

David Was Governed By Truth

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2 Samuel 4:1 And when Saul's son heard that Abner was dead in Hebron, his hands were feeble, and all the Israelites were troubled.

- I. This is speaking of Ishbosheth, who is sitting as the king of Israel.
 - A. Upon finding out that Abner was dead, his hands were feeble.
 - 1. He absolutely did not know what to do.
 - 2. He had absolutely no strength or wisdom to do anything.
 - 3. He is a king's son, but his mind, his heart, and his soul are a blank.

Proverbs 24:10 If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small.

- B. This is the predicament of a person who has been lazy, indulged, undisciplined, and trusted in their social position.
 - 1. This is the end of a person who has lived their life only for themselves and depended on others to serve them.
- C. This is where a person arrives one day, who lived his life in vanity and idleness and did not get any understanding of life, God, truth, or other people.
- D. The only thing we know that he exerted himself about was the issue of Abner and the concubine.
 - 1. Apparently, he was keen about that but totally unconcerned about the kingdom.
- E. Ishbosheth was apparently a person who was useless and had no value to anyone other than the fact that he was Saul's son.
 - 1. He was only the king of Israel because it allowed Abner to remain in power and keeping David from being the king.
- F. He is painfully aware right now of how utterly inferior he is to David in every way.
 - 1. He has lived in ease and comfort and luxury through the years that David was fleeing from his father and living on the run in the wilderness.
 - 2. This would naturally breed a feeling of superiority in him toward David.
 - 3. Of course, he has lived among the hatred and slander and lies about David that filled the conversations in the house of Saul.
 - 4. But now that day is upon him when David is about to become the head and he the tail and he is totally unprepared and unable to do anything in the face of it.
- G. Such men as Ishbosheth do not possess the loyalty and respect of those who serve them.

2 Samuel 4:2 And Saul's son had two men that were captains of bands: the name of the one was Baanah, and the name of the other Rechab, the sons of Rimmon a Beerothite, of the children of Benjamin: (for Beeroth also was reckoned to Benjamin:

2 Samuel 4:5-7 And the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, Rechab and Baanah, went, and came about the heat of the day to the house of Ish-bosheth, who lay on a bed at noon. And they came thither into the midst of the house, as though they would have fetched wheat; and they smote him under the fifth rib: and Rechab and Baanah his brother escaped. For when

they came into the house, he lay on his bed in his bedchamber, and they smote him, and slew him, and beheaded him, and took his head, and gat them away through the plain all night.

1. He was slain by his own men who took the first opportunity they could to get rid of him.
 2. They knew where to find him in the middle of the day – in bed.
 3. While he was concerned about David and what he was going to do, it was those of his own ranks who took him out.
- H. Selfish people attract other selfish people.
1. A narcissist that obtains a position of power and money will have a swarm of the same around him hoping to feed off of his spoils.
 2. Ishbosheth had people serving him who were just as self-indulgent as he was, but not as dull of senses as he was.
 3. These two men saw the handwriting on the wall, just as Abner did, and they thought this was surely a way to get in good graces with David.
 4. They were vying for a position in the new government that was about to take charge.

II. But again, we get a look at the character of David that set him apart from everyone else.

2 Samuel 4:8-12 And they brought the head of Ish-bosheth unto David to Hebron, and said to the king, Behold the head of Ish-bosheth the son of Saul thine enemy, which sought thy life; and the LORD hath avenged my lord the king this day of Saul, and of his seed. And David answered Rechab and Baanah his brother, the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, and said unto them, As the LORD liveth, who hath redeemed my soul out of all adversity, When one told me, saying, Behold, Saul is dead, thinking to have brought good tidings, I took hold of him, and slew him in Ziklag, who thought that I would have given him a reward for his tidings: How much more, when wicked men have slain a righteous person in his own house upon his bed? shall I not therefore now require his blood of your hand, and take you away from the earth? And David commanded his young men, and they slew them, and cut off their hands and their feet, and hanged them up over the pool in Hebron. But they took the head of Ish-bosheth, and buried it in the sepulchre of Abner in Hebron.

- A. These were not the first men who made the mistake of thinking that they could please David by bringing him news of the misfortunes that had happened to Saul and his house.
- B. Carnal men without God are always glad to hear that their enemy has suffered some loss or has died and is no longer a problem.
 1. This is such a common way of thinking among men that these guys never gave it a thought that David would be any different.
- C. However, they found out, just as the young Amalekite had, that David was a different kind of man.
- D. David was a man who was governed by the truth and not by his own interests or passions.
- E. What they did was wrong, no matter what kind of man Ishbosheth was.
 1. To slip into a man's home and kill him while he is sleeping in his bed is cowardly and unjustified no matter what.
 2. They had no commission to do this – no authority, no reason, except for their own selfish gain and promotion.
- F. David was not about to receive them as heroes and friends and he was not about to let people think that he would be a part of such things in order to promote himself to the throne.

- G. David had the large view of things, while these fellows and the young Amalekite only saw a point.
- H. David always did what was right without regarding the consequences or his own feelings.
- I. These men had no regard for what was right, but though themselves worthy of playing Providence themselves.
- J. David was like this because he meditated day and night on the law of God and therefore he knew and understood what was right and was not confused about it.
- K. He could discern between good and evil and he exercised himself in that matter.
- L. We should follow his example.