

Sunday Night Message

March 22, 2020

2 Samuel 3 – The City of Refuge

Topics – David; Hebron; Joab; Abner; Ishbosheth

Series – *2 Samuel*

Text – 2 Samuel 3

Introduction (read vs. 1 – 6)

In 2 Samuel 1, David received word from an Amalekite that Saul and Jonathan were dead, along with many thousands of others from the army of Israel. The Philistines had won a humiliating victory and had moved in to occupy some of the cities near the battlefield in the Jezreel Valley.

Though Saul had been a bitter enemy to David, David had always respected Saul as his king, and when David heard of Saul's death, he wept and mourned for both him and Jonathan.

In chapter two, David is beginning the process of receiving the kingdom from King Saul. At first, he will reign over the tribe of Judah from the city of Hebron, but eventually the entire nation of Israel will make David their king.

In chapters two and three there is a story that I have preached through the years involving the city of Hebron, and also including Abner and Joab, the military leaders of Israel and Judah (respectively). I was tempted to just re-preach that message, but have opted instead to not rush through these two chapters.

Last week, we saw some important things from chapter two that we will need to recall in order to understand an important truth from chapter three.

- I. **David is Anointed King Over Judah in Hebron (vs. 1 – 4a)**
- II. **David Honors the Men of Jabeshgilead for Honoring King Saul (vs. 4b – 7)**
- III. **Abner Appoints Saul's Son to Be King Over Israel (vs. 8 – 11)**
- IV. **The Death of Asahel (vs. 12 – 32)**

This story speaks for itself. The people of Judah with Joab (David's nephew – the son of David's sister, Zeruah – 1 Chronicles 2:16) as their military leader go to war in Gibeon with Abner and his army. Though the Israelites lose decisively to the army of David, Asahel (Joab's brother) is killed by Abner. This event will play a big part in what takes place in the next chapter, and will also paint a vivid picture for us as we seek to stay inside of the will of God.

As we look into chapter three, let us take notice of the fact that all of the activity in this chapter takes place in Hebron.

Hebron is a city of refuge:

Turn to Joshua 20:1 – 9; Numbers 35:9 – 28

Beginning In 2 Samuel 3:7, we see:

- I. The Rift Between Abner and Ishbosheth (vs. 7 – 11).
- II. The Restoration Between David and Israel (vs. 12 – 21)
- III. The Retribution for Asahel's Death (vs. 22 – 30)
- IV. The Remorse of David Over the Death of Abner (vs. 31 – 39)

Explain the typology represented from this story:

1 The City of Refuge represents the will of God for the Christian. It is a place of protection, provision, and production (fruitfulness).

2 Abner represents the Christian inside the will of God.

3 Joab represents the Devil who is trying to pull the Christian out of the will of God and cause him to fall spiritually.

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world." (1 Peter 5:8-9)

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand." (Ephesians 6:10-13)

"And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:" (Luke 22:31)

Turn to Matthew 4:1 – 11

Satan often uses people to do his work for him.

"For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works." (2 Corinthians 11:13-15)

Satan often tempts us with the lusts of our own flesh.

"Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him. Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death." (James 1:12-15)

"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us," (Hebrews 12:1)

It is easy to get pulled out of the will of God – out of the city of refuge - by the devil

It could happen to you or me, if we are not sober and vigilant.

"Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." (1 Corinthians 10:12)

What happens to the Christian who falls prey to Satan?

1 They suffer personally.

If you are saved, you cannot lose your salvation, but you certainly will suffer some painful consequences while still on this earth. The problems that will result from your yielding to Satan's temptation will be very painful. It may affect you physically; it may affect you financially; and it may affect your family; but it will most certainly affect you.

Sin will always take you farther than you want to go.

Sin will always keep you longer than you want to stay.

Sin will always cost you more than you want to pay.

It just isn't worth it.

2 They suffer positionally.

In other words, their testimony is adversely affected in the eyes of the people around them, and sometimes, it is completely ruined.

3 They suffer practically.

They lose their ability to minister to others. They are no longer ambassadors. They make God look bad, and they give the enemies of God a victory:

"And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die. Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also that is born unto thee shall surely die." (2 Samuel 12:13-14)

Conclusion

Most of us have already fallen to some degree at one time or another since we have been saved, maybe we haven't fallen to the extent that David fell, but we have probably all been lured by the devil, or our flesh, out of the will of God; and we have already experienced some of the painful consequences that came with the fall.

The purpose of this message is not to beat up anybody who has already fallen prey, but to warn those who haven't.

Stay inside of the city – stay inside of the will of God

Practical Helps:

1 **Keep Walking with God**

Read your Bible every day

Spend some time in prayer every day

Yield to the Holy Spirit

2 **Be Faithful to Church**

3 **Stay Away from People or Things (influences) that are outside of the will of God**

Avoid critical, complaining, negative people

4 **Avoid the small steps that lead you in the wrong direction; the little compromises**

5 **Help those who have fallen**

Don't be critical

Don't be judgmental

Don't be prideful

"Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted." (Galatians 6:1)

Illustrate

W. R. – Pastor friend. Was lured into heavy debt, which caused him to have to work many hours outside of the church driving a truck. He was gone for days at a time. He eventually fell further into sin by committing adultery. He is now out of the ministry, divorced from his wife, estranged from his children, and living with a woman he is not married to; and he wishes he could go back.

By the way, his fall affected a lot of others. Your falling into sin does not just affect you personally, it affects those you love.

The Battle of Gibeon

Route [Abner](#) and the servants
of [Ishbosheth](#) from [Mahanaim](#) to [Gibeon](#)

Route of [Joab](#) and the servants
of [David](#) from [Hebron](#) to [Gibeon](#)

Route of [Joab](#) and [Abishai](#) to
pursue [Abner](#) from [Gibeon](#) to [Mount
Ammah](#)

Route of [Abner](#) and his men
from [Mount Ammah](#) to [Mahanaim](#)

Route of [Joab](#) and his men
from [Gibeon](#) to [Bethlehem](#) to
bury [Asahel](#)

Route of [Joab](#) and his men
from [Bethlehem](#) to [Hebron](#)

