

## 2 Samuel 3

### I was Gentle Today, Though Anointed King.

What drives your ambition in life?

What determines how you treat others?

Do you find it challenging to forgive or to be forgiven?

Philippians 2:4-8 <sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup> Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

We need to be careful to avoid letting our emotions and our worldly desires control us.

Colossians 3:1-3 <sup>1</sup> If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. <sup>3</sup> For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

There are three main characters in today's passage:

1. Abner – who is the commander of Saul's army and has now had Saul's son, Ish-bosheth anointed king over Israel after the death of king Saul and his three eldest sons.
2. David - who has just been anointed king over Judah by the people but not yet over the entire nation of Israel.
3. Joab – who is the commander of David's army.

As we look through these verses let's see how each of these men either allow worldly emotion and desire to control them or rely on God to control their emotions and desires. Let's see how they treat others and how they are treated as a result of their decisions.

Vs 1-5 The death of Saul and his three oldest sons had a significant impact on the strength of his family's interests as the royal family in Israel. God's hand of blessing had been lifted away from the house of Saul and now only his youngest son, Ish-bosheth remained.

David, on the other hand continued to find favor with God and with the people and his support grew stronger and stronger as did his family.

David, however, was not perfect as none of us are. His family life showed one of his flaws.

Mark 10:6-8 <sup>6</sup> But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' <sup>7</sup> 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, <sup>8</sup> and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two but one flesh.

Deuteronomy 17:15-17 <sup>15</sup> you may indeed set a king over you whom the LORD your God will choose. One from among your brothers you shall set as king over you. You may not put a foreigner over you, who is not your brother. <sup>16</sup> Only he must not acquire many horses for himself or cause the people to return to Egypt in order to acquire many horses, since the LORD has said to you, 'You shall never return that way again.' <sup>17</sup> And he shall not acquire many wives for himself, lest his heart turn away, nor shall he acquire for himself excessive silver and gold.

Are there areas of your life where you struggle to please God?

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Vs 6-11 Though Abner was not king, he appears to have had ambitions to be the power behind the throne. However, Ish-bosheth had the same kind of jealous temperament as his father and accused Abner of a treacherous act.

If Abner knew that David was God's choice for king, why would he choose to fight against him before this? Abner is a good example of those of us who know things to be true, but we don't live as if they were true.

Abner was king Saul's uncle and Ish-bosheth's great uncle.

Do you choose family over God?

**Luke 14:26 If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.**

Abner finally did the right thing in joining David's side, but he did it for the wrong reason. Instead of joining David because Ishbosheth offended him personally, he should have joined David because he knew that David was God's choice to be king. Abner's ambition has changed from one of power to one of revenge against Ish-bosheth even though it is somewhat under the pretense of giving recognition to the will of God for David to have the throne of Israel.

What are your reasons for coming to church? Is it because you believe it is the right thing to do, is it out of obligation or habit, is it because you want your children to be in church? Or, is it because you want to gather with other believers in the presence of the One who gave His life so that we can have life with Him for all eternity. Do you come to worship and serve the Lord?

Vs 12-21 Abner offers peace to David and David forgives Abner

Abner had been David's adversary for many years. Even now with Saul and three of his sons gone, Abner still resisted and had established Saul's last remaining son as king knowing full well that God had anointed David to succeed Saul

More than anything, David wanted to stop the division that raged within Israel and lead them in a united, godly front against their true enemies.

A divisive nature is sinful.

**Proverbs 6:16-19 <sup>16</sup> There are six things that the LORD hates, seven that are an abomination to him: <sup>17</sup> haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, <sup>18</sup> a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, <sup>19</sup> a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers..**

**1 Corinthians 10:1 <sup>10</sup> I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.**

David sees Abner, not as his enemy, but as a fellow Hebrew, a member of the nation set apart by God to be a light for God unto the rest of the world. Because of this, David chooses to forgive Abner and accept him into his camp rather than treat Abner as an enemy.

*As Christians, we are also appointed to this same mission.*

**2 Corinthians 5:18-20 <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup> that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us.**

Therefore, we too need to show forgiveness as David did. Jesus taught that we are to forgive as He has forgiven us. That means, we forgive while the one who has offended us is still in their trespass, and we

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24 November 2024

forgive by giving of ourselves to make the relationship right. Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice in that while we were still sinners, He died to reconcile our relationship. Scripture even says we were reconciled to God through the death of His son while we were His enemy (Romans 5;10). David was willing to reconcile the relationship with his enemy because it was the godly thing to do. Shouldn't we follow his example?

Do you have difficulty forgiving others?

Abner holds council with the elders of Israel reminding them of their desire to have David as their king. They agree that it would be good, and Abner meets David with the news that all Israel is ready to anoint him king. As the Lord has promised David, saying, "By the hand of my servant David I will save my people Israel from the hand of the Philistines, and from the hand of all their enemies."

The people don't truly understand the vastness of this promise from God to save them from all their enemies.

2 Samuel 7:8-16 <sup>8</sup> Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. <sup>9</sup> And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. <sup>10</sup> And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup> from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. <sup>12</sup> When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>13</sup> He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. <sup>14</sup> I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, <sup>15</sup> but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. <sup>16</sup> And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.'"

Do you know that Jesus can save you from all your enemies? Have you placed your faith in Him as Lord?

Vs 22-30 Joab has been by David's side throughout most of David's campaigns as David's first in command. He has seen firsthand the godly wisdom and discernment with which David conducts his life and every decision he makes, especially those concerning Israel. However, he rebukes David when he hears of the treaty between David and Abner.

Joab has his own ambitions toward Abner and they are conceived in vengeance because of what happened during the battle at Gibeon when Abner killed Joab's younger brother.

Are there things that you cannot or will not forgive others? What if God felt the same way about you?

There is only one sin that is unforgivable with God and that is refusing to accept His free gift of grace offered for the full pardon of our sins through the death of His Son Jesus Christ on the cross.

Mark 3:28-29 <sup>28</sup> Truly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the children of man, and whatever blasphemies they utter, <sup>29</sup> but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin.

No matter what you have done in your life past, present, or future, God's love is bigger than your transgression.

Hebrews 10:14 For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

Hebrews 8:12 For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more.

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David was greatly distraught over the murder of Abner. David rebuked Joab for his senseless actions but also forgave him just as he had done with Abner. David did ask god to remove blessings from Joab and his family because of his sin.

Vs 31-39 Just as he had done for Saul, David mourns for Abner. Abner is buried at Hebron.

David leads by example. He tells Joab and all who were with him that they too should mourn because Abner was an honorable man and a brave warrior of Israel who did not deserve to die this way. We see that David has a genuine love for God's people, the people of Israel, as he wept and fasted over the death of Abner. Because of David's example, the people also mourned for Abner. Perhaps more importantly, they recognized it had not been David's desire to have Abner put to death and they recognized the kind of servant leader that David would be as their king.

David proclaimed to them, "I was gentle today, though anointed king."

Do you respond with gentleness and kindness even in harsh situations?

*Colossians 3:12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience*

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