

## **Bible Readings**

### **1 Kings 1:1-27**

#### **Adonijah Sets Himself Up as King**

**1** When King David was very old, he could not keep warm even when they put covers over him. **2** So his attendants said to him, "Let us look for a young virgin to serve the king and take care of him. She can lie beside him so that our lord the king may keep warm."

**3** Then they searched throughout Israel for a beautiful young woman and found Abishag, a Shunammite, and brought her to the king. **4** The woman was very beautiful; she took care of the king and waited on him, but the king had no sexual relations with her.

**5** Now Adonijah, whose mother was Haggith, put himself forward and said, "I will be king." So, he got chariots and horses ready, with fifty men to run ahead of him. **6** (His father had never rebuked him by asking, "Why do you behave as you do?" He was also very handsome and was born next after Absalom.)

**7** Adonijah conferred with Joab son of Zeruah and with Abiathar the priest, and they gave him their support. **8** But Zadok the priest, Benaiah son of Jehoiada, Nathan the prophet, Shimei and Rei and David's special guard did not join Adonijah.

**9** Adonijah then sacrificed sheep, cattle and fattened calves at the Stone of Zoheleth near En Rogel. He invited all his brothers, the king's sons, and all the royal officials of Judah, **10** but he did not invite Nathan the prophet or Benaiah or the special guard or his brother Solomon.

<sup>11</sup> Then Nathan asked Bathsheba, Solomon's mother, "Have you not heard that Adonijah, the son of Haggith, has become king, and our lord David knows nothing about it? <sup>12</sup> Now then, let me advise you how you can save your own life and the life of your son Solomon. <sup>13</sup> Go in to King David and say to him, 'My lord the king, did you not swear to me your servant: "Surely Solomon your son shall be king after me, and he will sit on my throne"? Why then has Adonijah become king?' <sup>14</sup> While you are still there talking to the king, I will come in and add my word to what you have said."

<sup>15</sup> So Bathsheba went to see the aged king in his room, where Abishag the Shunammite was attending him. <sup>16</sup> Bathsheba bowed down, prostrating herself before the king.

"What is it you want?" the king asked.

<sup>17</sup> She said to him, "My lord, you yourself swore to me your servant by the LORD your God: 'Solomon your son shall be king after me, and he will sit on my throne.' <sup>18</sup> But now Adonijah has become king, and you, my lord the king, do not know about it. <sup>19</sup> He has sacrificed great numbers of cattle, fattened calves, and sheep, and has invited all the king's sons, Abiathar the priest and Joab the commander of the army, but he has not invited Solomon your servant. <sup>20</sup> My lord the king, the eyes of all Israel are on you, to learn from you who will sit on the throne of my lord the king after him. <sup>21</sup> Otherwise, as soon as my lord the king is laid to rest with his ancestors, I and my son Solomon will be treated as criminals."

<sup>22</sup> While she was still speaking with the king, Nathan the prophet arrived. <sup>23</sup> And the king was told, "Nathan the prophet is here." So, he went before the king and bowed with his face to the ground.

<sup>24</sup> Nathan said, "Have you, my lord the king, declared that Adonijah shall be king after you, and that he will sit on your throne? <sup>25</sup> Today he has gone down and sacrificed great numbers of cattle, fattened calves, and sheep. He has invited all the king's sons, the commanders of the army and Abiathar the priest. Right now, they are eating and drinking with him and saying, 'Long live King Adonijah!' <sup>26</sup> But me your servant, and Zadok the priest, and Benaiah son of Jehoiada, and your servant Solomon he did not invite. <sup>27</sup> Is this something my lord the king has done without letting his servants know who should sit on the throne of my lord the king after him?"

### **Mark 10:46-52**

#### **Blind Bartimaeus Receives His Sight**

<sup>46</sup> Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (which means "son of Timaeus"), was sitting by the roadside begging. <sup>47</sup> When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

<sup>48</sup> Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

<sup>49</sup> Jesus stopped and said, "Call him."

So, they called to the blind man, "Cheer up! On your feet! He's calling you." <sup>50</sup> Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.

<sup>51</sup> "What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him.

The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see."

<sup>52</sup> "Go," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you." Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

Sermon: Who's got the Kingdom - Part 1?

18-Jul-21

G'Day Church Family

This morning we're beginning a series on the OT book of 1 Kings.

You have **Bibles in front of you** - and you may have a sermon **outline** - if you'd like to **take notes**.

Let me **ask God** to grant us **understanding** this morning

Let's pray...

Intro

Picture the scene

It's a **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** at church

The **minister** is **preaching** and **looking out** at the **congregation** - a few **faces** in the congregation seem **perplexed**

The **minister** starts to **wonder** if there is **something wrong** with his **sermon?**

What he doesn't realize is behind him is a **curtain blowing in the breeze** of an open window and the **curtain has just caught alight by the flame of a candle** placed too close to the window - suddenly the **flame catches the curtain on the next window** - and a **fire starts to spread**

No one in the congregation is **game enough to say anything**.

No one **thought to move the candle** before it was too late

No one **thought to grab some water** and put the fire out

No one **thought to grab a fire extinguisher**

Until finally - the **minister himself noticed** what was going on?

**Proverbs 24:10-12 (HCSB) says:**

**<sup>10</sup> If you do nothing in a difficult time,  
your strength is limited.**

**<sup>11</sup> Rescue those being taken off to death,  
and save those stumbling toward slaughter.**

**<sup>12</sup> If you say, "But we didn't know about this,"  
won't He who weighs hearts consider it?**

**Won't He who protects your life know?**

**Won't He repay a person according to his work?**

**No one's life was really in danger** on at that Christmas Eve service.

**But Proverbs 24 is clear.**

**If we do nothing our strength is limited.**

**Sometimes each of us has to take the initiative even if it's a little embarrassing -  
to prevent something even more embarrassing - or even something dangerous  
from happening.**

**For most of us, our default position is to **keep quiet** and **try not to make any waves.****

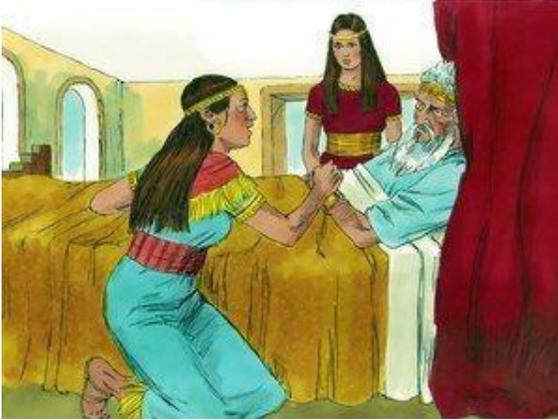
**In our story from 1 Kings 1 - **something wrong is about to take place** - and it **relies on someone stepping up and doing the right thing** - and saying "hey, this is wrong!"**

## Context

- Just before we pick up the story in 1 Kings though
- Let's get the context
- David has had an amazing life
- As a young shepherd boy, he protected his sheep with a sling shot
- He even took down a Philistine giant called Goliath with his sling shot
- He became the second king of Israel - following on from King Saul - who hated David so much - that David had to go on the run for some time
- David was described as "a man after God's own heart"
- He wrote many of the Psalms in the Bible
- David was very committed to the Lord
- Yet he also did some things that were incredibly wrong - not least seducing Bathsheba - and having her husband Uriah killed in battle
- And David didn't rule his household very well either- he over indulged his sons - and let them do whatever they pleased - and so they were arrogant and rebellious
- But we pick up the story in 1 Kings 1:1 where David is now very old and almost at the end of his life
- Who will be the next king?

## The Kingdom threatened (1 Kings 1:1-10)

[PowerPoint 1 - David's death bed]



- Let's see how the story pans out
- In v1 - **David is old** and even though covered in bedclothes - He's **cold** - He **can't get warm**
- So v2-4 - His **servants arrange** for a **young virgin** to be his **carer** - her job amongst other things - is to **lie beside David** and **keep him warm** -

[The importance of being a virgin - means she couldn't be pregnant before sleeping with David - therefore any child conceived would be David's child]

- Anyway, the **young girl - Abishag** - did not have **sexual relations with David** - she was **simply David's personal carer** and kept him warm
- They could have brought David a **cat** to lie on him and **keep him warm** - but a **beautiful young girl** - would certainly cheer his spirits
- We know from 1 Chronicles 3 - that **David had 19 sons** and **1 daughter** (Tamar)
- We know from our look at the OT book of 2 Samuel last year that David's **three eldest sons have died** - **Amnon, Kileab (aka Daniel) and Absalom** -

## [PowerPoint 2-v5]

Now Adonijah, Whose Mother  
Was Haggith, Put Himself  
Forward And Said, "I Will Be  
King." So He Got Chariots  
And Horses Ready, With Fifty  
Men To Run Ahead Of Him.

1 Kings 1-5

- And here in v5 - the **next eldest son** is **Adonijah**
- **Adonijah puts himself forward** - and says "**I will be king**"
- My mum used to say "self-recommendation is no recommendation at all"
- Given that David is only the second king of Israel - we have **no precedent that the next king should be the eldest son?**
- The King of Israel is God's King - and surely God has a say
- Nevertheless, Adonijah assumes he will be the next king - once David dies
- He **even acts like a King** - v5 - he has **chariots and horses** - and a **fifty-man entourage**
- We also discover -that **David had overindulged Adonijah** and never checked his behaviour - and so just like his brother Absalom, Adonijah acts like a spoilt entitled brat
- **It maybe that David didn't use the word "no" very often with his sons!**
- A lesson for us - to surely **not allow our children (or grandchildren) to have whatever they want and do whatever they want!**

- Even though Adonijah's name means "the Lord is Jehovah God" - Adonijah only worships one person - himself!

[PowerPoint 3-Feast]



- **Adonijah** gained himself a **couple of strong allies** in v7 - that is **Joab**, David's nephew who is the commander of the army - and the priest **Abiathar**
- Notably - v8 - **Adonijah did not make allies of: Zadok the priest - nor Benaiah** the commander of David's bodyguard - nor Nathan the prophet - nor David's special guard
- **Adonijah** even makes a **huge sacrifice of sheep, cattle and fattened calves** to the Lord - the writer of 1 Kings - wants us to see this as a pretentious act - as though he's receiving God's approval to be king
- But notice - no one actually checks with David - if David approves of Adonijah being King - and no one has actually brought this before God either
- And when we see in v9 and 10 - that **Adonijah invites all his brothers to the after party except Solomon** - we know that **Adonijah is trying to grab the kingdom by stealth**

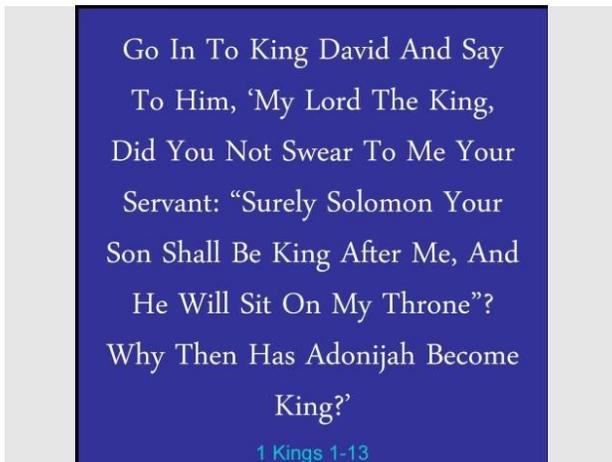
- And when we see Adonijah doesn't invite God's prophet, Nathan nor Benaiah the commander of David's bodyguard - we know Adonijah is trying to pull this off without David's knowledge or consent - and without consulting God
- **Application** - We need to remember Proverbs 16:1 - To humans belong the plans of the heart, but from the LORD comes the proper answer of the tongue - and Proverbs 16: v9 - In their hearts, humans plan their course, but the LORD establishes their steps and Proverbs 19:21 - Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails.
- When we leave God out of our planning and when we fail to consult Him - we invite disappointment and disaster into our lives!

### **The servants of the Kingdom act (1 Kings 1:11-27)**

- With the kingdom threatened by Adonijah
- David's faithful servants will not stand by and do nothing
- No - they act
- Nathan, the Prophet, approaches David's wife, Bathsheba - who is the mother of Solomon - Nathan knows Solomon is being overlooked as King - see v11
- Nathan tells Bathsheba about Adonijah's plan to become king
- It seems that everyone in King David's palace was under the impression that Solomon would be king after David
- Nathan - v12 -advices Bathsheba that if she doesn't act - her life and Solomon's life will be in danger - once Adonijah is King

- **So, Nathan - v13 - advises Bathsheba to go to King David - and say "My lord the king, did you not swear to me your servant: "Surely Solomon your son shall be king after me, and he will sit on my throne"? Why then has Adonijah become king?'**

[PowerPoint 4-v13]



- When Bathsheba tells David this news - Nathan plans to come into the room and confirm this news - this is according to OT law - "a matter is established by the testimony of two or three witnesses" (Deut 19:15)
- **Bathsheba is very persuasive in what she says to David**
- See v17 - she reminds David he swore an oath before the Lord that Solomon would be the next king
- She paints a picture of Adonijah already acting as King - in v18-19 - he's made a huge sacrifice to the Lord, he's invited all of David's sons to a party along with the priest Abiathar and the commander of the Army, Joab - but he has not invited Solomon
- And then to help David act - v20 - she reminds David that all his subjects are waiting to hear what David thinks about who should succeed him - and v21 - the

final clinching argument - Bathsheba says if you don't act David - as soon as you die - Solomon and I, Bathsheba, will be treated like criminals

- Right on cue - **Nathan the Prophet enters the room** - see vv24-27
- We are meant to see that Nathan represents God's wishes on David's successor
- And look how gracious Nathan is
- He asks David if he has declared Adonijah King?
- **Nathan paints the same picture of Adonijah as Bathsheba did** - mentioning Adonijah's huge sacrifice and his after party
- Then v26 - Nathan tells David exactly who wasn't invited to this party - Nathan himself wasn't invited - nor Zadok the priest - nor Benaiah - nor Solomon
- It's like Nathan is saying - it's so obvious Adonijah's is doing all this behind your back, David, - and against God's will - and he's kept it from all the people that David is closest to

[PowerPoint 5-v27]

Is This Something My  
Lord The King Has Done  
Without Letting His Servants  
Know Who Should Sit On  
The Throne Of My Lord  
The King After Him?"

1 Kings 1-27

- And then look at v27 - Nathan graciously says

Is this something my lord the king has done without letting his servants know who should sit on the throne of my lord the king after him?"

- Now **we'll have to wait until next week to see how the story pans out...**
- But **for this week - what a champion Nathan is**
- A **sub-application** for us this morning is that we **can learn a lot from how Nathan approaches a difficult and delicate situation - we can learn a lot from how he confronts David in a gracious way.**
- **We can learn from this - to **be gracious** when we have to approach people on delicate matters - when we have to confront people about their behaviour or action - when it's contrary to God's word**
- **Remember Nathan is the **same prophet** who confronted David about his affair with Bathsheba and having Uriah killed - on that occasion Nathan told a story of a rich man mistreating a poor man - when David rightly reacted to this story and said that the rich man in the story was wrong and should die - then Nathan told David - **he, David, was the man in the story.****
- **Nathan shows us how to deal with such delicate situations - with grace and gentleness**
- **As the Apostle Paul reminds us in Galatians 6:1 - Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently.**
- **Notice the goal of correcting the person's behaviour is to restore them - never to put them offside and never to alienate them**

- And notice it is gentle - not harsh - not aggressive - not attacking
- Nathan the Prophet did not stand by and let evil triumph - he did what was right
- Irish statesmen, economist and philosopher, Edmund Burke [1729-1797) said this: "*The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.*"
- Nathan did not stand by and do nothing - he didn't stand by and let Adonijah's evil plan come to pass - He acted and went to the King about it
- There's a lesson for all of us here - we are not to stand by and let something wrong or dangerous happen - like those people in the congregation when the candle set the curtains on fire
- We can't turn a blind eye - when we know of a situation occurring - and say - "but it's not my business"
- We may know of domestic violence or child abuse - in all good conscience we must report it - it's the right thing to do
- We may know of someone caught in a grave sin - we can't say to ourselves - "it's not up to me to judge" - remember we learnt from the Sermon on the Mount - we CAN judge people's behaviour - as long as we're prepared to be judged by the same standards -
- If our government are making decisions that are contrary to God's Word - we can lobby our local members of parliament - we can ask our church to speak up. Bad things happen - when good people do nothing!

- **We need to continue to stand up for our religious freedom - so we can read our bibles; so, we can talk about what God says in His word, about sinful behaviour - without fear of being closed down**
- **We need to speak out against racism, against sexual immorality, against oppression, against poverty and against abortion - we do have a voice.**
- **And as we live out our lives, we can show people what we stand for**
  - **Like Joshua in OT - we can make it obvious that we and our household have chosen to serve and follow the Lord - and never hide that fact or be embarrassed by it (Josh 24:15)**
  - **And as the apostle Peter advises - in 2 Peter 3:15 - we should "always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect" (2 Peter 3:15)**

**Like God's prophet Nathan - we must not stand by and do nothing**

**King Jesus does not stand by and do nothing (Mark 10:46-52;**

**[PowerPoint 6-Blind Bart]**

- **Which brings us briefly to our NT passage from **Mark 10:46-52****
- **Jesus came into Jericho and was confronted by a blind man - Bartimaeus**
- **Blind Bart cries out for mercy from Jesus**
- **Everyone in town has written blind Bart off - they tell him to shut up!**
- **But Jesus couldn't walk by blind Bart and do nothing**
- **Jesus saw blind Bart's faith and healed him of his blindness**

## Conclusion

- In a far greater way
- Jesus couldn't stand by and let Satan and his evil powers prevail
- Jesus couldn't stand by and watch sin and death - defeat the people of this world
- Jesus couldn't stand by and leave us spiritually blind from God
- Jesus did **not** walk past us - instead - He walked to the cross - and laid his life down for people lost from God and brought them back into a right relationship with God, the Father - Jesus swapped our sin for forgiveness - and God the Father raised Jesus to life 3 days later- so we could have an abundant life that leads to eternal life in Heaven
- As Colossians 2:13-15 says- Jesus triumphed over evil by making a public spectacle of it on the cross
- So, let me finish with Colossians 2:13-15

### [PowerPoint 7-Collosians 2:13-15]

<sup>13</sup> When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, <sup>14</sup> having cancelled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. <sup>15</sup> **And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.**

Let's pray

Father God, help us to learn from Adonijah to speak up and act against things which are contrary to Your Word. Help us to not stand by and let evil occur.

Thank you that Jesus did not allow Satan and his evil forces to prevail – thank You that He acted against sin and death – and defeated them through the glory of the cross and His resurrection. In His name, Amen.]