

I. Intro

A. Last week:

1. We finished our study in 1 Samuel
2. Read into the first chapter of 2 Samuel 1

B. Today:

1. We officially kick off our study in 2 Samuel

II. Text

A. 2 Samuel 1

1. Recap
 - a) David is in Ziklag and hears the news of Saul's death
 - b) He mourns the death and composes a lament song
 - c) David now has a decision to make...what is next?
2. Map

B. 2 Samuel 2:1-7

1. God told David to move to Hebron in Judah
 - a) David obeyed
 - b) Men of Judah anointed him king – 2nd of 3 anointings
2. *The staggered anointings of David shed light on God's timing*
 - a) *15 years between 1st and 2nd anointing*
 - b) *7 years between 2nd and 3rd anointing*
 - c) *From the time Samuel anointed David, to his rule over all Israel – 22 years*
 - (1) *God is a very patient God, and has no problem taking His time*
 - (2) *In fact, there is great value in the long process – embrace it, get used to it*
3. The first recorded act David performed as king of Judah – generosity
 - a) The men of Jabesh-gilead honored Saul because Saul honored them
 - b) David honored them because they honored Saul [vs 6]
4. *I think this honoring of generosity is an example of healthy relationship dynamics*
 - a) *Leaders clearly establish norms and then model them*
 - b) *Leaders affirm, through praise, those who obey and conform to the norms*

- c) *This turns norms into core values and shapes a whole culture*
 - (1) *David desired to create a culture of generosity*
 - (2) *What culture are you creating? At church? At work? At home?*

C. 2 Samuel 2:8-11

1. Plot twist! Saul had another son that didn't die in battle
 - a) Abner, Saul's faithful commander, didn't want to lose power
 - b) Abner crowned Ish-bosheth as king
2. The throne wasn't Abner's to give away – this act cultivated violence

D. 2 Samuel 2:12-32

1. Abner crowned an imposter king and picked a fight with David's men
 - a) Remember, these are all Israelites...brothers
 - b) The fight erupts into a battle which fills a whole field with blood
2. What is the author saying in these verses?
 - a) First, he is setting up the tension between Joab and Abner
 - b) Second, he is using this story as a kind of proverb
 - (1) [vs 26] Shall the sword devour forever? The end will be bitter...
 - (2) Ironically, the sword is devouring because Abner picked the fight!
 - (3) But, Abner's words are the wisest in this whole text
3. *There is no end to revenge*
 - a) *Once you have your revenge, the other party wants revenge*
 - b) *When they seek revenge, the scales are unbalanced and you want revenge*
 - c) *This reminds me of Proverbs 30:15-16*
 - (1) *The leech says give, give;*
 - (2) *4 things never satisfied – Sheol, barren womb, water on land, and fire*
 - d) *Abner says "add revenge to the list of things never satisfied"*
4. *This is the author's point:*
 - a) *A life where everyone and everything is competition...*
 - b) *A life where you have to have the last word...*
 - c) *A life where you find pride in putting people in their place – is a bitter life*

E. 2 Samuel 3:1-11

1. Long war between David and Ish-bosheth
2. David had more children
3. Abner and Ish-bosheth had a falling out, Abner sent word to David

F. 2 Samuel 3:12-21

1. David is exercising his diplomacy skills
 - a) He is not carrying a grudge, or holding former battles against Abner
 - b) He is showing forgiveness and a willingness to engage in bridge-building
2. Why is David doing this? For His own gain?
 - a) No, his actions serve the Lord
 - b) God's desire was for David to be king
 - c) David is using his talents and wisdom to accomplish God's plan
3. David is our example of leading with a cool head and wisdom – Joab is not...

G. 2 Samuel 3:22-39

1. These final verses contrast the leadership styles of David and Joab
 - a) David was a genuine, thoughtful leader, who desired God's ways
 - b) Joab was a hothead who wanted revenge and didn't listen well
2. *We are given characters like this, with real names, to ask real questions*
 - a) *Are we like David or Joab?*
 - b) *Are we calm and at ease or prone to violence and rash outbursts?*
 - c) *Are we comfortable with God's timing or constantly impatient?*

III. Conclusion

- A. *When we started 1 Samuel I called attention to all the names in this story*
 1. *Elkanah, Peninnah, Hannah, Samuel, Eli, Hophni, Phineas*
- B. *The story is still calling our attention to names*
 1. *David, Ish-bosheth, Abner, Joab, Abishai, Asahel*
- C. *Why? Because God is working in the lives of real people like me and you*
 1. *And...in the lives of real people around you too*
 2. *Names remind us to think beyond ourselves, to stop living so selfish*