

# **Bible Study June 5, 2024**

## **2 SAMUEL 4 (ESV) TRUSTING GOD IN TRANSITION**

### **Trusting God in Transition**

- Some think walking into one's anointing is easy.
  - o Abner set up Ishbosheth. **2 Samuel 2:10-11 (ESV)** <sup>10</sup> *Ish-bosheth, Saul's son, was forty years old when he began to reign over Israel, and he reigned two years. But the house of Judah followed David.* <sup>11</sup> *And the time that David was king in Hebron over the house of Judah was seven years and six months.*

There are Lessons that can be learned in transition:

### **Lesson 1: Stay focused on the bigger picture**

Last week we read that Joab killed Abner because Abner killed Joab's Brother Asahel. David's goal was unity in the kingdom, while Joab was focused on revenge. When you are in transition try to stay focused on the bigger picture.

1. Stay Consistent With what you know is Right (David and the Brothers)
2. Don't forget God has been faith in the past (As the Lord Liveth...")

### **Lesson 2: Place trust in God above all others including family**

**<sup>1</sup> When Ish-bosheth, Saul's son, heard that Abner had died at Hebron, his courage failed, and all Israel was dismayed.**

Ishbosheth was a man who took his courage from another man (Abner) rather than from God. When Abner died, Ishbosheth was left with nothing. In crisis and under pressure, he collapsed in fear. Fear can paralyze us, but faith and trust in God can overcome fear (2 Timothy 1:6-8; Hebrews 13:6). If we trust in God, we will be free to respond boldly to the events around us.

### **Psalm 146:3-7 (ESV) – Put not your trust in Princes.**

<sup>3</sup>*Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.*

<sup>4</sup>*When his breath departs, he returns to the earth; on that very day his plans perish.*

<sup>5</sup>*Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God,*

<sup>6</sup>*who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever;*

<sup>7</sup>*who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry.*

**<sup>2</sup> Now Saul's son had two men who were captains of raiding bands; the name of the one was Baanah, and the name of the other Rechab, sons of Rimmon a man of Benjamin from Beeroth (for Beeroth also is counted part of Benjamin; <sup>3</sup> the Beerothites fled to Gittaim and have been sojourners there to this day).**

Bible makes the point that these men were counted as part of Benjamin. Saul was from tribe of Benjamin, so Ishbosheth was from Benjamin.

Sometimes the worst threat to success is from within. Mark 3:24-25 says <sup>24</sup> If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. <sup>25</sup> And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand.

### **Lesson 3: Trust that God is still working it out**

***<sup>4</sup> Jonathan, the son of Saul, had a son who was crippled in his feet. He was five years old when the news about Saul and Jonathan came from Jezreel, and his nurse took him up and fled, and as she fled in her haste, he fell and became lame. And his name was Mephibosheth.***

**Psalm 27:10 (ESV)** *<sup>10</sup> For my father and my mother have forsaken me, but the LORD will take me in.*

This shows that Mephibosheth a descendent of Saul was not a threat to the throne since he was lame. It is interesting how God is clearing the path for David to the throne. The rest of Mephibosheth's story is told in 2 Samuel 9; 16:1-4; and 19:24-30.

***<sup>5</sup> Now the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, Rechab and Baanah, set out, and about the heat of the day they came to the house of Ish-bosheth as he was taking his noonday rest. <sup>6</sup> And they came into the midst of the house as if to get wheat, and they stabbed him in the stomach. Then Rechab and Baanah his brother escaped. <sup>7</sup> When they came into the house, as he lay on his bed in his bedroom, they struck him and put him to death and beheaded him. They took his head and went by the way of the Arabah all night,***

These are opportunists, trying to keep a job. They were not loyal to the king. They made a living doing some of the dirty work for the king.

### **Lesson 4: Don't Forget God's Faithfulness in the past (As the Lord Liveth...)**

***<sup>8</sup> and brought the head of Ish-bosheth to David at Hebron. And they said to the king, "Here is the head of Ish-bosheth, the son of Saul, your enemy, who sought your life. The LORD has avenged my lord the king this day on Saul and on his offspring." <sup>9</sup> But David answered Rechab and Baanah his brother, the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, "As the LORD lives, who has redeemed my life out of every adversity,***

### **Lesson 5: Stay Consistent With What You Know Is Right**

***<sup>10</sup> when one told me, 'Behold, Saul is dead,' and thought he was bringing good news, I seized him and killed him at Ziklag, which was the reward I gave him for his news. <sup>11</sup> How much more, when wicked men have killed a righteous man in his own house on his bed, shall I not now require his blood at your hand and destroy you from the earth?" <sup>12</sup> And David commanded his young men, and they killed them and cut off their hands and feet and hanged them beside the pool at Hebron. But they took the head of Ish-bosheth and buried it in the tomb of Abner at Hebron.***

David called Ishbosheth an innocent man. As Saul's son, Ishbosheth had reason to think he was in line for the throne. He was not wicked for wanting to be king; rather, he was simply too weak to stand against injustice. Although David knew that Ishbosheth was not the leader God wanted to unite the people of Israel, he had no intention of killing him. God had promised the kingdom to David, and he knew that God would fulfill his promise.

When David learned of Ishbosheth's death, he was angry. David had never harmed Saul, and he thought the assassins' method was cowardly. David wanted to unite Israel, not drive a permanent wedge between him and Ishbosheth's supporters. To show that he had nothing to do with the extermination of Saul's royal line, David ordered the assassins killed and gave Ishbosheth a proper burial. All the tribes of Israel, recognizing in David the strong leader they needed, pledged their loyalty to him. No doubt the Philistine threat and David's military reputation (1 Samuel 18:7) also helped unify the people.