

## “Now then, do it!”

### I. **INTRO:**

- A. **Prayer:** *Thy kingdom come, my kingdom go!* Jesus You & You alone are the rightful heir to the throne of my life!
- B. He who chooses the **beginning** of a road chooses the place it **leads** to. It is the **means** that determine the **end**. - H.E. Fosdick

### II. **ABNER THE NEGOTIATOR! (1-21)**

- A. **DAVID'S TRIBE INCREASES!** (1-5)
- B. (1) David's government was growing **stronger & stronger!**
- C. **Ps. 84:5-8** (Overview of Ps.: **Dwelling w/God** 1-4; **Desiring God** 5-8; **Depending on God** 9-12)
- D. Often whole towns would travel on pilgrimage to Jerusalem together.
  - 1. **As they would go they would sing & look** 3 ways:
  - 2. **[1] Look Within:** heart set on pilgrimage.
    - a) Everyone has a *roadmap in his heart* that takes him where he really wants to go.
    - b) Look w/in yourself today **What kind of road map do you have? Where does it lead?**
    - c) **What is in your heart** is what counts!
  - 3. **[2] Look Back:** They passed through a **valley of Baca/weeping**.
    - a) **Baca** has not been located. **It is related in sound** to the word “to weep”.
    - b) As they went through, they **left behind a blessing** for someone else.
    - c) The pilgrims **anticipation** of the Temple experience **transforms the desert** for them **into a place of springs**.
    - d) **Do you leave behind a blessing** for someone else? **Or** expect others to **give you a blessing?**
  - 4. **[3] Look ahead:** They go from **strength to strength**.
    - a) **Strength?** - yes, because sometimes *pilgrimage* is very difficult.
    - b) **Each one** makes it! - You may look around & think **“I can't make it!” But you will!**
    - c) Some come with the problem, **“I don't desire the Lord right now & it bugs me!”**  
Well, no, **“since it bugs you, you do desire Him still!”**
  - 5. **We each need to look 3 ways!** (look **Within; Back; Ahead**)
    - a) **When Life disappoints** you, be sure **your heart's desires** are **pleasing to God!**

- E. **ABNER DEFECTS TO DAVID!** (6-11)
- F. (6-11) Abner was a **pragmatic politician** as well as a **shrewd general**.<sup>1</sup>
1. His basic principle was, “*Always join the winning side.*”
    - a) When he perceived the throne of Ishbosheth had no future, he decided to **switch loyalties** to guarantee his own security.
- G. We **aren't** told that Abner actually slept w/Saul's concubine *Rizpah*, & he firmly denied it; **but** if he did, he committed a very serious offense. (a deceased king's harem belonged to his successor)
- H. **ABNER NEGOTIATES FOR DAVID!** (12-21)
- I. (12-16) Here's how it plays out:
1. **Abner** sends messengers to David to offer to **bring all Israel under his rule**(13)
  2. **David** sends messengers to Abner **accepting his offer**, **provided** Abner 1st sent Michal to him. [Michal = David's 1st wife that Saul took away, Ishbosheth's sister]
  3. **Abner** told Ishbosheth to **honor David's request**.
  4. **Abner** conferred w/the elders of Israel(17,18); & then Benjamin(19).
  5. **Abner & 20 representatives** from the tribes came to Hebron, bringing Michal w/them.
    - a) **Why did David make Michal a condition?** [5 reasons]
      - (1) She was his wife, that was **taken away** by Saul/dad;
      - (2) We have reason to believe David still **loved** her;
      - (3) Good **diplomacy** to have the “*queen*” w/him, & the fact that she came from the house of Saul would strengthen the bonds of unity;
      - (4) By claiming the daughter of Saul he was **claiming all the kingdom**;
      - (5) It was a **public announcement** that *Abner* had broken from the house of Saul & now allied w/David.
  6. **Abner & David** agreed on **how to transfer the kingdom**, & they **shared a feast** & made a covenant.

### III. **ABNER THE VICTIM!** (22-39)

- A. **JOAB REPROACHES DAVID!** (22-25)
- B. It looked as though everything was in good order for a **peaceful transition**, **but** there were **hidden land mines** in the diplomatic field & they were about to **explode**. (Warren Wiersbe)

---

<sup>1</sup> Warren Wiersbe, Be Restored, pg.26

- C. Joab can't believe David could forgive Abner.
1. How could you throw a feast for him?(20) [like older brother in story of Prodigal]
  2. He killed my brother(Asahel)! - You can't trust him, its a set up.
- D. (25) Abner came to **Deceive you** - *It takes one to know one!*
1. Joab accused Abner of being a **liar** *but* practiced **deception** himself.
    - a) We're often guilty of the sins we say others commit!
- E. **JOAB DECEIVES ABNER & KILLS HIM!** (26,27)
- F. (27) Everything about the death of Abner was wrong.
1. The 2 brothers knew exactly what their king wanted, but deliberately put their own interests ahead of that of the kingdom.
  2. **Asahel** was a **causality of war/self defense** (& Abner did not want to kill him); **Abner's** death was **cold blooded murder/pure revenge**.
  3. **Hebron** was a city of refuge, a sanctuary where an accused murderer could get a fair trial.
  4. **Asahel** was killed in the open in broad daylight; **Abner** in the shadows, off to the side, privately.
- G. **DAVID HONORS ABNER!** (28-39)
- H. (28-30) David immediately **disclaimed** any part in what his 2 nephews had done.
1. He went so far as to **call down a curse** on the house of Joab. (he names some of the plagues that Moses warned about).
- I. David issues **a royal edict** that commanded Joab & his army to mourn over Abner & to attend his funeral.
- J. David follows the coffin to the place of interment (31).
- K. He writes an official elegy to honor the dead general (33,34).
1. He made it clear that Abner **didn't** die because of some foolish act on his part.
  2. He was **never a prisoner** during any part of his military career.
  3. He fell before **wicked men** who deceived him.
- L. Then David further **honored him** by burying him in the royal city of Hebron(32).
- M. David said, Abner was "a **prince & a great man**" (38).
- N. (39) **Weak** - or restrained & gentle; **as opposed to** his nephews who were **too harsh**.
1. David had experienced **God's gentleness**, & he tried to deal w/others as God dealt w/him.

- O. **ABNER'S 4 WORD SERMON!** - *Now Then Do It!* (17,18)
- P. There are *many today* like those people in Israel to whom Abner spoke!
1. (17b) **You were seeking for David to be king over you.**
  2. (i.e.) **You** have sought for *David's greater Son*(**Jesus**) to be king over you.
    - a) **You thought...How great** to experience the **sovereignty** of Jesus Christ.
    - b) **How wonderful** to be led of God & live a **heaven-directed** life.
    - c) What a difference it would make in my life!
  3. You have **thought** about it...but **hesitated**.
    - a) This commitment would change so many things in my life; I might lose friends.
    - b) I'd really have to change my mouth, my behavior, my habits, my whole lifestyle.
    - c) The consequences too serious; The complications too much interference in my life.
  4. Yet, like David, Jesus takes only **what we offer him**.
    - a) David never moved one inch until the invitation came.
    - b) Jesus only helps Himself to what we have offered of our lives.
      - (1) **Some here this morning have offered nothing!** (living in open rebellion against the king!) :(
      - (2) **Some have offered, so to speak, only Hebron!** (you have given Him **a little part**, that wouldn't interfere too much w/your own monopoly)
        - (a) I just want you to be king over a little territory only!
        - (b) You only want **an insurance policy** to get to heaven, & thats it.
        - (c) But if you give him **so much & no more...you will have no peace!**
      - (3) **Some continue to struggle with an internal civil war!**
        - (a) **The Flesh** (the kingdom of Saul), struggles with **The Spirit** (the kingdom of David). **And its an ugly conflict!**
        - (b) You're doing all it takes to hang onto the tottering kingdom of **self**, **so** that it might exist **just a little bit longer**.
          - i) **If I could just keep some rights;**  
**If I could just keep part of my own way;**  
**If I could only keep this or that** at any cost;  
**If I could do it w/o dying to self, w/o crucifying myself** w/Christ!
        - (c) Oh how we love that life, that God wants to crucify!

5. Now is the time for action!
  - a) Now is the time to say, “down with my flesh & up w/my Redeemer!”
  - b) “Off the throne w/sin & self, on the throne w/my wonderful Lord!”
  - c) If you have sought in the past for Jesus to be **King over you**. Now then do it!
  - d) Don’t waste a minute make Him King! Be reconciled to God.  
Behold now is the accepted time; behold now is the day of salvation. (2Cor.6:2b)
  
6. You have already seen & experienced what has happened in your life because you **didn’t** carry it through.
  - a) You have become entangled in: circumstances, friendships, sin, failure, breakdown, cares, & worries - *a thousand & one things!*
  - b) Yes, for a while **sins** fascination grows. The glamour, the thrill of doing something you know your not supposed to do; the pleasure, the wine & song are fun for a time.  
(1) But it passes...Somehow you lose your taste for those things & life becomes **stale & empty**.
  
7. For David to secure his right to the crown & lead them to victory, civil war had to stop. [He must be their ruler, their master, their lord]
  - a) Jesus must be our **Ruler**, our **Master**, our **Lord**.
  - b) If Jesus is not the undisputed King in your life, then **Satan** or **sin** or **self** is still sitting on the throne!
  - c) If Jesus is the undisputed King in your life, then His will must be your will; His commands must be your law; His example must be your model!
  
8. You will not be able to master even one sin in your own strength.
  - a) God doesn’t expect you to! You cannot chop off the head of this habit & that, because if you do, you only drive it in so that it comes out in worse form.  
(1) Example: my **Aptasia** in my salt water aquarium. (rock anenome/hitchhiker)
  - b) He will help you.
  
9. Now read 5:1-3. (You were the one...you shall shepherd & be ruler...and they anointed him king over **all** Israel)
  - a) Now then, do it!
  - b) Crown Him King of all! - Now then, do it!