



23: Choose Who You Serve (2 Sam 2:1-11)

David's return to Judah forces Israel to choose sides and decide which king they will serve. In the same way, Jesus confronts us with a searching question: WHO—or WHAT—really reigns over our lives?

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teachingnotes

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

2 Samuel 2:1

Some time later, **David inquired of the LORD [YAHWEH]**: "Should I go to one of the towns of **Judah**?" The LORD answered him, "Go." Then David asked, "Where should I go?" To **Hebron**, the LORD replied.

Since Saul was dead and no longer hunting David, David has asked Yahweh about moving from **Ziklag** (in Philistine territory) and moving back to **Judah**, the southern part of the kingdom. Since Yahweh had anointed David as king, and since King Saul was now dead, this should obviously lead to David stepping onto the throne.

But rather than just make the move and try to take over, David continues to rely on Yahweh rather than himself. David - the man who is to be KING over all of Israel - SEEKS Yahweh and OBEYS Him.

- This is the man of whom it had been said, "Yahweh has found a man after his own heart, and... has appointed him as ruler over his people, because you have not done what Yahweh commanded." (1 Samuel 13:14)

What a great example for US to follow!

② When's the last time you paused and asked God for HIS GUIDANCE regarding your future decisions?

2 Samuel 2:2-3

So David went there with his two wives, Ahinoam the Jezreelite and Abigail, the widow of Nabal the Carmelite. In addition, David brought the men who were with him, each one with his family, and **they settled in the towns near Hebron**.

Two wives. This is a **DESCRIPTION** of what **DID** happen, not a **PRESCRIPTION** of what **SHOULD** happen. David brought the men who were with him, a group of men that numbered 600 (1 Sam 27:2-3) - along with their families - likely an exodus of several thousand people.

Hebron is a super significant place - the city of Abraham, where Yahweh appeared to Abraham with the message that, despite his old age, he would be given a son through elderly Sarah (Gen 18:1-15). Hebron is where Sarah died and was buried (Gen 23:2, 23:19). Hebron is where Abraham & Isaac (Gen 25:9-10; 35:27-29), Rebekah, Jacob, and Leah were all buried too (Gen 49:31; 50:13).

David's move in Hebron forever links him with Abraham and God's promise to Abraham that...

Genesis 12:2-3 I will make you into a great nation, I will bless you, I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, I will curse anyone who treats you with contempt, and **all the peoples on earth will be blessed through you.**

We see this connection from the first strokes of Matthew's pen when he writes this:

Matthew 1:1 An account of the genealogy of **Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham**:

So it was that, through the family line of the men of Hebron, all the peoples on earth will be blessed by the Lord Jesus.

2 Samuel 2:4a

Then the men of Judah came, and there **they anointed David king over the house of Judah**.

Judah is the tribe that David is from. He grew up in Bethlehem, just over 16 miles north of Hebron. And now, probably somewhere around 15 years after David had been privately anointed king, he is now PUBLICLY anointed as king over his tribe.

2 Samuel 2:4b-7

They told David, "It was the **men of Jabesh-gilead** who **buried Saul**." David sent messengers to the men of Jabesh-gilead and said to them, "The LORD bless you because you have shown this kindness to Saul your lord when you buried him. Now, may the LORD show kindness and faithfulness to you, and I will also show the same goodness to you because you have done this deed. Therefore, be strong and valiant, for though Saul your lord is dead, **the house of Judah has anointed me king over them.**"

This is kind and gracious, but also wise, befriending an important city NOT within the tribe of Judah. With their support, David will be one step closer to ruling over not just Judah, but all of Israel. And while Saul considered David his enemy, David did not allow himself to consider Saul his enemy. Therefore, he didn't view the people who had supported Saul as his enemies either.

While these people might have once viewed David as an enemy, due to their affection with Saul as their lord - their authority, David now extends GRACE to them and invites them to now follow *him* as their lord - their authority.

† We were once enemies of the Lord Jesus, as we were committed to another lord, yet Jesus extends US His GRACE and invites us to follow Him as the ultimate Lord over our lives!

2 Samuel 2:8-9

Abner son of Ner, commander of Saul's army, took **Saul's son Ish-bosheth** and moved him to Mahanaim. He made him **king over Gilead, Asher, Jezreel, Ephraim, Benjamin—over all Israel**.

Ish-bosheth did not die in the battle with his father & 3 brothers. He is 40 years old (see v10) so he could have fought.

It is possible that he was exempt for just such a catastrophic outcome - leaving one son of Saul alive to take the throne. So, **Abner** put that plan into action.

- **Ish-bosheth** is likely not a real name, meaning "man of shame".

Abner had been the **commander of Saul's army**.

- Abner presented young David to King Saul right after David killed Goliath (1 Sam 17:55,57). Abner was in the room when David was grasping Goliath's decapitated head!
- Abner shared a place at Saul's table with David on a regular basis (1 Samuel 20:25).
- When David and his men entered King Saul's encampment, taking his spear and water jug, David taunted Abner for not protecting King Saul.

2 Samuel 2:10-11

Saul's son **Ish-bosheth** was forty years old when he became king over Israel; he reigned for two years. The house of Judah, however, followed David. The length of time that David was king in Hebron over the house of Judah was seven years and six months.

Now, for the first time since all Israel had their 1st king - Saul, **Israelites were divided over who would be their king**.

And the 12 tribes of Israel were having to make a decision to **CHOOSE WHOM TO SERVE**. They couldn't choose both Ish-bosheth & David. 11 tribes chose & served Ish-bosheth versus the 1 tribe & the people of Jabesh who chose & served David.

- You and I have the opportunity to choose who we serve too. There are many voices & vices that compete to be LORD over our lives - people, prestige, money, & power.

1,000 years after this decision to follow Ish-bosheth or David, the Lord Jesus says these powerful and challenging words:

Matthew 6:24

No one can serve two masters, since either he will hate one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both **God** and money.

Money can't be my God.

Matthew 10:37-38

The one who loves a father or mother more than Me is not worthy of me; the one who loves a son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And whoever doesn't take up his cross and follow Me is not worthy of me.

My family can't be my God. MySELF can't be my God.

You must **CHOOSE WHO YOU SERVE**.



► Seek Jesus in the scriptures.

► Serve & Share Jesus with our culture.

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 discussion questions are designed to help you LIVE what you LEARN with your Family, Friends, or Small Group.

1. **Read 2 Sam 2:1.** Does the reliance of David on Yahweh surprise you? Explain your answer.
2. How does David's reliance upon Yahweh challenge you to be more consistent in prayer & more willing to recognize your daily dependence on God's provision, protection, & presence?
3. **Read 2 Sam 2:2-3.** What is so significant about Hebron?
4. **Read Gen 12:2-3 & Mt 1:1** and describe why the link between Abraham, David, and Jesus matters so much.
5. **Read 2 Sam 2:4-7.** How does David's grace toward those who once followed Saul remind us of the grace of Jesus extended to those who were once his enemies?
6. **Read Mt 6:24; 10:37-38.** Which one of these "competing masters" most often fight for your loyalty?
7. How can good things (family, success, money) subtly become ultimate things?
8. How do these words of Jesus challenge comfortable Christianity?
9. If you died this year, what evidence would your life leave behind about who you serve?
10. What would it look like to more fully surrender one area of your life to Christ this week?
11. Share your prayer needs and lift each other up!