

2Samuel 2:12–3:11

“The Functional Atheism of Bullies and Other Sinners”

***Why does Abner overestimate his likelihood of success and Joab and Judah?** Pastor leads his family in today's "Hopewell @Home" passage. In these thirty-two verses, we find a man who knows that Yahweh has sworn to give the kingdom to David, but who becomes comfortable resisting Yahweh's king because by pushing around those men that he can. All sinners know that God is, and that He is a punisher of those who resist Him. But they lull themselves into functional atheism by a perceived ability to get what they want in the short-term.*

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Second Samuel to verse 12 through three verse 11. These are God's words. Now Abner the son of Nure and the servants of Israc the son of Saul went out from Mahanayim to Gibban.

And Joe Abb son of Zero Y on the servants of David went out and met them by the pool of Gibeon. So they sat down one-on-one side of the pool the other on the other side of the pool. An Abner said to Joab. But the young men now rise and compete before us.

Enjoy him said. Let them arise. So they arose and went over by number 12 from Benjamin followers of it, but that's on assault. And 12 from the servants of David. And each one grasped his opponent by the head and thrust his sword in his opponent's side, so they fell down together.

Therefore, the place is called the field of sharp swords, which is in Gibbon. So there was a very fierce battle that day and Abner in the Men of Israel were beaten. Before the servants of David. Now the three sons of Zoroy over there, Joab Abishai as El Asahel was as flee to foot is a wild gazelle.

So as to help pursue Abner and him going he did not turn to the right hand or to the left from following Abner. Adam there looked behind him and said are you as a hell? He answered I am. Abner said to him turn aside to your right-hander to your left leg, hold on one of the young men.

Take his armor for yourself. And asshole would not turn aside from following him. So Abner said again to asshole. Turn aside from following me, why should I strike you to the ground? How then could I face your brother? Joab? However, he refused to turn aside. Therefore Abner struck him in the stomach with the blunt end of the spear.

So that the spear came out of his back. And he fell down there and died on the spot so was that as many as came to the place where as a hell fell down and died stood still. Joe Ab and Abishai also pursued abner in the sun was going down when they came to the hill of a ma which is before Gia by the road to the wilderness of Gibbon.

Now the children of Benjamin gathered together behind Abner and became a unit and took their stand on top of a hill. The knobner called to Joab and said shall the sword devour forever. Do you not know that it will be bitter in the latter end how long will it be then?

Until you tell the people to return from pursuing your brethren. Joab said as God lives unless you had spoken surely then by morning all the people would have given up pursuing their brethren. So Joe Abb blew a trumpet and all the people stood still and did not pursue. Israel anymore in nor did they fight anymore.

And Abner and has men. Went on all that night through the plane crossed over the Jordan. And went through all Bithron. They came to Mahanim. So Joe returned from pursuing Abner. When he gathered all the people together, there were missing of David's servants 19 men. An asshole. But the servants of David had struck down of Benjamin and Abner's men 360.

Men, who died. Then they took up assault buried him and his father's team. Which was in Bethlehem. And Joe Edmond his men went to all night and they came to Hebron and Daybreak. Now, there was a long war between the House of Soul and the House of David but David grew stronger and stronger.

And the House of Saul grew weaker and weaker. Sons were born to David in Hebron the firstborn was abdomen by Noah and the Jezreel items a second clay above the Carmelite. The third Absalom son America daughter of Almighty. King of Gesure. The fourth at Anijas son of Hagee the fifth.

Sephathia. Son of Avital sixth. Ethereum by David's wife. Egler these were born to David. And Hebron. Now, it was so all there was war between the House of Saul House of David Abner was strengthening his hold on the House of Saul. Saul had a concubine his name was Ritzba the daughter of Aiea.

So this was just said to Abner. Why have you gone into my father's concordine? And that never came very angry at the words of Israchet and said am I a dog's head that belongs to Judah. Today I show loyalty to the house of Sawyer. Father to his brothers into his friends and have not delivered you into the hand of David and you charged me today with a fault concerning this woman.

May God do so to abnorm and more also if I do not do for David as Yahweh has sworn to him. To transfer the kingdom from the House of Saul and set up the throne of David over Israel and over Judah from Dan to Bereshiba. He could not answer.

Abner another word. Because he feared him. So far the reading of God's inspired and inherent worked.

Now in the week House of Israciath and Israel said really was a weakling.

He was afraid of Abner Abner had taken one of the royal concubines which is a claim to the throne this was part of a hatha fellas counsel to Absalom when Absalom had his coup and had taken the throne from David was to take the royal concubines for himself. And this was something that they knew in the ancient Erie's from countries was a claim to be the the king.

Which is one of the reasons why it's so wicked that. There are many reasons but one of the reasons why so we could win Ruben had done the same with Jacob's.

But even when Abner was making a play for the throne last verse in our passage says it couldn't say anything to him and the reason he couldn't say anything to him. Les because as says chapter 3 verse. 6. The the whole time that Saul's house was growing weaker and weaker which means especially weaker and weaker and David was growing stronger and stronger.

Abner was becoming stronger in the week. Northern part of the Kingdom. And sometimes someone will think themselves very powerful as they become a bully in around those who are weak. There are men who are bullies with their wives and they think and bluster as if their hot stuff and then they come out and engage people who are actually strong and they're humiliate.

There are elders who do this in churches and pastors who do this in churches. Maybe even brothers and sisters you do that with their siblings. And they are deceived by the strength that they have being bullies to those who are weak into trying to be bullies and other situations and they get humiliated.

And that's what starts to happen to Abner at the beginning of our passage after two and verse 12. Mahan was the camp where Ishpathetic was. You see that up in verse eight most recently in chapter two and Abner goes down towards the South he moves his army to Gibby and of course.

Joab who is the Captain of David's army has to make a defensive move and so he goes up and he meets he meets him there. And I. Abnor provokes. Joab and he says, let them incompetent. Job says, okay. But it's a stalemate remember when Goliath and David got a lot of challenged and I said let the champions fight each other and send me a champion and then out came David and David's little life and the flistons were outed.

This time it's 12 from one and 12 from the other perhaps significant signifying the total number of tribes that yeah who's ever wins wins but.

It's a draw. Because they all die in what comes to be yeah sharp sword field. And so since it's a draw the whole army's battle. Doesn't go well for Abner. In fact the only thing that that slows the men of Judah down is when asahel was too fast. And got himself killed.

And at that point the men of Judah are slowed down not from wearing us and not from difficulty in fighting the Israelites apparently the northerners were not very hard to fight at all since they only took 19 total including asshole and the southerners killed 360. So is going very badly and when the southern army slows down over the body of asshole Abner is finally able to consolidate what's left of his men up on top of a hill and yells down Joe ab you mean he how come you keep on battling me.

Well did the New King James translation isn't very helpful. Joeab's response is something like even if you hadn't said anything we would have stopped pursuing you by sometime in the morning, you know, we're we're only pursuing you as a defensive military act because you provoked us and then you're the one who initiated the battle.

And we were just gonna chase you back home and then we would return. So an ambner says uncle uncle you meanie please stop. Joe blows his home and says, okay man, we can go home.

Abner. Overestimated himself. He did not take into account the battle strengthened battle hardened men of Judah. There's something else that he didn't take into account that he obviously knew.

Look at chapter 3 verse 9. May God do so to Abner and more also if I do not do for David as Yahweh has sworn to him. Here's a man who knew that Yahweh the Living God the Creator of heaven and earth the covenant. God of Israel. God. Almighty.

Had sworn that the kingdom would be David's. From Dan Debirshiba. Northernmost city and Israel to the southernmost city in Israel. And yet he enjoyed espreseth ruling 10 tribes 11 tribes he started Benjamin. He enjoyed Ishpeace had ruling 11 tribes from Mahanaim because that was a place where he could be strong for a while.

Scripture tells us that the wicked know in their hearts. That God exists. That they are violators of God's law that they deserve his wrath. In the gospel the righteousness of God for those who believe is revealed the wrath of God against unrighteousness doesn't have to be revealed in the gospel because it's already revealed.

In the creation and in the hearts of unbelievers. But they are so determined to enjoy their little season of power and their little season of pleasure that they resist. The kingdom of God's anointed king. And nation's rage and kings and peoples plot in vain while God mocks them and with scorn from heaven and says it all belongs to my anointed.

But I'm afraid my dear children that we often do similar. Every time you or I? Think or speak or act in a way that pleases self. Instead of a way that pleases Christ. We who know even more and our more therefore culpable and guilty. Of him to him much as given much as required.

We know the kingship of Christ. And yet we are deceived by our temporary ability and small ways to exert our will and get our way. We don't see ourselves as fools and wicked like Abner here. But the Bible shows us what Abner's like not just so that we can rejoice that Jesus will overcome all of his and our enemies surely he will.

But also that we can be reminded how foolish it is if we know what Yahweh has sworn if we know that Jesus is king. When we live as pleases us. Instead of as pleasant. The Lord grant us to be mower mindful of the kingship of Christ. That we would not be deceived.

Into thinking we can get away with things. Or into doing them, even if we know that we can't get away with. God help us.

Father we thank you and praise you for the way that you protected and strengthened. David and brought about what you had promised and sworn we praise you that you are the God who always does exactly as you have promised and sworn and especially that you have given the kingdom of heaven and earth all to the Lord Jesus our Savior.

And we pray that your spirit would keep us soft hearted towards him and that when we have areas and positions where we have influence and debility and perhaps even power of or others that you would make us to live as those who are serving Christ in whatever position you have placed us so grant us to be mindful of his kingship at all times.

And grant your spirits work in our hearts to keep us submitted to him. We ask it in Jesus name amen.