

Leading in Unity

“He chose David His servant and took him from the sheep pens; from tending the sheep He brought him to be the shepherd of His people Jacob, of Israel his inheritance. And David shepherded them with integrity of heart; with skillful hands he led them.” - Psalm 78:70-72

What We'll Learn in This Series:

1. A leader is humble before his God and before his people. (Ps. 131:1)
2. Because of his faith, a leader finds peace within himself and then offers peace to others. (Ps. 131:2)

David's Patience (2 Samuel 2:1-3)

1. David waited for and sought after God's timing on beginning his reign. (He is 30 years old)

“In the course of time, David inquired of the LORD. “Shall I go up to one of the towns of Judah?” he asked. The LORD said, “Go up’.” David asked, “Where shall I go?” “To Hebron,” the LORD answered.” - 2 Samuel 2:1
2. David sought the Lord's guidance on where he should go.
3. David was faithful to the men who had been loyal to him. He took all of them and their families to Hebron.

“David also took the men who were with him, each with his family, and they settled in Hebron and its towns.” - 2 Samuel 2:3
4. With all of David's good qualities, we begin to see a “chink in his armour.” He already has two wives and will end up with lots more.

“So David went up there with his two wives, Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail, the widow of Nabal of Carmel.” - 2 Samuel 2:2

Wife	Children
Ahinoam	Amnon
Abigail	Kileab
Maacah	Absalom (& Tamar)
Haggith	Adonijah
Abital	Shephatiah
Eglah	Ithream
Michal	(None)

- During this 7 year period, David takes 7 wives and has 6 sons.
- But at the time of his death, there were 60 wives and 80 concubines.

“Sixty queens there may be, and eighty concubines, and virgins beyond number.” - Song of Songs 6:8

How do we deal with this?

- Culturally? Ratio. Treaties.
- Biblically? Monogamy is implied.

David's Offer of Peace (2 Samuel 2:4-7)

1. David is anointed king over Judah in Hebron. (This period lasts for 7 years and 6 months.)
2. David reaches out to those who had loved and followed Saul. He does this with great graciousness.

“...he sent messengers to the men of Jabesh Gilead to say to them, “The LORD bless you for showing this kindness to Saul your master by burying him.” - 2 Samuel 2:5

Meanwhile (2 Samuel 2:8-11 & 3:1)

1. David's old enemy (and Saul's army commander), Abner, anointed another king. He was a son of Saul and his name was Ish-Bosheth (“man of disappointment”).
2. This act divides the country and causes many years of fighting.

“The war between the house of Saul and the house of David lasted a long time. David grew stronger and stronger, while the house of Saul grew weaker and weaker.” - 2 Samuel 3:1

(The Tragic Story of Abner and Joab – 2 Samuel 3:6-27)

Abner comes to his senses and agrees to help David unite the country. Joab, David's army commander, deceives and murders Abner.

David's Example of Peace (2 Samuel 3:28-39)

1. David despises the violent ways of Joab, his commander, and publicly proclaims his hatred of violence.
2. He weeps aloud and mourns for his former enemy. He calls on all the people (including Joab) to mourn with him.
3. David writes another lament for an enemy.
4. His reaction pleases the people and healing began

“All the people took note and were pleased; indeed, everything the king did pleased them. So on that day all the people and all Israel knew that the king had no part in the murder of Abner of Ner.” - 2 Samuel 3:36,37

Lessons We Learn:

1. Those who are truly righteous pray before taking action.
2. Godly people seek peace continually. Don't quit on peace!

“Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.” - Psalm 34:14

“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” - Romans 5:1
3. My personal insight today was...

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