

Never Ending Battles The Battle Rages On 2 Samuel 20

Pray

the title of today's message is ***Never Ending Battles***.

- As long as we are on this earth, we will face constant battles one after another
- because we live in a fallen world.

And the sooner we recognize this truth the better off & prepared we will be when they come

We sometimes think I'm finally coming out of this storm

- and you're like, I finally made it through!
- Well, the truth is there's another one that's coming!

As believers, we have to realize that we're in a war

- and that we have 3 enemies that we constantly have to battle & fight against
 - **the world, the flesh & the devil.**

Satan hates us. **John 10:10** says He wants to **steal, kill, and destroy us.**

- He wants to lure us away from God.

So we need gird up every day with the TRUTH OF GODS WORD!

The Bible says in **Ephesians 6:10-11 & 14-18** **Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.**

¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶ above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. ¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; ¹⁸ praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—

The Bible says in **2 Timothy 2:3** **You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.**

The Bible says in **2 Corinthians 10:4-5** **the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty in God for bringing down strongholds, casting down arguments, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God and bring every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.**

As we have been studying David's life it has seemed like he has faced **never ending battles**

- He just finished putting out the rebellion led by his son Absalom.
 - But now he's about to deal with another rebellion
 - As he makes his way back to Jerusalem.

So today we'll be looking at 4 different aspects of the life of David

- as he faces more battles as he takes the throne again.

Number one. First of all, let's take a look at **the problem David faced** in verses 1-2.

1 And there happened to be there a rebel, whose name was Sheba the son of Bichri, a Benjamite. And he blew a trumpet, and said: "We have no share in David, Nor do we have inheritance in the son of Jesse; Every man to his tents, O Israel!" ² So every man of Israel deserted David, and followed Sheba the son of Bichri. But the men of Judah, from the Jordan as far as Jerusalem, remained loyal to their king.

David has just been through the worst time in his life. He's lost his son & his kingdom.

- And now he's starting to come back to his land to rule & reign
 - And just when he is coming back another rebellion breaks out.

A rebellious leader by the name of Sheba rises up against David & brings division

- And causes many people to desert & abandon David

Shiba's character is given to us in verse one. He is called **a rebel**.

- the Hebrew word for **rebel** can be translated as worthless one, a scoundrel
 - It was used to describe a son of Satan. A life with nothing but trouble ahead.

This man said some divisive things telling everyone to leave David
he tries to become the leader saying we have no part with you David

- we're not going to have you rule over us we're not going to submit to your Authority

the Bible has alot to say about division

- it's actually something that God hates
 - and one of them is to sow Discord among the Brethren

Proverbs 6:19 says **the Lord hates A false witness who speaks lies, And one who sows discord among brethren.**

Jesus said in **Matthew 12:25**, "**Every house divided against itself cannot stand. Every kingdom divided against itself will be destroyed.**"

Many of the people of Israel deserted David as

- Sheba succeeded in drawing away the 10 northern tribes
 - and David had another civil war on his hands to deal with

Some people that have a rebellious trumpet of a mouth and they like to blow it

- **and once they have everybody's attention they say hurtful things**

This rebel decided to go his own way & refused to submit to the King

- and he drew others with him

it's in our fallen nature to divide but it's the Spirit that unites us in the Church

- but do you remember what Paul said **Ephesians 4:1-3**

I beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, ² with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, ³ endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

its man's fallen nature, to be divisive. This is why the only way we can experience true unity

- is by the work of the Holy Spirit in our life—

It's the only glue that will bring us together.

Psalm 133:1 "Behold how good and how pleasant it is when brethren dwell together in unity."

I love how verse 2 shows us **the loyalty of the tribe of Judah**

- where it says **the men of Judah remained loyal to their king**
 - the abandonment of the ten tribes is distressing
 - but the loyalty of the men of Judah is encouraging

I think we should imitate the loyalty Judah showed to their king

- we should show the same loyalty to our king

especially in times when other people around us desert the way of Jesus!

David, experienced a lot of problems, a lot of trials, a lot of heartache,

- And you would think at this point in his life, things might settle down just a little bit.
 - You think he might just have a little bit of smooth sailing just for a few days?
 - Not so much. David had a lot of problems constantly in his life.

The truth is We all go through constant problems, trials and tribulation.

- However, when we go through these difficulties in our lives, all the ups and downs,
 - it shouldn't surprise us.

1 Peter 4:12 Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you

we as believers should be expecting it because Jesus said in **John 16:33**

- **in this world you will have tribulation.** It's going to happen.
 - However, when it does happen, when God allows all these difficulties
 - to come into our lives, **it's not to bum us out, it's to build us up.**
 - It's to grow & mature us.

That's what Paul said in **2 Corinthians 4:17** **this light affliction, which is for a moment, is working for us a far more weightier matter of glory.**

- The hardships we face God uses to grow us and stretch us
 - and cause us to trust in him. It's working for us.

And that's exactly why Paul said in **Romans 5:3**, **we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope.** so, there is a growth in our life through difficult times.

James tells us in **James 1:2**, I hate this verse. He says, **to count it all joy, when you fall into various trials, knowing the testing of your faith develops perseverance.**

- So there's always a byproduct to the difficulties we face in our life.
 - So will we let them make us **bitter or better?**

We shouldn't see our problems we face to burn us out, but to build us up, to grow us,

- to draw us closer to the Lord, to open our eyes to our great need for Jesus Christ

That's the problem David was facing

- Let's come to a second matter. Number two, let's look at **the change in David's life**,
 - in verse 3.

³ Now David came to his house at Jerusalem. And the king took the ten women, his concubines whom he had left to keep the house, and put them in seclusion and supported them, but did not go in to them. So they were shut up to the day of their death, living in widowhood.

When David returned home knowing what Absalom had done to these woman

- he took these women & supported them
 - but he no longer had an intimate relationship with them
- and the fact is David should have never had these women to begin with
 - the Lord had warned him long in advance that this was not something he was to do
 - and yet he did it anyway he violated the command of God

But from this point on in David's life it can be noted he did not take any more ladies

- So I believe he had learned his lesson

this seems to be a turning point in David's life as he's not going to his concubines like before

- There was a change from this point on, he has no more new ladies.

Why was there such a change in his life at this point?

- I believe it came immediately on the heels of a rebellion & trial.
 - sometimes God uses great trials and great tragedies in our lives
 - to get our attention, to cause us to turn to him,
 - to cause us to turn from sin and turn to the Lord.

Sometimes God uses difficulties to really shake us up.

- to teach us & show us things

The 3rd thing we want to look at involves **the death of David's commander**

- In verses 4-14

we will see how Amasa dies & Joab becomes in charge of David's army once again,

- you remember that David removed him but he's going to weasel his way back in.

⁴ And the king said to Amasa, "Assemble the men of Judah for me within three days, and be present here yourself." ⁵ So Amasa went to assemble the men of Judah. But he delayed longer than the set time which David had appointed him. ⁶ And David said to Abishai, "Now Sheba the son of Bichri will do us more harm than Absalom. Take your lord's servants and pursue him, lest he find for himself fortified cities, and escape us." ⁷ So Joab's men, with the Cherethites, the Pelethites, and all the mighty men, went out after him. And they went

out of Jerusalem to pursue Sheba the son of Bichri.⁸ When they were at the large stone which is in Gibeon, Amasa came before them. Now Joab was dressed in battle armor; on it was a belt with a sword fastened in its sheath at his hips; and as he was going forward, it fell out.⁹ Then Joab said to Amasa, "Are you in health, my brother?" And Joab took Amasa by the beard with his right hand to kiss him.¹⁰ But Amasa did not notice the sword that was in Joab's hand. And he struck him with it in the stomach, and his entrails poured out on the ground; and he did not strike him again. Thus he died. Then Joab and Abishai his brother pursued Sheba the son of Bichri.¹¹ Meanwhile one of Joab's men stood near Amasa, and said, "Whoever favors Joab and whoever is for David—follow Joab!"¹² But Amasa wallowed in his blood in the middle of the highway. And when the man saw that all the people stood still, he moved Amasa from the highway to the field and threw a garment over him, when he saw that everyone who came upon him halted.¹³ When he was removed from the highway, all the people went on after Joab to pursue Sheba the son of Bichri.

Here we see Joab kills Amasa and is now back leading the army of David

- And a man moved Amasa from the highway to the field
 - and threw a garment over him because everyone was stopping to see
 - what happened to Amasa as he was lying there dying on the highway
- it's like a car crash on the freeway everybody wants to stop and look
- So they get him off the road and throw a blanket over him

This story shows us all the blood & guts and it's a picture how jealousy is gross.

- Brothers fighting gets messy

Joab pretends to be a friend of Amasa saying give me a friendly kiss on the cheek

- But it was truly a kiss of death

And we see the deception of Joab.

- it reminds us of Matthew 26 when Judas came to Jesus and betrayed him with a kiss?
 - deception is a terrible thing
 - and we need to be very careful not to deceive other people.
- We need to be men and women of integrity.

In 1 Kings Joab will be put to death

- And I think the point for each and every one of us is pretty simple.
 - Payday will be one day.
- if you think you're getting away with it today,
 - it's going to catch up to you one day

Galatians 6:7 says, **we're going to reap what we sow.**

The truth of the law of reaping & sowing is **you reap more than you sow.**

- You plant a seed, You reap much more than you put in.
 - That's true when you reap or sow to the flesh. You reap a lot more corruption.
 - If you sow to the Spirit, you reap a lot more benefit.

So the law of the harvest isn't just you reap an equal amount to what you sow.

- But you will always reap more than what you have sown.

In **Hosea 8:7**, the prophet said of Israel, "**They have sown the wind, and they will reap the whirlwind.**"

So let me encourage you to be sowing seeds in the Spirit by Bible reading, by praying,

- By serving, by fellowshiping. By encouraging. By being the hands & feet of Jesus

Galatians 6:9 **And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.**

Let's come to the fourth thing we want to look at.

- and that involves **the victory over David's enemy** in verses 14-26,

¹⁴ And he went through all the tribes of Israel to Abel and Beth Maachah and all the Be-rites. So they were gathered together and also went after Sheba.

The Be-rites are cousins to the "do-rights." That was a joke.

¹⁵ Then they came and besieged him in Abel of Beth Maachah; and they cast up a siege mound against the city, and it stood by the rampart. And all the people who were with Joab battered the wall to throw it down. ¹⁶ Then a wise woman cried out from the city, "Hear, hear! Please say to Joab, 'Come nearby, that I may speak with you.' " ¹⁷ When he had come near to her, the woman said, "Are you Joab?" He answered, "I am." Then she said to him, "Hear the words of your maidservant." And he answered, "I am listening." ¹⁸ So she spoke, saying, "They used to talk in former times, saying, 'They shall surely seek guidance at Abel,' and so they would end disputes. ¹⁹ I am among the peaceable and faithful in Israel. You seek to destroy a city and a mother in Israel. Why would you swallow up the inheritance of the Lord?" ²⁰ And Joab answered and said, "Far be it, far be it from me, that I should swallow up or destroy! ²¹ That is not so. But a man from the mountains of Ephraim, Sheba the son of Bichri by name, has raised his hand against the king, against David. Deliver him only, and I will depart from the city." So the woman said to Joab, "Watch, his head will be thrown to you over the wall." aren't u glad u don't have the illustrated bible right now ²² Then the woman in her wisdom went to all the people. And they cut off the head of Sheba the son of Bichri, and threw it out to Joab. This is one tough gal. Then he blew a trumpet, and they withdrew from the city, every man to his tent. So Joab returned to the king at Jerusalem.

- this description of a **wise woman** reminds me of my wife Shawna

It says she was **wise, peaceable, and faithful**,

- and obviously she was pretty handy with a sword.
 - you should see Shawna shoot a gun. She can shoot a fly off an apple
 - She has decapitated a rebel rooster before!
 - And while she's peaceable, you do not want to mess with her.

here is a gal who took care of a very dangerous and potentially deadly situation,

- and she brought peace to the city.

You have an Israelite army attacking an Israelite town

- Because there's one evildoer-- one rebel-- in it.

Sheba made his way into a city & fortified himself inside

And Joab and his men start seeking to break down the wall of the city

- The whole city was in danger to be completely destroyed
 - they would all be wiped out because of who they were hiding
 - and so there's some negotiations that begin to unfold

She says, our town has a reputation of having great wisdom & working things out

- that when people wanted to settle a dispute, they would come here

this city of Abel was a town where counseling went on,

- where people could go and settle disputes and arguments in a very peaceful manner

And I got to say I am a big fan of Biblical Counseling!!

- it has been a huge blessing in me and Shawna's life's throughout the years
 - and if your wrestling with something
 - I highly encourage you to get Biblical counseling

What she did was brutal, but it was wise.

- You have a guy who was trying to overthrow their nation.
 - What do you do in any country when there's treason? Capital punishment.

So she thought, either my town is going to be destroyed,

- or if they're after one guy, I'll find the bad guy & Kill him.
 - Toss his head over and this thing will be over.
 - So she dealt with it radically!

This is what we need to do when there is sin in our life = Deal with it radically.

Remember what Jesus said in **Matthew 18:8-9** "If your hand or foot causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you. It is better for you to enter into life lame or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet, to be cast into the everlasting fire. ⁹ And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you. It is better for you to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire.

- Jesus doesn't intend you to do that literally or we would all be like Pirates....
 - But the point is he wants us to deal with our sin radically & Seriously!
 - We need to get rid of it & cut it out of our life like cancer
 - or we will suffer forever in hell!!!

So she does that for the nation to save them from destruction.

- And as soon as that head came rolling down, there was peace in the land.

And I will tell you as soon as you deal with your sin & get right with God

- You will be at peace with God & will be refreshed....

Acts 3:19 Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,

- This woman in her wisdom saved an entire city from destruction

And Sheba in his rebellion wanted to get ahead and ended up losing his head

- And any time we rebel against God it will be disastrous
 - I've seen it happen in my own life & many others

²³ And Joab was over all the army of Israel; Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over the Cherethites and the Pelethites; ²⁴ Adoram was in charge of revenue; Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was recorder; ²⁵ Sheva was scribe; Zadok and Abiathar were the priests; ²⁶ and Ira the Jairite was a chief minister under David.

this chapter ends showing David's administrative organizational team,

- and Joab weasels himself back being over the army of Israel again

I love how Ira was a **chief minister under David** = this is an interesting phrase

- that i could preach a whole sermon on
- when it says **chief minister** the phrase really has in mind of a personal priest
- the idea behind it is that Ira was sort of a chaplain to the king

This guys reminds me of Billy Graham

During his lifetime, Billy Graham met with 13 U.S. presidents.

- Commonly known as the "pastor to presidents," The chief minister to them
 - many of the nation's leaders looked to him for spiritual guidance and prayer,
 - and thought of him as a good friend.

Zack Williams is being discipled by Don Wilton who was Billy's Pastor

Even though David was a man after god's heart & the sweet psalmist of Israel

- He wanted devotional help.
- his devotional life was so important that he appointed a man to be his personal chaplain
- the chaplain helps you with your walk with God
 - you can just see Ira hanging out with David reading Biblical scrolls...
 - David how's it going, did you have your time with the lord today
 - let's pray together

he was the personal chaplain to David checking in with him seeing how he's doing

I love how it calls him the Chief minister as it reminds us of Jesus

- Who is the greatest minister & councilor
- Ephesians 2:20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone,

Pray & Share Gospel

Communion