

March 31, 2018

Topic: The Courage to Act

2 Samuel 3:6, 7 To sleep with any of the King's wives or concubines was to make a claim to the throne and it was considered treason. Because Ish-Bosheth was weak ruler, Abner was running the country, thus he may have felt justified sleeping with Saul's concubine, Ish-Bosheth, however, saw that Abner's power was becoming too great. Ish-Bosheth may have been right to speak out against Abner's behavior, but he didn't have the moral strength to maintain his authority, lack of ~~moral~~ moral backbone became the root of Israel's troubles over the next four centuries. Only 4 of the next 40 kings of Israel were called good. It takes courage and strength to stand firm in your convictions and to confront wrong doing in the face of oppositions. When you believe something is wrong do not let yourself be talked out of your position. Firmly attack the wrong and uphold the right.

2 Chronicles 23:1 Although it could have cost him his life, this priest did what was right, restoring the temple worship and anointing the new king. There are times when we must correct wrong or speak out for what is right. When such a situation arises, gather up your courage and act.

Ish-Bosheth was a man who took his courage from another man (Abner) rather than from God. When Abner died, Ish-Bosheth was left with nothing. In crisis and under pressure, he collapsed in fear. Fear can paralyze us, but faith and trust in God can overcome fear. (2 Timothy 1:6-8 Hebrews 13:6) If we trust in God, we will be free to respond boldly to events around us.

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