

# It's Important to Know Where You're Standing

**Central Question:**

**Are you standing within God's covering, or have you stepped just outside the gate?**

## I. Introduction

- A. Opening warmth and authenticity; sermon redirected by the Lord shortly before service
- B. Commitment to honesty and straight talk for the sake of spiritual health
- C. Thesis: It is vital to know where you are and where you are standing before God

## II. Scripture Reading

- A. 2 Samuel 3:32–33
- B. David's lament over Abner: "Died Abner, as a fool dieth?"

## III. Historical Background and Characters

- A. Saul's general Abner: elite warrior, strategist, influential leader
- B. David's general Joab: mighty man, highly capable but driven by revenge
- C. The divided kingdom: Judah and Israel; David seeks to unite the nation
- D. Abner had killed Joab's brother in an earlier battle, fueling Joab's vendetta

## IV. Abner's Peace Initiative and Joab's Opposition

- A. Abner recognizes God's anointing on David and seeks peace and unity
- B. Abner persuades Israel and Benjamin to align with David
- C. Joab returns, rages at the missed chance for revenge, and rejects the bigger Kingdom purpose

## V. Hebron: Sanctuary and the Fatal Step

- A. Hebron as a city of refuge; inside the walls, Abner could not be touched
- B. Joab lures Abner outside the gate, whispers deceitfully, and kills him
- C. David mourns deeply, rebukes Joab, and laments the cost to national unity
- D. Core lesson: Abner's folly was not weakness but carelessness about where he stood

## VI. Big Idea: Know Where You Are Standing

- A. Being inches outside God's boundary can cost everything

- B. Spiritual awareness, wisdom, and timing are essential
- C. The enemy waits just beyond God's lines of protection

## VII. Unity Over Personal Agenda

- A. David builds the Kingdom; Joab pursues revenge
- B. Modern application: stop competing over names, numbers, or personalities
- C. Focus on salvation, deliverance, healing, and Spirit-led mission

## VIII. Warnings and Applications

- A. To young people: popularity and "fitting in" are not worth stepping outside God's covering
- B. To all believers: choices, not excuses, shape spiritual outcomes
- C. Examples noted in Scripture: Saul, Jezebel, Belshazzar, Judas; all had opportunities to turn
- D. The call: repent, return, and remain under the covering of Christ

## IX. Illustrations Used

- A. City of refuge compared to a strict safe zone; safety is forfeited when you step outside
- B. Building the Kingdom vs. building a personal brand; an outside observer foresees growth and need for readiness

## X. How To Stay Within God's Covering

- A. Keep a posture of repentance; do not minimize sin
- B. Stay in worship, the Word, obedience, and godly community
- C. Guard against offense, revenge, and self-promotion
- D. Prioritize Kingdom unity and mission above personal agenda

## XI. Response and Invitation

- A. If you have stepped out, return to the place of safety now
- B. Intercede for family and friends who are outside the gate
- C. Come for prayer and help; respond as the Spirit draws

## XII. Key Takeaways

- A single step outside God's covering can undo years of progress
- Unity advances God's kingdom; revenge and ego tear it down
- Repentance and the blood of Jesus are essential, not optional

- Wisdom is knowing where you stand and refusing to move off safe ground

### XIII. Reflection Questions

- Where am I currently standing in relation to God's covering and will?
- What personal agenda or offense tempts me to step outside the gate?
- How can I actively build unity rather than compete or compare?
- Who needs my intercession so they can return to a place of safety?

### XIV. Scripture References for Further Study

- 2 Samuel 2–3 (Abner, Joab, David)
- Numbers 35; Joshua 20 (cities of refuge)
- Psalm 91 (dwelling in God's shelter)
- Proverbs 4:23–27 (watch your steps)
- John 17:20–23 (Jesus' prayer for unity)
- Hebrews 3:12–13 (exhort one another daily)
- 1 Peter 5:8–10 (vigilance against the enemy)