
SERMON OUTLINE

Watching God work in our messy situations 2 Samuel 3-4

- I. **Political power gained** – God used bloodshed and polygamy to establish David as king (2 Samuel 3:1-5).
 - A. David's political strength grew due to Joab's bloody civil war victory over Abner (3:1).
 - B. David had sons with multiple wives (3:2-5).
- II. **Political consolidation of the nation** – God uses Abner's anger and Paltiel's grief to unify the kingdom (3:6-21).
 - A. Abner slept with Ishbosheth's wife and when accused angrily defects to David (3:6-11).
 - B. David demanded Abner forcibly take Michal away from her current husband as a condition for peace (3:12-21).
- III. **Potential internal rivalry eliminated** – God used a murder to avoid military division (2 Samuel 3:22-39).
 - A. Joab avenged his brother's murder by murdering Abner (3:22-27).
 - B. David lamented Abner's unjust death (3:28-39).
- IV. **Potential royal rivalry eliminated** – God used another murder to establish David (2 Samuel 4:1-12).
 - A. Two of Ishbosheth's captains murdered him attempting to gain David's favor (4:1-8).
 - B. David executed them just like he did the Amalekite who claimed to kill Saul (4:9-12).

Principles of God's sovereign grace (Isaiah 55:9-11)

- Tragedies and injustices are part of the process of God accomplishing His good purposes whether or not I ever understand how.
- God can use me for good in spite of my sin and character weaknesses when I truly love and desire to honor him.
- God may bless me for his purposes in spite of my sin, not because of my righteousness.