

Our Promise Keeping King – 2 Samuel

2 Samuel 3:1-39

“The plans of men, the answer of God” – September 30, 2018



Introduction

The idea that we're in control is but a mirage. As Proverbs 16:9 says, "The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps." When it comes to the things we value, that define us, lacking control can be terrifying. How do we respond? Pride or humility. A pride that tries to take control of things to make it happen and protect what we value; or a humility that accepts we're *not* in control and trusts the God who is.

Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response.

Sermon Outline

- I. Pride grabs the wheel to make it happen (3:1-11)
- II. Pride kills the competition (3:12-30)
- III. Humility trusts God (3:31-39)

Read & Discuss

- 1) Read [2 Samuel 3:1-11](#)

When Ish-bosheth gets in the way of what Abner wants most, his pride turns into an angry defense: *how dare you disrespect me!* What's more, Abner dresses his decision up as a spiritual thing by grounding his decision in God's promise to make David king. But Abner wasn't as interested in what God wanted as he was protecting his status, power, and comfort. Are there times you find yourself defensive? What are you trying to protect? Are there ways you spiritualize your defense to make it look a little better?

Additional reading: James 1:22, Ephesians 4:26-27

- 2) Read [2 Samuel 3:12-30](#)

Though chapters 2 & 3 are filled with chaos from sinful choices, the 12 tribes comes together in peace (v21, 22, 23). How was this possible? Because of the sovereign power of God. Just as God had promised, He would bring the tribes together under David as king. There are times that we may not see how it will happen, but we can always rest in the fact that God will keep His word. What promises has God made to us that we are waiting on Him for? As we wait how does knowing God's sovereignty and power help us to wait?

When Joab finds out that David let Abner go in peace, he's furious! Abner posed a threat to the things *Joab* wanted most, so he deceives the king to get rid of Joab. Joab killed

Abner out of revenge for killing his brother, Asahel, but Abner was also a rival candidate for the position of commander. Knowing his recent success, Joab's envy seems another motivation. How does envy change the way we see that person and the way we relate to them? Practically speaking, when we find ourselves envying someone, it is helpful to pray for them. Pray God would bless them and use them; it's hard to hope for the worst of one we're praying for God to do good to ([Matthew 5:44](#)).

Additional reading: Ephesians 1:11, Proverbs 14:30

3) Read [2 Samuel 3:31-39](#)

While Abner and Joab display a *severity* in order to achieve a certain end, David displays a *gentleness* (v39). Is gentleness weakness? Quite the opposite! Warren Wiersbe says it well, *Meekness is not weakness, it's power under control*. Knowing and trusting that God was in control and would keep his promise, David doesn't need to resort to the ways of the world...he can operate by the rules of the kingdom of God. David points us forward to Jesus who trusts His heavenly Father under incredible adversity, hatred, and injustice. As Peter tells us, we too are called to endure, "For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps" (1 Peter 2:21). As you wait for God in faith today, remember the sure future that God has promised *and* that He will strengthen you as you wait upon Him ([Isaiah 40:31](#)). What are you waiting on God for today? How do the examples of David *and* Jesus help as you wait?

Additional reading: Matthew 11:28-30, 1 Peter 5:6

Prayer of Response

Spend time praying together in response to God's word for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

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