



REFLECTION / DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Pick a few questions from below and reflect this week, or choose 4-5 to discuss in your home group.

- In what ways do you think the events of the previous chapter (19:41-43) feed Sheba's revolt?
- What do 2 Samuel 17:25 and 19:13 tell us as to why Joab is especially galled at David's appointment of Amasa? Have you ever been passed over similarly? How did you deal with that?
- Why do you think David neglects dealing with Joab? If you were David, what action would you have taken?
- Read 2 Samuel 21:1-6. Do you think that David's capitulation to the Gibeonite's request was righteous? In what ways do you think the sins of the past must be atoned for? Do you think there are actions that aren't our fault but could be our responsibility?
- What lessons about caring for people can we learn from the actions of Rizpah and David? (21:10-14)
- What have you observed about the aftermath of relational conflict that is similar to nuclear fallout?
- Do you think chapters 21-24 continue a chronological narrative or are more of an epilogue and out of chronological order. (For contrasting views see John MacArthur & Matthew Henry commentaries)
- Read Acts 20:24 & 1 Corinthians 9:23. According to Paul, what is the central, unifying concept of the church? Why is that so important, even in this day and age?
- Read 1 Corinthians 1:10-13. According to Paul, what is one threat to the church's unity? In what ways is the church today continuing to be challenged in this way?
- What is one thing that really stands out to you so far about David's life?



OVERVIEW

The residue of David's family and kingdom split are beginning to take their toll in 2 Samuel 20 as factions continue to plague his rule. Troublemaker Sheba leads a revolt with men from the northern tribes who appear yet too eager to secede from David's leadership. However, it appears that David has learned from Absalom's rebellion; he acts decisively by sending two generals, Amasa & Abishai after Sheba. Joab however, is incensed by David's actions, having been recently demoted, and in a fit of jealous rage murders Amasa, taking charge of David's army once again, and seeing to the execution of Sheba by the citizens of Abel Beth Maacah.

In chapter 21, David spends the lion's share of his energy on making amends for the mistakes of the past, and fighting with the pesky Philistines. The chapter ends with the aftermath of Absalom's rebellion lingering, and David exhausted, looking less and less like the great king.

SERMON OUTLINE & SCRIPTURES

Aftermath 2 Samuel 20-21

- 1. Little issues get blown out of proportion.** 2 Samuel 19:41-43; Proverbs 17:14
- 2. Silos form with their own distinct leaders.** 2 Samuel 20:1-2; 1 Kings 12:16; 1 Corinthians 1:10-13
- 3. Factions compete for power.** 2 Samuel 20:9-11; Proverbs 27:4; Acts 15:1-11; 2 Corinthians 12:20
- 4. Infighting proliferates & drains energy.** 1 Samuel 30:10; 2 Samuel 21:15-17; Acts 20:24; 1 Corinthians 9:23