

2Samuel 3:12–39

“Defeating the Deceptiveness of Pride and Passion by Devotion to Principle”

How would the Lord bring David the kingdom? Pastor leads his family in today's "Hopewell @Home" passage. In these twenty-eight verses, we see Abner's pride in having positioned himself powerfully to consolidate the kingdom under David. The Lord does do it by using Abner—at his funeral? And we see Joab making show of concern about kingdom security, although the text makes clear that he is really being moved by fleshly revenge. Still, the Lord uses him—by humiliating him as the second-mourner-in-charge at the funeral of the man he murdered! Ultimately for David, the Lord used his commitment to do what is right before the eyes of the people to give him favor in the eyes of all the tribes through an action that ended up being exactly opposite what usually happens during regime-change.

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Second Samuel chapter 3.

And Samuel 3 verses 12 to 39, these are God's words. Then I'm going to send messages on his behalf to David saying who's is the land saying also make your covenant with me and indeed my hand shall be with you to bring all Israel to you. And David said good, I will make a covenant with you but one thing I require of you.

You should not see my face unless you first bring the cow else all's daughter when you come to see my face. So David sent Messengers to Iskracs all son saying. Give me my wife. Mikhail whom I betrayed to myself for a hundred foreskins of book listings. Finished with this scent and took her from her husband from Peltials and of Laish.

And then her husband went along with her to Baharim weeping behind her. So Abner said to him go return and he returned. Now Abner. Had communicated with the elders of Israel saying in time past you're seeking for David to be king every year. Now then do it for you has spoken of David saying bye by the hand of my servant David I will save my people Israel from the hand of the flesh and the hand of all their enemies and their spoken the hearing of Benjamin.

Abner also went to speak in the hearing of David in Hebrew on all that seemed good to Israel and the whole house of Benjamin. So Abner in 20 men with him came to David at Hebron David made a feast for Abner in the men who were with him and Admiral said to David I will arise and go and gather all Israel to my Lord the king that they may make a covenant with you that you may reign over all that your heart desires.

So Davidson Abner away and he went in peace. With that moment the servants of David and Joe ab came from a raid and brought much spoil with them. But Abner was not with David in Hebron-free had sent him away and he's going in peace. One Job into all the troops that were with him had come they told Joe Abbs saying Adler the son of Nur came to the king and he sent him away and he is gone in peace.

Then Joe had came to the king and said what have you done? Look at her came to you. Why is it that you sent him away and he has already gone? Surely you realize Abner the son of Nur came to deceive you to know you're going out and you're coming in and to know all that you are doing.

And when Joab had gone from David's presence, he sent messengers after Abner who brought him back from the well of Sirah, but David did not know it. Now an Abner had returned to Hebron Job took him aside in the gate to speak with him privately and there he stabbed him in the stomach said that he died for the blood of asshole his brother Afterward when David heard it, he said my kingdom and I are guiltless before he always forever of the blood of Abner the son of Neuro let it rest on the head of Joab and all his father's house and let there never fail to be in the house of Joab one who has a discharge or a leper or who leans on a staff or who falls by the sword or who lacks bread.

So Joe Evan Abishai his brother killed Abner because he had killed their brother as hell at Gibian inn the battle. And David said to Joe ad.

Then to all the people who are with him, tear your clothes. Gird yourselves with safflaw and mourn for Abner. And David followed the coffin so they buried Adner in Hebron in the king lifted up his voice and wept at the grave of Abner all the people left and the king sang a lament over admiring said should Adam or die as a fool dies your hand was not bound nor were your feet put into feathers as of man who falls before wicked men, so you fell.

And then all the people left over him again. And when all the people came to David to persuade David to eat food while it was still day. David took an oath saying God do so to me and more also if I taste bread or anything else until the sun goes down.

Now all the people took note of it and it pleased them since whatever the king did please do all the people for all the people and all Israel understood that day that it had not been of the king to kill Abner the son of Nerd. Then the king's head to his servants, do you not know that a prince and a great man has fallen this day in Israel?

I am weak today though anointed King and these men the sons as a wire are two harsh for me. You always shall repay the evildoer. According

to his wickedness. So far the reading of God's inspired and inherent word. So the section we're in and second Samuel is one in which the Lord is keeping his promise to David to make him king.

He's been King over Judah one tribe in the South but the other 11 tribes have not yet been following him in the Lord will keep his promises and. One of the first problems we see in the chapter is that Abner is proud of himself and how he has consolidated the power in the north under himself, instead of underrestrath remember isracthat was growing weak I was growing stronger and he comes and he says David ooze is the land.

He says, I can gather the rest of Israel for you and Galvanize them bring them together under the rule of David the king. And indeed they end up making a covenant to do so and admirers following through on his word but we should remember that man does not have power in himself.

Abner indeed ends up being the one whom God uses to consolidate Israel gather them all together under the authority of David but it turns out to be his funeral. That all Israel agrees upon and see David in a new light and to prove of his leading them in lament and say yup, he's he's the king of all of us.

So let us remember that the Lord is always going to be faithful to his promises and that whatever fruit the Lord gives of our lives it is the Lord who gives it and let us not become proud to like Abner of the positions that the Lord has put us in or even the favor that we might have with people or the ability that we have God is merciful.

To make us useful and to make what we do fruitful, but there is a lesson here. I think in the way in which Abner's purpose ends up being carried out, which of course is the Lord's perfect purpose. And. Second of all be careful of thinking that you are serving the Lord while you are indulging your own fleshlyness.

Joab is and abishize and she's also mentioned infamously as it were and verse 30 and he uses the plural David uses the plural in verse 39 of the sons of zero wire who of course were Joab and Abishai and asylum as a hell got wiped out by the butt end or maybe turned around backwards pointed end language might be able to sustain that from the other passage of.

Abner spear problem was that was in a battle in an act of war you see that in verse 30 Joe have another shy his brother killed Adam there because he had killed it their brother as hell at Gibian in the battle and it's the manner of the death the the the as far as the death is concerned that the passage focuses on look at verse 34, your hands are not banned nor your feet put into feathers as a man falls before wicked men, so you fell so it wasn't a battle death for thirty and it wasn't a judicial.

Death he wasn't put on trial to see if he had committed some kind of crime which defending yourself in battle is not a crime in fact he tried very hard not to be the one who killed as a hell and he mentioned how could I face her brother Joab so he suspected I think that Joeab is the kind of guy that if you wipe out his brother in the war he's gonna come at you in peace time and take you out.

Abner, of course was not on his guard because last thing he knew David had promised peace to him he had a covenant and here's David's top general Joe Aber may be second top general that might be on that might be on Joeab's mind as well if eleven tribes are coming in he operated under one general maybe his job as as top general is is under threat labner aminer doesn't know what he's gonna do and of course he deceives him and he stabs him in the belly and lets him lie there in his blood.

And. There's a. There's a. Comparison there so.

I'm sorry. Nevermind on the comparison thing but he stabs him and the stomachs that he dies for the blood of asahel his brother so Joab makes this great big stink about how concerned he is for kingdom security, but sometimes we express our concerns out of other motivations and it wasn't kingdom security so much as vengeance for my brother that was on Joab's mind is like what Abner isn't still around so that I can carry out my trick him and murder him plan well.

Bring him back and just and carry out our trick him and murder murder him by a little watch out for thinking that we are serving the Lord when we are really giving into our fleshly passions one of the ways that this often happens is giving into a sensorious and critical spirit himself.

I'm concerned for the purity of the church or for the vindication of God's righteous and holy law or even for the soul in sanctification of my brother. When really we are just spiteful and sincorous and not compassionate proud and arrogant haughty and be careful of pride thinking that we are going to really do great stuff for God and his Christ like Abner you will be used to do great stuff for God in his Christ, but maybe by your funeral instead of by your general ship be careful of.

Of thinking or climbing appearing to serve the Lord when you're really indulging your fleshly passion and then in the last pace a place be humble before God to do what is right instead of doing what is clever or normal what was normal when someone came to power is they would make shows of strength yeah impeach the former president or jail.

All those who are opposed you to you or yeah try and poison them so that they almost die in a coma in Germany and then tricked them into coming home so that you could put them on trial as soon as they get back. Contemporary America and Russia are not unusual throughout the history of the world when a regime is either new or faltering it asserts itself by by shows of strength over against their enemies.

David did not yet have the northern kingdom in his grasp and Joab was following kind of normal operating regime change procedure. However. David sees that it was wrong and as soon as he hears about it the first thing he's concerned about is not what will the people think or what will the allies of Abner do but what does he always think and afterward when David heard it he said verse 28 my kingdom and I are guiltless before y'all way forever for the blood of Abner the son of nerd and he renounces the wicked act and he calls down this apparently.

You know, it feels almost scatter rained as his calling down all the different ways of this curse could be enforced upon the family of. Of Joab and his father's house in verse 29 but he's concerned about being guilty before Yahweh, he's concerned to condemn what was an unrighteous act and his first great act of leadership over the combined kingdom does not turn out to be some form of legislation does not turn out to be leading a military campaign does not turn out to be a building project in building the storage cities or fortifying the walls of.

Two particular cities or defenses no his first great act of leadership is to lead the morning Moore and I&G lead the grieving for Abner at his funeral David says to Joab and to all the people who are with him commands Joab to be a secondary mourner and chief very interesting terrier clothes gird yourself a sack cloth and mourn for Abner and then he himself.

Goes right behind the coffin so David leads Israel, in fact David writes and sings the song of lament for Abner in verse 33 and verse 34 and it is this righteousness that God uses to give David favor in the people's eyes and they all approve of him and they all start approving of everything he does.

Yeah, if if you were an exegetical exposition of applicational fool, you could write a little handbook on how to get everyone in under your leadership to approve of everything you do, you know lead a funeral for session for the military competition, etc that is not necessarily the way things go it was the Lord.

To gave him favor and the eyes of the people and and therefore we learn here that the Lord blesses this particular incident and we know it always pleases him and honors him if we have the humility to consider first and foremost, what is right before the eyes of the Lord?

And not what seems to us to be clever or to the world to be wise he didn't follow this standard operating procedure of a regime change so those three things for us in this passage do not be proud of what you are able to do for others as a privilege that God has given you.

And he will do good through you despite you if he needs to just if that's what he does decides to do do not deceive yourself into thinking you are serving the Lord like Joe ad did deceived himself when you're really indulging fleshly passion and foster the humility before God to care first and foremost that you would do what is right rather than what seems clever or what the world thinks is.

Lies. Pray.

Father we thank you and praise you for the way that you brought about the rain of King David just as he promised you our faithful to all your word and to all your promises help us to remember that faithfulness and to rejoice that you are bringing about the fulfillment of your promise to Christ that you will give him the nations as his heritage and that he will shatter his enemies into pieces.

And help us therefore Lord knowing that everything operates according to your promise and that everything operates under the kingship of the Lord Jesus. Help us to. Be wary of pride that thinks that we are bringing about what is good we thank you for the opportunities that you give us help us.

Lord to serve you and to serve others but to look to you for making it fruitful for your glory and others good so that you get all of the credit and that we ask you and trust in you and not be proud of ourselves. Lord our flesh is so deceitful to us and we often are even deceitful to others.

Trying to make it look like we're serving you and Christ and his kingdom but you know how easily we indulge instead our passions, whether desire to appear good or be praised by others liked by others or even to indulge vengeance. As Joe have did help us so God not to use serving you not to be tricked into thinking that we're serving you.

When we're really just indulging our passions and do give us. The humility the awareness of being before your face that rather than caring what others will think or what others might do that our first care our first concern would be what is right before your eyes. And we pray that you would grant surprising victory and blessing by this means even when the world would say that's not the way to do it that you would bring about the good that you have planned even when we do that, which is foolish and weak in the eyes of the world help us to care most of all.

About honoring you and what we do according to your word we thank you for your son our Lord Jesus he did that very thing and his righteousness is canned for us through faith and who even now his resurrected and ascended and sits at your right hand interceding for us and we too as we come to you through him ask all these things in his name.

Amen.