

Introduction

(Image): What do people say about you? Do they call you foolish? Do they call you naive?

(Text): 2 Samuel 2:1-32

Body

I. Summary of Passage

- a. The Lord tells David to move from Ziklag to Hebron where Judah will make him King. (Map) (1-4)
- b. The people tell David of the honorable acts of Jabesh-gilead and David responds with praise and promised blessing. (4b-7)
- c. Saul's Relative Abner installs Saul's Son as king in the North, slowly taking on all of the kingdoms. (8-11) (see Map)
- d. The two kingdoms collide for a battle in Gibeon, which will turn into a win for Judah, but at a cost. (vv. 12-32)
 - i. The two armies first decide to have representatives fight, which leads to mutual destruction (vv. 12-16)
 - ii. The battle escalates and Judah gets ahead and Abner retreats. Asahel chases after, refusing to back down, leading to him getting killed.
 - iii. Abner and his men retreat to a high ground, and calls for Joab to stop the battle.

II. Two Kingdoms, one of God

- a. We see here in play two Kingdoms.
 - i. In the first we see the kingdom of God (vv. 1-7)
 - ii. Then we see the kingdom of Man (vv. 8-32)
- b. Kingdom Characterized three attributes.
 - i. Intimate Communication (Prayer)
 - ii. Submissive trust before God.
 - iii. Love working out in good works.
- c. Intimate Communication
 - i. Notice quickly and how easily David Goes to Prayer.
 - ii. This isn't the wait till everything crashes, but, a desire to know the will of the Father, first and foremost.
 - iii. This habit does not come at once, but from a life cultivated of seeking God in Prayer.
 - iv. At the heart of kingdom life is intimacy with God through Prayer. It isn't an accident that at the heart of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus give his disciples instruction on how to pray.
 - v. We will not be a kingdom minded people, a kingdom minded church, apart from a robust prayer life.
 - vi. Prayer is the engine of kingdom life. It tethers us to the gospel, and places the power on God and not ourselves. It is God's power made perfect in our weakness.
- d. Submissive Trust before God
 - i. This in many meshes together with the previous point that they are inseparable.
 - ii. But, at the heart of a healthy communication with God, is an ultimate dependency on God.
 - iii. It is the knowledge that God himself is our great reward, not anything in this world.

- iv. We have learned to trust him, knowing his love and mercy towards us is good and beyond comparison.
 - v. It is ultimately a trust in his grace and mercy.
 - vi. In Ephesians, that glorious book of grace, we see the outworking of the gospel, is community submission working itself out in love.
- e. Love working out in Good works.
- i. I have to say good works to counter our cultures misuses of the word Love as simply sentimental.
 - ii. It is the fruit of the Spirit. It sees good, and celebrates and seeks the goodness of God to be revealed.
 - iii. It delights in seeing God glorified more than ourselves. Because it trust and ultimately submits before God it is a love that is free from insecurities and fear.
 - iv. It is a love that can only work itself out when it has received and been satisfied in the love of God, secure in his Grace and his mercy.
 - v. It cannot be achieved through motivational speeches, or psa campaigns, or t-shirt slogans. These simply become ways to try to virtue signal. They are not love.

III. **Two Kingdoms, One of Man**

- a. The second Kingdom doesn't look to God, only to power.
 - i. Notice the strong contrast in vs. 8, demonstrated by the word but.
 - ii. Notice the strong power words as well. He took Ish-bosheth, he made him king.
 - iii. He didn't stop to ask God. In fact, we know from chapter 3 he knew that God wanted David King.
 - iv. He didn't wait for others to anoint his man as king. He knew what he needed to do to hold onto power, he made a power play so to speak and he moved.
- b. This is not limited to Abner, the tragic battle that takes place in the rest of the chapter shows that just because some fought for the kingdom of God, they may do it through kingdom of man ways.
 - i. This is a major problem we see in our American Christianity
 - ii. We have longed for power, or operated out of a hate or fear of our enemies and lost site of the gospel, of what is truly wonderful and different about the kingdom of God.
 - iii. This is particularly evident in the times of politics.
- c. This is the kingdom of Man
 - i. It rules through intimidation, force and man centered power.
 - ii. Submission is absent in the kingdom of Man, for our goal is to ultimately get others to submit to us.
 - iii. The kingdom of man is ultimately about getting what we want. Whether that is applause, respect from our family or friends, ease of life. It is about self justification and others declaring us justified.
 - iv. Ultimately it clashes and will be overthrown by the kingdom of God.

IV. **Setting our Eyes on a Higher Kingdom**

- a. Set your eyes higher than what man can achieve!
 - i. The kingdom of man assumes that the people like David or Christians are thinking too small. But the truth is, it is the kingdom of man that is thinking too small.
 - ii. The people of God's kingdom get the joy of knowing the greatest power ever, is at work. We get to live in an enchanted world filled with love and power, supernatural power.
 - iii. This is the real world.

- b. There is value in the wait.
 - i. We can get frustrated feeling like we are waiting while others are getting what they want.
 - ii. God is at work in us, even in the wait.
 - iii. There is valuable sanctification where God forms us, teaching us to trust him.