

David: After God's Heart

God uses the skills of people to accomplish His purposes.



TRANSFORMATION
for Adult LifeGroups

2 SAMUEL 20:1-2,14-21 - AVERTED

JULY 29, 2018/AUGUST 1, 2018

TODAY'S TEXT

Text: 2 SAMUEL 20:1-2,14-21 (NIV), *Now a troublemaker named Sheba son of Bikri, a Benjamite, happened to be there. He sounded the trumpet and shouted, "We have no share in David, no part in Jesse's son! Every man to his tent, Israel!" 2 So all the men of Israel deserted David to follow Sheba son of Bikri. But the men of Judah stayed by their king all the way from the Jordan to Jerusalem.*

14 Sheba passed through all the tribes of Israel to Abel Beth Maakah and through the entire region of the Bikrites, who gathered together and followed him. 15 All the troops with Joab came and besieged Sheba in Abel Beth Maakah. They built a siege ramp up to the city, and it stood against the outer fortifications. While they were battering the wall to bring it down, 16 a wise woman called from the city, "Listen! Listen! Tell Joab to come here so I can speak to him." 17 He went toward her, and she asked, "Are you Joab?" "I am," he answered. She said, "Listen to what your servant has to say." "I'm listening," he said. 18 She continued, "Long ago they used to say, 'Get your answer at Abel,' and that settled it. 19 We are the peaceful and faithful in Israel. You are trying to destroy a city that is a mother in Israel. Why do you want to swallow up the Lord's inheritance?" 20 "Far be it from me!" Joab replied, "Far be it from me to swallow up or destroy! 21 That is not the case. A man named Sheba son of Bikri, from the hill country of Ephraim, has lifted up his hand against the king, against David. Hand over this one man, and I'll withdraw from the city." The woman said to Joab, "His head will be thrown to you from the wall."

FIRST THOUGHTS

We all have gifts and abilities. Sometimes they come naturally. Other times they are learned through experience, education, or other situations. The Bible tells us the importance of using our gifts for God:

1 Peter 4:10 *"Each one of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."*

UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXT

The human heart is a breeding ground for discontentment. It does not take much in the majority of circumstances to fan into flames the embers of restlessness. Since the conflict between the tribes had not been resolved, conditions were ripe for another outbreak of rebellion.

While David was back on the throne of Israel, the country was anything but united. David's insistence that his own kinsmen bring him back (2 Sam. 19:11-12) would later contribute to the anger of the northern tribes who had been the first to call for restoration (19:10). They accused the Judahites of kidnapping the king and despising those numbered among God's people (19:43), affirming their own share in David's kingship. These charges only served to inflame the already high tensions between the tribes in the north and those in the south.

A secession attempt by a wicked man named Sheba sought to take advantage of the conflict between the factions in Israel. He specifically and exclusively appealed to the northern tribes. It was not so much an attempt to overthrow David as it was an effort to secede from his reign.

David's first royal action was not marked by royal fanfare but a simple act of taking care of the ten concubines whom he had left behind previously to care for the royal palace. Yet David also understood the need for swift military action before the revolt for secession gained popular support. He called upon his new commander, Amasa, to assemble the troops, but Amasa delayed. We might be surprised that David selected Amasa instead of Joab for this job. Perhaps David's relationship with Joab was strained after the death of Absalom. The king took matters into his own hands and put Abishai in charge. It seems quite clear from the narrative of 2 Samuel 20:7-13 and the murder of Amasa that Joab was still the leader of the army of Israel and Judah as the pursuit of Sheba commenced.

EXPLORE THE TEXT

DIVISION

> Read 2 Samuel 20:1-2

- Why do you think David is constantly having to deal with rebellion in Israel?
- Sheba is portrayed as an opportunist. He sees dissension brewing and stirs up trouble. Have you ever had to deal with a person like that? How did you handle it? What skills are needed for a leader to move people from dissension to unity?

CIVIL WAR

> Read 2 Samuel 20:14-16

- The fact that a city in the ancient world was led by a wise woman is unusual. But it shows us that God gifts men and women with gifts of leadership. What unique challenges are faced by women in leadership in today's world? What unique challenges are faced by men in leadership in today's world?
- What did the woman risk by speaking up? By staying quiet? How do we know when to speak or stay silent?
- What actions did the woman take that supported the fact that she is described as wise?

WISDOM CONQUERS

> Read 2 Samuel 20:17-21

- Why would a "peaceful and faithful" person agree to lob the head of Sheba over the wall (v. 19)? What context helps us to make more sense of this behavior?
- What gifts and skills did this woman use to negotiate the peace with Joab?

SUMMARIZE AND CHALLENGE

God uses the skills of people to accomplish His purposes.

What skills have you developed or are you interested in further maturing? How could each of these be used to accomplish God's purposes? Is there a conflict in your life that you need to apply your skills and godly wisdom to?

UPCOMING LESSONS

- Read 2 Samuel 21:1-14
- Why do old wrongs continue to affect our lives and the lives of others today? How do they affect our relationship with God?

Resolved – 2 Samuel 21:1-14

Thankful – 2 Samuel 22:26-36, 50-51

Disciplined – 2 Samuel 24:10-25

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE

30th - Isaiah 60-62; John 1 | **31st** - Isaiah 63-64; Psalm 107; John 2 | **1st** - Isaiah 65-66; Psalm 62; John 3 | **2nd** - 2 Kings 21; 2 Chronicles 33; John 4 | **3rd** - Nahum 1-3; John 5 | **4th** - 2 Kings 22; 2 Chronicles 34; John 6 | **5th** - 2 Kings 23; 2 Chronicles 35; John 7.