

# Leading in Trust

## A Psalm of Asaph

“And David shepherded them with integrity of heart; with skillful hands he led them.”  
- Psalm 78:72

### What We’re Learning 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 Promises

His promise to Jonathan -

“Jonathan said to David,... ‘The LORD is witness between you and me, and between your descendants and my descendants forever.’”  
- 1 Samuel 20:42

His promise to Saul -

“Now swear to me by the LORD that you will not cut off my descendants or wipe out my name from my father’s family.” “So David gave his oath to Saul.” - 1 Samuel 24:21,22

### Saul’s House (2 Samuel 4:1-12)

1. Saul’s son lost courage. (*literally “his hands dropped”*)  
“When Ish-Bosheth son of Saul heard that Abner had died in Hebron, he lost courage, and all Israel became alarmed.” - 2 Samuel 4:1
2. Saul’s grandson was a child and was crippled. (*Who can lead?*)  
“Jonathan son of Saul had a son who was lame in both feet. He was five years old when the news about Saul and Jonathan came from Jezreel. His nurse picked him up and fled, but as she hurried to leave, he fell and became crippled. His name was Mephibosheth.” - 2 Samuel 4:4

#### The Names are Important:

- Ish-Bosheth – means “man of disappointment or shame.”
- Mephibosheth – means “scattering shame.”

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3. Saul’s people were terrified.  
“...and all Israel became alarmed.” - 2 Samuel 4:1

### Ish-Bosheth’s Leadership

- He couldn’t work with his own general (Abner).
- He lost courage and went to bed at noon. (siesta)  
“Now Recab and Baanah, the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, set out for the house of Ish-Bosheth, and they arrived there in the heat of the day while he was taking his noonday rest.” - 2 Samuel 4:5
- He was killed in his own house and even his own bed!

- He was killed by his own captains. (2 Samuel 4:2)
- He was killed by men of his own family/tribe – Benjamin!

### The Death of Ish-Bosheth

- It happened in his home in Mahanaim. *Why important?*
- It was cowardly.
- It was self-motivated.
- It was done in “God’s name.”  
“Here is the head of Ish-Bosheth son of Saul, your enemy, who tried to take your life. This day the LORD has avenged my lord the king against Saul and his offspring.”  
- 2 Samuel 4:8

### David’s Response

- David said, “let me tell you about the Lord.”  
“David answered Recab and his brother Baanah... “As surely as the LORD lives, who has delivered me out of all trouble...”  
- 2 Samuel 4:9
- As King, David was judge and jury.
- He stated that he was being consistent. You guys should have known better!
- The killers were shamed in death while Ish-Bosheth was honoured.  
“So David gave an order to his men, and they killed them. They cut off their hands and feet and hung the bodies by the pool in Hebron. But they took the head of Ish-Bosheth and buried it in Abner’s tomb at Hebron.”  
- 2 Samuel 4:12

### Israel’s Response

- “All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, “We are your own flesh and blood. In the past, while Saul was king over us, you were the one who led Israel on their military campaigns. And the LORD said to you, ‘You will shepherd my people Israel, and you will become their ruler.’ When all the elders of Israel had come to King David at Hebron, the king made a compact with them at Hebron before the LORD, and they anointed David king over Israel.”  
- 2 Samuel 5:1-3
- All tribes and all the elders made a covenant with David!  
They anointed him as their king.

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### Lessons We Learn:

1. Trust is absolutely essential in leadership.
2. It takes time to build and to prove trust. Be patient.
3. Looking for someone to trust? You can trust the Lord!  
“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.”  
- Proverbs 3:5

Trust Scale: Low 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 High

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