues to HONOR the house of Saul, and bring justice to those who harm his family.

2 Samuel 5:1-2

All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, "Here we are, your own flesh and blood. Even while Saul was king over us, you were the one who led us out to battle and brought us back. The LORD also said to you, '**You will shepherd my people Israel**, and you will be **ruler** over Israel.'

Over 20 years since David was anointed by Samuel as the future king of Israel, elders from all 12 tribes - travel south into the tribal region of Judah, to **Hebron**, and **all the tribes of Israel** recognize David as the anointed king **over ALL of Israel!!**

- All the people recognize David as their **savior** - **the one who led** them to victory and **brought** them **back** safely.
- And all the people submit to David as the **shepherd** and **ruler** whom Yahweh has given them. Keep in mind that David is not the ultimate shepherd. David writes, "Yahweh is my **Shepherd**" (Ps 23:1)" who provides for his needs and is present with him in the darkest valley.

2 Samuel 5:3

So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron. King David made a covenant with them at Hebron **in the LORD's presence**, and **they anointed David king over Israel**.

All the people recognize **David** is the **anointed** (messiah) of Yahweh. David makes **covenant** with the people who recognize him as king. They submit to him as their leader and he promises to guide, protect, and provide for them, as any good shepherd would do for his sheep. This **covenant**, like the marriage covenant, is performed **in Yahweh's Presence**.

About 400 years later, **Ezekiel** foretells of another King who will be Shepherd over all of Israel.

Ezekiel 34:23-24 I will establish over them **one shepherd**, my servant David, and **he will shepherd them**. **He will tend them himself and will be their shepherd**. I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David will be **a prince among them**. I, the LORD, have spoken.

We understand this to be fulfilled by One who was born into the family line of David, born in the same place David had been a young shepherd. When King Herod ruled over Jerusalem and heard that a rival had been born, whom wise men had referred to as "**king of the Jews**," Herod wanted to know where the prophesied messiah - the anointed One - would be born. The religious leaders of Israel responded.

Matthew 2:5-6 "In **Bethlehem** of Judea," they told him, "because this is what was written by the prophet: *And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah: Because out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.*"

King David grew up as a shepherd...in **Bethlehem**! Matthew, Mark, & Luke consistently refer to Jesus being called "**Son of David**" (Mat 1:1 ; 9:27; 12:23; 15:22; 20:30-31; 21:9,15; Mk 10:47-48, 12:35; Lk 18:38-39, 20:41; Jn 7:42).

Just before Passover we see the arrival of this **ruler**.

John 12:12-13

The next day, when the large crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, they took **palm branches** and went out to meet him. They kept shouting: "**Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord—the King of Israel!**"

After the people of Jerusalem heard Jesus teaching, they started asking some significant questions.

John 7:40-43

When some from the crowd heard these words, they said, "This truly is the Prophet." Others said, "This is **the Messiah**." But some said, "Surely the Messiah doesn't come from Galilee, does he? Doesn't the Scripture say that **the Messiah** comes **from David's offspring** and from the town of **Bethlehem, where David lived**?" So the crowd was divided because of him.

Ultimately, this One from the family lineage of David, the One who referred to Himself as "the Good Shepherd" (Jn 10:11), would not just protect and provide for the sheep, but He would lay down His life for them.

And he WOULD put on a crown, but not the kind the typical king would wear. He wore a crown of thorns and was crucified on a Roman cross, to lay down His life for His sheep.

Today we celebrate Jesus and CROWN HIM KING! - our King who went to a Roman cross and took on our sin - as we participate in **the Lord's Supper**.

heretoserveyou

Have questions and need some help? ...real soon...how about now? Please **call** or **text** us soon!

- * Contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Christy** (850-673-9764), **Caleb** (864-315-8015), **Gary** (850-673-2507), **Betty** (850-973-3266), or another follower of Jesus soon!
- * Or call our **deacons & wives: Alan & Christy Androski** (850-464-1428), **Noel & Patricia Barnes** (813-767-2881), **Derek & Emily Beaty** (813-763-4421), or **Chris & Caitlin Day** (850-673-7920), **Glen & Margie Peacock** (850-464-1484).

Discussionquestions

These questions are designed to help you LIVE what you LEARN with your family, friends, or small group.

1. Peace vs. Revenge

Read: 2 Samuel 3:21-27; Romans 12:17-21

- Why is revenge so tempting, even when God calls us to peace?
- Where do you struggle to trust God with justice?

2. Character Speaks Louder Than Claims

Read: 2 Samuel 3:37; Matthew 5:16

- How did David's response silence false accusations?
- What does your character communicate about King Jesus?

3. Misrepresenting the King

Read: 2 Samuel 3:28-30; Titus 1:16

- How can believers unintentionally distort people's view of Jesus?
- What practices help you live in alignment with Christ's name?

4. Waiting for God's Timing

Read: 2 Samuel 5:1-4; Psalm 27:14

- Why do we struggle with waiting for God's promises?
- How does David's long road to the throne encourage patience?

5. From David to Jesus

Read: Ezekiel 34:23-24; John 10:11; Philippians 2:8-11

- How is Jesus the greater fulfillment of David's kingship?
- What does it mean practically to crown Jesus King of your life?

6. Pray together, sharing praises & needs.