



“...but I want to be King!

-2 Samuel 20-

*by Pastor Tim Dodson
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Over approaching three decades of pastoring, a lot of folks have come and gone.

- Like “water under a bridge” most were here for just a short time, and then they were gone.
- Some however were even here for a *long* period...dug in for the long haul, only to eventually either implode, or drift off into a spiritual narcolepsy.

Many of these “shadows passing in the night” came here with motives beyond fellowship, community, body-life and spiritual growth.

- No they came looking to be king.
- Of course these folks are usually quickly...*if not certainly eventually*, recognized for their motives, and they invariably move on when squeezed.
- Once they understand that we are not going to send them out to start a church, make them an elder, or give them a badge, they almost universally turn and “bite the hand that fed them”
- ...and after a few spiteful google reviews later, will mosey on down the road to the next church to start the whole process over once again.

Such folks are forever seeking somewhere to land where they will be recognized for their gifts and talents

- ...and will be anointed and crowned unto the position for which they feel they so richly deserve.
- Sadly, most of these folks go on to bounce from church to church, fellowship to fellowship, running each one through the grinder in some fashion
- ...while attempting to wrestle the perceived scepter from those who seemed to run the show in each location and at each stop.
- Obscurity is waiting at the end of the street however, and I find these folks usually end up pastoring their own home-grown “home church” in their living room
- ...complete with all the spiritual metaphors and titles that appear in their larger, more organized cousins at “1st Baptist church” down the street.

As scripture tells us, there is “nothing new under the sun.”

- And there is nothing new in this pursuit either.
- While we know that God Himself chose David many years before the events of 2 Samuel,
- ...there were many associates around him on this journey through life that felt that *they* deserved some of the accolades and a share in the power and position that David was called to.
- It seems that even David experienced those around him that were “self-anointing.”
- We have two such individuals in our text before us.
- The first was a fellow by the name of Sheba.
- Now Sheba no doubt had it in his head that he could exploit the rather fluid condition of the government at that time,
- ...and could rally the people around himself to garner a position of power and influence.

Now just for the record, anyone in this church can serve and participate,

- ...can seek Covenant Membership, School of Ministry, and ministerial position.
- All the pastors here came up that road...not a one was “hired” from outside, and none were “given a badge” because they were handsome, charismatic, or influential!
- And the fact is, I think that none of the current players here ever actually *sought out* such a position,
- ...and in fact many strenuously shunned those bright lights and yet were still...*like Paul the apostle*, clearly “put” into the ministry.
- 1Timothy 1:12 gives record... “*And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, **putting me** into the ministry...*”
- And the original word used for “putting” means “to **make**, to **set**, to **fix** or **establish**, to **set forth**, to **ordain**.”

The problem however is that the like of Sheba rarely if ever are willing to embrace the cost and the time to get to that place they seek.

- Short cuts are far more desirable.
- After all, it is the *position* that we want, *not the work, the cost, the time investment, and sacrifice!*
- When confronted with the math, it is at that point that “position seeker” Sheba simply relied on his own abilities, talents, and charisma to rally the people around him.
- God was not in this, and so it eventually manifested!
- And as such situations generally do, *it manifested rather starkly and sad!*

The other such position seeker is Joab.

- Joab had already had a reputation of going his own way on things,
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- ...and having been now replaced as commander of the military by one Amasa, he waited for his opportunity, and then struck to kill Amasa to get his position back again.
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- Joab wasn't loyal to David, He was loyal only to himself.
- He wasn't about to try to *earn* such a service when he could simply *take* it!
- Again, we will find that things do not end well for Joab.
- They never do.
- Ironically, like Judas who would follow him years later in the footsteps of betrayal, he too "betray with a kiss."

Now we would be amiss to not acknowledge that David shared in the guilt and responsibility of these acts.

- After all, he created an atmosphere void of God's prominence and priority and therefore sin arose
- ...and there was forever after a seemingly constant struggle to bring the kingdom ...*as well as his life*, back to a position of unity and tranquility.
- How much easier would it have been for David to exercise proper discipline in his own spiritual life and in his family early on
- ...rather than to endure all of the prolonged consequences of his moral sins and family neglect later on?

There is a loud and clear mantra out there in the world today and it is “follow your heart.”

- Proverbs 14:12 says “*There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.*”
- If there is an overriding theme...a corporate picture to be found in this chapter, it is Proverbs 14:12!
- We must find the understanding that to pursue our own heart is a dangerous practice, and as believers we have another way, **a better way**.
- And that is to follow the heart of God for us.
- Ephesians 1:4 “*...He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love...*”
- We must watch out that we reject acting upon an **opportunistic heart**, a **power hungry heart**, a **half-hearted heart**, a **self-centered heart**, a **defensive heart**.
- It was these hearts that caused the chaos and death which followed in chapter 20 of 2 Samuel!

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1) How does a “worthless fellow” manage to attract any type of following? How is it that a group of men will sometimes be dominated by the most outspoken and crude representative?
- 2) What do you think was the nature...the motivation, of Sheba’s revolt?
- 3) Do “troublemakers” tend to get your attention over those who are not? What things make them so effective in causing division? Why do they get our attention?
- 4) **Read Psalm 2.** How does this Psalm serve as a framework for understanding 2 Samuel 20 and for viewing all who stand against the kingdom of David’s greater Son, Jesus Christ?
- 5) In what way does the concubines suffer because of David’s dysfunctional fathering and Absalom’s lust and greed for power?
- 6) In what way do you see any of the following in your life:
 - a. ...**rebellion and power/position seeking** (ala Sheba)
 - b. ...**others suffering because of your sin and self-seeking** (ala David/Absalom and the concubines...),
 - c. ...**verbal assent to God and yet “slow to actual move and obey”** (ala Amasa)
or
 - d. ...**ugliness borne out of rivalry, selfishness or jockeying for position** (ala Joab)?
- 7) Proverbs 14:12 says “*There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.*” What is the alternative to such, and how do we avoid this path and get on another?