

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1) 03 Jun 2018	2Sam 1-2	Respected
2) 10 Jun	2Sam 3-4	Crowned
3) 17 Jun	2Sam 5-6	Celebrated
4) 24 Jun	2Sam 7-8	Established
5) 01 Jul	2Sam 9-10	Valued
6) 08 Jul	2Sam 11-12	Accountable
7) 15 Jul	2Sam 13-14	Grieved
8) 22 Jul	2Sam 15-17	Deposed
9) 29 Jul	2Sam 18-19	Restored
10) 05 Aug	2Sam 20	Averted
11) 12 Aug	2Sam 21	Resolved
12) 19 Aug	2Sam 22-23	Thankful
13) 26 Aug	2Sam 24	Disciplined

INTRODUCTION

- We ended last week's lesson with the question, "How do we bring healing to national, family, or Church splits?" Church splits are basically civil wars between brothers & sisters in the Lord. This week we see David's rise to power comes at a steep price. Political intrigue continues with God sovereignly guiding every aspect. So, even healing national, familial, or church splits could come at a steep price, but it's a price worth paying to restore unity. From a church's perspective unity allows us to further the Gospel of Christ.
- What's at stake if we don't resolve conflicts, especially within the Church? Money? Church Growth? Souls?

Passage	Comments
2Samuel 3:1-5	<p>How was David a Man After God's Heart w/ 7 Wives?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can we be men & women after God's own heart (1Sam 13:14; Acts 13:22) while having multiple spouses? How could we stay or get back into God's good graces after a moral failure? <input type="checkbox"/> Repentance? <input type="checkbox"/> Think good thoughts? <input type="checkbox"/> Have another failure? • How do we explain David's dilemma to skeptics? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ David, though not perfect, honestly repented of his sins and sought after God (Ps 51 & 25:11). He also expressed humility (Ps 62:9), reverence (Ps 18:3), respect (Ps 31:9), trust (Ps 27:1), love (Ps 18:1), devotion (Ps 4:7), recognition (Ps 9:1), faithfulness (Ps 23:6), and obedience (Ps 119:34). ♦ God often acquiesces to man's sinful ways and works with our shortcomings – even polygamy!
3:6-25	<p>Political Intrigue – Man's Attempt to Fix Things</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 2 sides (David's clan vs Saul's clan) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ vv6-11. There is internal squabbling and maneuvering within Saul's clan ♦ vv12-16. There is some compromising going on ("restore what was taken from me (Michal)) ♦ vv17-21. Negotiations occur to restore the kingdom ♦ vv22-25. As a result, now there is some internal squabbling and maneuvering within David's clan • Could this type of wrangling occur within the context of church politics? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ How should differences be mended biblically? ♦ How do you involve all the parties appropriately to avoid inappropriate squabbling and maneuvering? ♦ Can there be a win-win scenario? ♦ Who should initiate the reconciliation? ♦ When should the effort to reconcile cease? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recall why Paul & Barnabas split .Acts 15:36-40 ♦ Remember: God can only bless and restore when things are done His way. If we do things our own way, then as the Chinese say, "wots-a-wuk"

Passage	Comments
3:26-39	<p>Cleanup on Aisle 7 – Murder and Cursings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joab takes matters into his own hands and kills Abner • v37. David made it clear to the people he was not behind this renegade behavior <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church dissension may not result in bloodshed, but how can resentment, anger, and other hostile feelings be curbed before things go from bad to worse? • God is ultimately & sovereignly in control of it all, but He does expect us to know His will in every situation and to be doers of His word. So, how do we get Side B (assuming they are in the wrong) to see things as Side A sees them? Or can both sides be wrong? • Should an objective 3rd party arbitrator be brought in?
4:1-12	<p>Things Go from Bad to Worse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ishbosheth is slain by those who thought they were doing David a favor • David compares their killing to that of the Amalekite who slew Saul, God's anointed King at the time <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone believes they are doing God a favor by passionately clinging to their position. • How do you determine yourself whether you are in the right or not? • Consider this. First & foremost, examine yourself to see if you are on God's side or not.....2Cor 13:5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Ask those hard questions: "Should I rather be wronged?" (1Cor 6:7); "What is the fallout if I get my way?" (wicked do not consider their ways, Prov 5:6); Is pride keeping me from seeking peace & unity? What other tough questions should we ask?

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- Even a King after God's own heart can lose control of a bad situation and be unable to prevent catastrophe, as when Joab slew Abner.
- But, like David, we need to be transparent and let people realize whose side we are on – God's side, by staying obedient to His word

NEXT WEEK: 2Samuel 5-6. David is finally anointed King over Israel, he conquers and subdues the last of his enemies, and he finds time to take on more wives and concubines (i.e., mistresses). Would God answer any of our prayers if we had numerous "significant others"?



Remember what is really at stake! A kingdom or a Church cannot stand if it is divided [Mat 12:25]