

2 Samuel 4 New International Version (NIV)

Ish-Bosheth Murdered

4 When Ish-Bosheth son of Saul heard that Abner had died in Hebron, he lost courage, and all Israel became alarmed. **2** Now Saul's son had two men who were leaders of raiding bands. One was named Baanah and the other Rekab; they were sons of Rimmon the Beerothite from the tribe of Benjamin—Beeroth is considered part of Benjamin, **3** because the people of Beeroth fled to Gittaim and have resided there as foreigners to this day.

4 (Jonathan son of Saul had a son who was lame in both feet. He was five years old when the news about Saul and Jonathan came from Jezreel. His nurse picked him up and fled, but as she hurried to leave, he fell and became disabled. His name was Mephibosheth.)

5 Now Rekab and Baanah, the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, set out for the house of Ish-Bosheth, and they arrived there in the heat of the day while he was taking his noonday rest. **6** They went into the inner part of the house as if to get some wheat, and they stabbed him in the stomach. Then Rekab and his brother Baanah slipped away.

7 They had gone into the house while he was lying on the bed in his bedroom. After they stabbed and killed him, they cut off his head. Taking it with them, they traveled all night by way of the Arabah. **8** They brought the head of Ish-Bosheth to David at Hebron and said to the king, "Here is the head of Ish-Bosheth son of Saul, your enemy, who tried to kill you. This day the LORD has avenged my lord the king against Saul and his offspring."

9 David answered Rekab and his brother Baanah, the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, "As surely as the LORD lives, who has delivered me out of every trouble, **10** when someone told me, 'Saul is dead,' and thought he was bringing good news, I seized him and put him to death in Ziklag. That was the reward I gave him for his news! **11** How much more—when wicked men have killed an innocent man in his own house and on his own bed—should I not now demand his blood from your hand and rid the earth of you!"

12 So David gave an order to his men, and they killed them. They cut off their hands and feet and hung the bodies by the pool in Hebron. But they took the head of Ish-Bosheth and buried it in Abner's tomb at Hebron.

Matthew 12:22-32 New International Version (NIV)

Jesus and Beelzebul

²² Then they brought him a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute, and Jesus healed him, so that he could both talk and see. ²³ All the people were astonished and said, "Could this be the Son of David?"

²⁴ But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, "It is only by Beelzebul, the prince of demons, that this fellow drives out demons."

²⁵ Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand. ²⁶ If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then can his kingdom stand? ²⁷ And if I drive out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your people drive them out? So then, they will be your judges. ²⁸ But if it is by the Spirit of God that I drive out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

²⁹ "Or again, how can anyone enter a strong man's house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man? Then he can plunder his house.

³⁰ "Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. ³¹ And so I tell you, every kind of sin and slander can be forgiven, but blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. ³² Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.

The end does not justify the means (2 Sam 4:1-12 & Matt 12:22-32)

26-July-20

We're **continuing** our **series** on **2 Samuel**.

We're looking at **2 Samuel chapter 4** and then we'll look at **Matthew 12**.

Please have your Bibles open.

Let me pray before we begin...

Let's pray...

Intro/Context

Do you keep your promises?

Always?

Sometimes?

Never?

Making promises can be **tricky?**

At the time of making them - we may have the **best intentions** - and **intend to keep** them.

Then **circumstances change**.

Making promises to children - is **dangerous** - especially if you don't keep them.

You'll know about it - if you don't

(pause)

Before we look at **today's passage** from **2 Samuel 4**

I just want to remind you of an **incident** back in **1 Samuel 24** - and a promise that was **made**.

The **context** is **that**:

David had an opportunity to kill Saul - who had been chasing David for some time.

Instead David just crept up behind Saul and cut off the corner of Saul's robe. Saul is amazed at David's restraint.

And Saul says that David is more righteous than him (1 Sam 24:17)

Saul then says this to David in 1 Sam 24:20-22

[PowerPoint 1-David's promise]

²⁰ I know that you will surely be king and that the kingdom of Israel will be established in your hands. ²¹ Now swear to me by the LORD that you will not kill off my descendants or wipe out my name from my father's family. ²² **So David gave his oath to Saul...**

Here we are now in 2 Samuel 4 - Saul is dead - and David is King of Judah - at least.

Will David keep his promise to Saul?

Let's see what happens...

King Ish-Bosheth is afraid (vv1-4)

- We finished up last week where we had 2 kings

[PowerPoint 2-Situation]

- Ish-Bosheth (Saul's surviving son) - King of Israel (Northern part)
- David - King of Judah (Southern part)
- And Joab (David's nephew) and commander of David's army - **murdered** Abner (Saul's cousin) - and commander of Ish-Bosheth's army
- It was cold blooded murder and David was not happy

- How will King Ish-Bosheth take the news of Abner's death?
- We pick up story in v1 of 2 Samuel 4
- The news of Abner's death - causes Ish-Bosheth to lose courage
- He has lost the man he relied upon
- In essence Ish-Bosheth was a puppet king
- And Abner had all the power and now he's gone

[PowerPoint 3-Ish-Bosheth afraid]

- Ish-Bosheth feels afraid
- This causes the **whole** of the nation to be alarmed - v1
- We're also introduced to 2 leaders of raiding parties - v2
- **Namely** - Baanah and Rekab - they'll become important in a minute
- To show how **fragile** the house of Saul is
- Besides the weakened Ish-Bosheth
- The only other person eligible to be king in Saul's family
- Is Jonathan's son - v4 - a boy named Mephibosheth
- He's probably **too young** to be king - he's **about 12** years old by now
- And he's disabled
- Anyone disabled - in the culture of the day - was **seen as** cursed - and not blessed by God
- So, no-one would want to make Mephibosheth king

Application

Why is Ish-Bosheth afraid?

Because he put all his trust in a man (Abner) who is **now dead**, rather than putting all his trust in the living and everlasting God!

It begs the question - in our lives - when we are afraid - who do we put our trust in?

Is it our spouse? What happens when their gone?

Is it our family? What happens if they move away?

Is it our friends? What happens if they let us down - or if they're just as afraid as we are?

When we are afraid - are we trusting in God FIRST - trusting He will be there for us.

It's reasonable for us to be **afraid right now** - with the **uncertainty** of this **COVID19** pandemic - and it's reasonable for us to feel **insecure** - about our **health** - our **job** - our **finances**...

[PowerPoint 4-Do not be afraid]

God said to Joshua - as he crossed the Jordan River - in Josh 1:9:

"Have I not commanded you? **Be strong and courageous**. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your **God will be with you wherever you go.**"

So, we don't need to be afraid - we have **God with us wherever we go!**

The King is murdered (vv5-8)

- Given the weakened state of Ish-Bosheth
- We're told in **verses 5 and 6** - that the **2 leaders** of the raiding parties - **Baanah and Rekab** - went in to the **house of Ish-Bosheth** - at **noon** - whilst **Ish-Bosheth** was having an **afternoon nap**

- There was no suspicion of Baanah and Rekab entering Ish-Bosheth's house because it was **legitimate** for them to go in and **get extra wheat for the army**
- So, it would be **presumed that's what they were doing**

[PowerPoint 5-Ish-Bosheth killed]

- But whilst **Ish-Bosheth** was **asleep** they **stabbed him in the stomach**
- Then they **cut off Ish-Bosheth's head** and **brought it to David** at Hebron
- We're not told why **they killed their own king**
- But presumably - they **saw how weak Ish-Bosheth's side was** - and they **wanted** to be on the **winning side** - David's side
- Then they **brought the head of Ish-Bosheth to David** - the **head was to prove** that they **really had killed the King**
- In V8 - They made **two very big WRONG assumptions**
 - 1st wrong assumption - That Saul was David's enemy - but as we saw in **2 Sam 1** - **David genuinely lamented the death of Saul** - he didn't see Saul as his enemy [Saul saw David as his enemy - but not the other way around)
 - **2nd wrong assumption** - still in v8 - **Baanah and Rekab said to David** - **This day the Lord has avenged my lord the king against Saul and his enemy.** They are basically **claiming they've done the Lord's work!** But no-one told Baanah and Rekab to kill Ish-Bosheth - not David - and certainly not God

Application

The actions of **Baanah and Rekab** - were not God's way

God doesn't approve of **evil ways** to accomplish his plans.

He may well use people's evil ways to achieve His purposes - like the evil plan to kill Jesus - God used that plan - to achieve the good of offering the forgiveness of sins.

But **God's ways are not our ways** - and **God's ways are higher than our ways** (Isaiah 55:9)

Yes - God had promised David would be King.

And as far as David's concerned - it will happen when God is good and ready - and not any sooner.

For us - it means - we can't hurry God's plans - or 'help' God's plans along.

Yes, we are given a brain and resources to achieve things for ourselves. But those things should never include doing evil or committing sin - to accomplish what we believe God wants.

For example - if someone was in need of food or money - God would not expect us to help them - by stealing food and stealing money - like Robin Hood - to give to the poor.

It's never right to do wrong - to achieve good.

The end does not justify the means.

To achieve a good outcome - our actions to achieve it - must be good actions.

Justice served (vv9-12)

- Baanah and Rekab's false assumptions in thinking killing Ish-Bosheth is God's work and a great help to David - is going to cost them dearly
- See v9 - David says 'As surely as the LORD lives, who has delivered me out of every trouble' - in other words David's saying - God is the one

who delivers him out of trouble - not two men taking independent action to kill their king - and who think they know better than God

- As far as David is concerned - God installs and uninstalls kings
- David wants to **establish his kingdom God's way** and as **peacefully as possible**
- As Jesus said when He was arrested - and Peter drew his sword - Jesus said: **whoever draws the sword will die by the sword** (Matt 26:52)
- In the rest of v9 - **David recalls his reaction** from 2 Sam 1 - when an **Amalekite** came to him and **claimed** he had killed **King Saul**
- David reacts the same way here

[PowerPoint 6-David executes justice]

- David had **Baanah and Rekab executed** and he **cut off their hands and feet**
- Why their hands and feet?
- It was their **hands and feet** that had **perpetrated the crime**.
- And it **showed all the people** - that **David would not tolerate such a crime** - no one will lift 'hands' against Saul's family - as David had promised Saul
- David planned to **keep his promise** to Saul - but the action of **Baanah and Rekab** had **wrecked that promise**
- David as **King** - and as **judge and jury** - acted in **strict justice** in this case. This showed that **he did not approve or command the murder of Ish-Bosheth** - and his conscience is clear.

Application

David believed that **God** was the **one** who **delivered** him out of every trouble.

Like David - we can **hang on** to that promise too.

As David wrote in Psalm 18:1-2:

¹ I love you, LORD, my strength.

² The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer;
 my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge,
 my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

Do we see God as our strength, our rock, our fortress, our deliverer, our refuge - like David did?

Ultimately - the **Bible tell us that...**

Evil cannot win and it **will be dealt with**. That's how God works.

Remember we will all stand before Jesus and His **judgement seat** (Romans 14:10; 2 Cor 5:10) - and all the ungodly and wicked will be **judged according to their wicked deeds** (Jude 14-15) - and they will receive everlasting destruction and be shut out from the presence of God (2 Thes 1:8-9).

Which **bring us** to our NT reading from **Matthew 12:22-32** [Please turn **there**] - where we see how Jesus' way works...

Jesus' Way (Matthew 12:22-32)

[PowerPoint 7-Jesus'Way]

- Here we have the **story of Jesus** coming to a **demon-possessed man** - who is also **blind and mute**.

- **Jesus healed the man - He cast out the demons - and made the man able to talk and see.**
- **In doing so - Jesus proved He is the Son of God - and has the power of the Spirit of God.**
- **But the Pharisees (a religious group of the day) - accused Jesus of casting out the demons from this man - by the power of Beelzebul (another name for Satan)**
- **Jesus knew what they were thinking**
- **He accused them of blaspheming (that is - speaking disrespectfully about God) - and He said they were blaspheming the Holy Spirit. How so? Because they were attributing everything that is from the goodness of God through the Holy Spirit - they were attributing that as actually being the work of the Satan.**
- **When anyone says that the goodness of God is coming from the evil of the Satan - then that's going too far**
- **And Jesus says that's unforgivable**
- **He says - v25 - **a kingdom divided against itself can't stand** -**
- **Such a kingdom - is like Ish-Bosheth's kingdom - where his own men killed him - if there's no loyalty in a kingdom from its subject - that kingdom won't last.**
- **Jesus' argument - here is that - evil Satan (Beelzebul) can't cast out/ get rid of evil - evil against evil - just perpetuates evil - one murder leads to another and another and to revenge and more revenge - and doesn't achieve good.**

- **Jesus says - He's not driving out demons by the name of evil Satan - He's driving out demons by the goodness of God's Spirit - v28**
- **As we learnt last week from Romans 12:21 - God overcame evil by the goodness of allowing His Son to die for the evil sin of the world. So, goodness overcame evil. That's God's way. And that's Jesus' way. Evil is overcome by goodness - not by evil actions.**
- **So, the bottom line is as Jesus says in Matt 12:30 - **Whoever is not with me is against me****
- **And that's David's attitude too - with the Baanah and Rekab - if they're not on David's page - they're on the wrong page - and against David - and against God!**

Application

[PowerPoint 8-Jesus' Page]

- For us - it means - we need to be on Jesus' page.
- If we're not with Jesus - then we're against Jesus.
- How do we get on Jesus' page?
- We need to have the same mind of Jesus
- How do get the same mind as Jesus?
- **See Romans 12:1-2**
- **Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing**

of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

- **In other words** - WWJS and WWJD?
- We need to **ask ourselves**
- Is what I am about to say or do - **pleasing to God?**
- Is what I am about to say or do - in **agreeance** with **God's Word?**
- Am I following what the world would do here - or **what Jesus would do?**

It's my prayer that we would **stay on Jesus' page** by **studying, meditating upon** and **remembering** what Jesus said and did...

Let's pray...