**Week 3 - March 27/28 - 2 Samuel 3:22-4:12**

**Introduction**

**Has there ever been a time where you thought you could make a situation better by taking the matter into your own hands?** Maybe it was a group project that no one else was working on or you felt slighted and thought it would be best to set things straight. What we’ll see tonight throughout these chapters are examples of this erroneous “do it yourself” mentality and be confronted with a sovereign God who is able to save out of every adversity.

**Does anyone remember why war broke out between the house of Saul and the house of David?** *(Abner, general of Saul’s army, resisted David’s ascent to the throne and made Ish-bosheth, Saul’s son, king over the northern tribes of Israel).* **What was the outcome between Abner and David?** *(Abner recognized David’s position - 3:17-18, they made peace - v21).*

**Read 3:22-27.** After David and Abner make peace, Joab appears on the scene after coming back from a raid. **What is Joab’s response to hearing that Abner was sent away in peace? What accusations does Joab bring against Abner?** Though Abner was at one point Joab’s enemy, the King declared they should be at peace with one another. However, Joab disapproved of the King’s decision and fostered resentment toward Abner. **Read Jonah 3:10-4:4. What comparisons can be drawn from the responses of Joab and Jonah? Has there ever been a time where you have resented God’s grace in another person's life?**

Joab leaves the King’s presence to take matters into his own hands. Acting deceitfully, he sent messengers in the name of the king to intercept Abner on his journey home. **What is revealed about Joab’s motivation in killing Abner?** *(v27, avenging his brother Ashel).* **What are the consequences of unchecked revenge, as seen in Joab’s actions, in personal relationships today?**On one hand we can understand why Joab would’ve wanted revenge. However, Joab had no legitimate ground for this act. “Abner killed Asahel in battle (v30) after a gracious warning (2:20-23);” he did not murder with ill intent. *(See note #1).* “Joab settled public battles with private vendettas” (Davis, 46). **When have there been temptations in your life to manipulate situations or to take matters into your own hands? What does this reveal about the condition of your trust in God?**

**Read 3:28-39. What was David’s reaction to Abner being murdered?** David wanted to make it clearly known that He had no part in this and publicly renounced Joab’s actions as reprehensible. David calls all the people to publicly mourn with fasting over Abner’s death. **What precedent is David setting before the people of Israel in a circumstance like this?** *(David did not want His kingdom to be established by violence).* David was not an opportunist who would stoop to any means to gain the throne God promised.**How is David’s response one filled with deep compassion and an understanding of justice?** *(v39).* For the next 33 years, Joab led David’s army and as David approached death, he spoke to his son Solomon about the punishment of Joab. **Read 1 Kings 2:5-6.** Joab was fiercely loyal to David, yet not strongly obedient. **Have you tried to justify yourself with loyalty over obedience toward God?**  

**Read 4:1-8. How does Ish-Bosheth’s reaction to Abner’s death reflect his leadership?** *(When he learned the man who propped him up upon the throne was dead, he knew he stood no chance. He was weak because he trusted in man to gain his position).* **Why might’ve the author introduced Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan, in this chapter? *What is specifically revealed about him, and how does that develop the current status of the house of Saul?*** The author is drawing our attention to how weak the descendants of Saul are. Ish-Bosheth has lost courage and Mephibosheth is crippled. **How does that only heighten the cowardice act of Baanah and Rechab?** There is no honor killing a man in his sleep, **yet what were Baanah and Rechab expecting would come from this wimpish murder? Can someone re-read verse 8?** “They came [to David] with blood on their hands but theology on their lips” (Davis, 53). **How have you sought to justify your actions by stretching or twisting God’s word?**

**Read 4:9-12. What pattern are we seeing take place in David’s response to the death of the deaths of those that oppose him?** We saw it first with the Amalekite in Chapter 1, then with Joab, and now with Baanah and Rechab. The response we see in David is most fully expressed in God. Ezekiel 18:32 says, “For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent and live!”

Look at these sections of verses 8 and 9 side by side:

“...Saul, your enemy, who sought your life (v8)”

“...The LORD, who has redeemed my life out of every adversity (v9)”

**How do Baanah and Rechab try to present the situation before David and what role are they trying to assume in David’s life?** *(They subtly present themselves as David’s redeemers thinking David will be “indebted to them for this finishing touch that makes his person and kingdom secure” (Davis, 54)).* David sees through this and rightly recognizes God as His redeemer. **How do you remain rooted in Christ as your sole redeemer in every situation? How might we neglect the privilege we have as Christ being our redeemer?**

Acting justly and swiftly, David made an example of these murderous men. They weren’t soldiers fighting together with him for a just and God-honoring cause, they were murderers deserving a just punishment.

**Conclusion**

At this point Saul the king is dead; Jonathan the apparent heir is dead; Abinadab and Malki-Shua (Jonathan’s two brothers) are dead; Abner the army commander is dead; Mephibosheth, Jonathan’s son, is crippled; Saul’s son, Ish-Bosheth is dead; there is no other viable candidate left for the throne that could contend against David. Many people sought to take matters into their own hands thinking they could advance their own status and agenda. In reality, however, by God’s sovereignty, He would use their disobedient mindset to ensure David received the throne. **We saw the consequences of those who took matters into their own hands and how even in that God accomplished His purposes. This next week, spend time identifying if there are any areas in your life where you have a “do it yourself” mentality and seek to replace it with a “He’ll redeem out of every adversity” mentality.**

**Notes**

**#1 -** We are given further instruction by the law that if one murders their penalty is to receive capital punishment. **Numbers 35:31.** To kill during battle and to intentionally murder are two different things. For a larger context and understanding see **Numbers 35:9-34.**

**#2 -** Throughout these chapters you see the mention of the city of Hebron mentioned 7 times. In Joshua 20:1-7, Hebron becomes known as a “city of refuge.” Instinctions are given in this chapter that if someone kills another person unintentionally, he is to flee to a city of refuge, stand at the gate and state his case to the elders, then be given a place to dwell in the city. Recall 2 Sam 3:27, Joab killed Abner at the gate - the very place where the slayer was to state his case before receiving refuge in the city. By specifying where Abner died, the author helps the reader to evaluate Jaob’s act and his character. By killing Abner at the gate of Hebron, Joab took judgment into his own hands and showed disregard for the law of God. See the irony, in the backdrop.

**#3 -** Further information about David’s curse against Joab - **1 Kings 2:29-34.**