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Abner, The Almost Hero

Sermon Notes | 5.3.26

Abner's story is tragic because he is almost a true hero

2 Samuel 3

1 There was a long war between the house of Saul and the house of David. And David grew stronger and stronger, while the house of Saul became weaker and weaker. - What long war do you find yourself in the midst of today?

2 Samuel 3

6 While there was war between the house of Saul and the house of David, Abner was making himself strong in the house of Saul. 7 Now Saul had a concubine whose name was Rizpah, the daughter of Aiah. And Ish-bosheth said to Abner, "Why have you gone in to my father's concubine?"

8 Then Abner was very angry over the words of Ish-bosheth and said, "Am I a dog's head of Judah? To this day I keep showing steadfast love to the house of Saul your father, to his brothers, and to his friends, and have not given you into the hand of David. And yet you charge me today with a fault concerning a woman.

9 God do so to Abner and more also, if I do not accomplish for David what the Lord has sworn to him, 10 to transfer the kingdom from the house of Saul and set up the throne of David over Israel and over Judah, from Dan to Beersheba." 11 And Ish-bosheth could not answer Abner another word, because he feared him.

- Abner is fully aware of the Lord's desire for David to be king

God is not at work DESPITE these messy circumstances, He is at

work THROUGH these messy circumstances.

Romans 6:1-2 *What then shall we say? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?"*

- "The fact that God works through messy circumstances is not to induce us to tolerate the chaos that we create in our lives, it is so that we recognize the grace of God in the midst of the chaos that has ensued in our lives." - Alistair Begg

2

2 Samuel 3

12 And Abner sent messengers to David on his behalf, saying, "To whom does the land belong? Make your covenant with me, and behold, my hand shall be with you to bring over all Israel to you."

- **David will not force his kingship, he waits to be invited.**

"Abner only quotes scripture when it supports a pro-Abner move" - Dale Ralph Davis

2 Samuel 3

13 And he (David) said, "Good; I will make a covenant with you.

2 Samuel 3

17 And Abner conferred with the elders of Israel, saying, "For some time past you have been seeking David as king over you. 18 Now then bring it about, for the Lord has promised David, saying, 'By the hand of my servant David I will save my people Israel from the hand of the Philistines, and from the hand of all their enemies.'" 19 Abner also spoke to (the elders of) Benjamin. And then Abner went to tell David at Hebron all that Israel and the whole house of Benjamin thought good to do. 20 When Abner came with twenty men to David at Hebron, David made a feast for Abner and the men who were with him. 21 And Abner said to David, "I will arise and go and will gather all Israel to my lord the king, that they may make a covenant with you, and that you may reign over all that your heart desires." So David sent Abner away, and he went in peace.

5 character traits of Abner that The Lord used to position to make David

King.

1. Loyal

a. He was loyal to serve the house of Saul

2. Strong

a. He was a strong warrior and a good fighter

3. Charismatic

a. He could easily rally people together and gain influence

4. Clever

a. He uses the right phrases at the right time with the right people

5. Ambitious

a. He has goals and is willing to do whatever it takes to achieve

them.

There is a difference between believing and living