

II Samuel 3-4 –14 April 2022

“A Heart For Reconciliation”

Introduction

*II Samuel – depicts the entire reign of King David

*David waited about 15 years since his anointing by Samuel to become king of Judah (all Israel to come)

*Now that David is king over Judah; Abner, Saul’s general, has placed Ish-Bosheth as king over Israel

*Much of David’s character had been developed in the years of wondering, waiting and warring

*Although David has many years ahead of fighting off the enemies of God from outside the land;

David is always wanting reconciliation w/ his kinsmen within the kingdom

*I believe God wants to challenge our heart today to see if WE have a heart that seeks reconciliation

***Today, we’ll ask ourselves 3 questions to determine if we’re seeking reconciliation with others**

1st question to determine if you're seeking reconciliation is "Are you looking to be gracious?" (Chap 3:1-21)

Read Chap 3:1-5

1. Though these marriages may have helped form bonds between families of Israel, these aren't the bonds a believer need
2. The Law specifically forbid kings from multiplying wives b/c it would turn their hearts away from God (Deut 17)
3. Many of his sons would betray David brutally including Amnon, Absalom & Adonijah
4. Solomon will be his 10th son by yet another mom, Bathsheba

Read Vs 6-7

1. Taking king's concubine is a claim to the throne
2. Strong accusation, but no evidence / reality

Read Vs 8

1. Am I some kind of worthless dog from Judah?
2. Abner declared he's always been loyal to Saul

Read Vs 9-11

1. Abner turns side b/c of the traitorous insult
2. Notice vs 9 – Abner knew all along that God had promised David the throne yet chose to side w/ Saul
 - a. *Abner couldn't convert to the truth b/c of humility but only did b/c of pride*
 - b. People come to Jesus in different ways
 - i. Some b/c they initially see their sin & God's goodness
 - ii. Some, like Abner, b/c they are disappointed by their 'god' and turn to Jesus, only later seeing their sin & His goodness
 - iii. Pray God disappoints people w/ their 'gods'

Read Vs 12-16

1. What did Abner need forgiveness from?
 - a. Not for killing Asahel—that was self-defense
 - b. It was for rebellion to God's clear will in supporting a false king, Ish-Bosheth
2. W/i grace, it's ok to seek fruit proving repentance

3. This is something only Abner could provide
4. David wanted Michal back for 3 reasons
 - a. She was the wife of his youth & love
 - b. Shows He had no bitterness to house of Saul
 - c. Cements David's claim to the throne
5. As far as Phaltiel – Never get mixed up w/ a girl whose man never left her but was taken from her

Read Vs 17-19

1. Abner goes about his “repentance tour” to convince all Israel to receive David as king
2. Notice he went to Benjamin (Saul's family)
3. Once you convert to the right king (Jesus) you'll want to help others come to the light

Read Vs 20-21

1. David has forgiven and allows for 2nd chances
2. Notice David made a feast
 - a. Grace doesn't keep people at arm's length
 - b. It's good to slowly build back trust, but fellowship should be there immediately

2nd question to determine if you're seeking reconciliation is "Are you looking to offer mercy?" (Chap 3:22-39)

Read Chap 3:22-25

1. Joab is mad saying that he thinks Abner is tricking David
2. In honesty – he's still vengeful b/c his bro died

Read Vs 26-27

1. Joab tricks Abner into coming back to Hebron
2. Remember Abner killed Asahel from self-defense, Joab kills Abner from revenge
3. *Hebron was a City of Refuge – not even an Avenger of Blood could kill in that city*
 - a. Of all place, here there should be mercy until the truth could be ascertained
 - b. Just some mercy from Joab could have led to forgiveness & grace, but never gave chance

Read Vs 28-30

1. David prays a curse of disease, crippled that can only do simple work, killed in battle and in poverty

2. David stills believes-vengeance belongs to God
3. How did northern Israel view this?
 - a. Well sometimes the right thing to do is also good politics

Read Vs 31-39

1. These weren't just political words of peace, but there was real substance and meaning here as seen by David afflicting himself by fasting
2. If you're overcome w/ emotion or sin and can't give grace that moment
 - a. Then at least offer mercy & patience
 - b. Wait for the Lord's direction

3rd question to determine if you're seeking reconciliation is "Are you looking to get justice?" (Chap 4:1-12)

Read Chap 4:1-3

1. Weakness breeds infighting & war among sinful men
2. 2 captains Baanah & Rechab will desire to take out Ish-Bosheth...for what they can gain (reward)

Read Vs 4

1. Story of Jonathan's son will resume in chap 9

Read Vs 5-7

1. 2 bros kill Ish-Bosheth & bring head as proof

Read Vs 8-12

1. Ish-Bosheth righteous? In sense that there's no record of his disobedience to God as there was w/ Saul
2. Classic example of 2 wrongs don't make right
 - a. Murdering Ish-Bosheth is still wrong under any circumstance
 - b. Seeking justice, will just have justice find you! (live by sword, die by sword)

Conclusion

So what about you?

- 1. Are you looking to get justice like Baanah?**
 - a. That just leads to sin b/c we can't keep perfect justice
 - b. Don't take the law into your own hands, it's too weighty for us
- 2. Are you looking to offer mercy like Joab didn't?**
 - a. That can lead to forgiveness
- 3. Are you looking to be gracious as David was?**
 - a. This leads to reconciliation
 - b. It's ok to slowly grow trust back, but regain that fellowship & help immediately

Jesus did this all for us!

1. He took perfect justice upon Himself & won!
2. He was merciful in removing our sins
3. And He's gracious to grant us everlasting life and to be at His side for eternity!

Jesus knows everything about us & STILL loves us!