**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | The Death of a Brilliant Fool |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | 2 Samuel 3:33, 38 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #0828 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. In our Scripture passage today, we read of the lament of King David for a man named Abner.
      1. 2 Samuel 3:33, 38
   2. Abner was a great man, yet he died foolishly and needlessly.
      1. David called him a prince.
      2. He was a brave man and a discerning man.
      3. He died in middle age and in a time of robust health.
      4. He died in a heedless and foolish manner.
   3. In today’s message, we will learn four things about Abner.
      1. If you are not a Christian, Abner may reflect you.
2. his fearful danger (2 samuel 2:17-24)
   1. Abner was in a place of fearful danger.
   2. Abner was fighting in a battle against David, the king of Israel.
      1. Abner was on the wrong side.
      2. He had not yet come over to David’s side, which he would do later on.
   3. Abner was losing this battle and was running away from the battle.
      1. He was defeated.
      2. He heard footsteps behind him.
      3. He looks back to see a man named Asahel chasing him.
         1. 2 Samuel 2:17-19
   4. 2 Samuel 2:20-22
      1. The Bible says that Asahel was the track star of his day.
         1. 2 Samuel 2:18
      2. Abner at this time was a middle-aged man.
         1. He was strong and a valiant warrior, but he knew that he could not outrun the younger Asahel.
      3. Abner did not want to do battle with Asahel because Asahel was Joab’s brother.
      4. Abner expressed that he did not want to fight with Asahel, but Asahel stayed relentlessly on his trail.
   5. Abner knew that he must do something in self-defense.
      1. In an act of desperation, Abner took his spear and rammed it backwards, piercing the body of the younger man who was chasing him.
      2. Asahel was so wounded that he died.
      3. 2 Samuel 2:23
   6. Joab, Asahel’s brother, was David’s commander-in-chief.
   7. There was a law in Israel regarding the avenger of blood.
      1. If someone was slain in that day, the next of kin (the avenger of blood) could put the person to death and avenge the blood of his relative.
      2. Joab was the avenger of Asahel’s blood.
   8. 2 Samuel 2:24
      1. Abner is in severe danger, being pursued by Joab.
      2. Abner is now a hunted man.
         1. The sentence of death now hangs over his head.
3. his foolish death (2 Samuel 3:27, 33)
   1. David said that Abner died as a fool dies.
      1. 2 Samuel 3:33
   2. 2 Samuel 3:27
      1. Abner was killed by Joab.
         1. This broke David’s heart.
      2. There was not any reason for Abner to have been killed by Joab because Abner was in the city of Hebron at this time.
         1. Hebron was a city of refuge.
   3. God knew that in that day of primitive justice, there would be some people like Joab who would not ask if a person was killed in self-defense.
      1. Every man needed his time in court.
      2. God in His mercy set up cities across the land of Israel known as cities of refuge.
      3. If anyone was being pursued by an avenger of blood, then he could go inside one of these cities of refuge and be safe.
      4. Joshua 20:1-3, 7
         1. Hebron was one of these cities of refuge.
   4. 2 Samuel 3:27
      1. Abner died at the doorway of the city of refuge, right at the place of safety.
      2. All Abner had to do was to just step right inside the gate, and he would have been absolutely safe.
         1. This is why David lamented that Abner had died like a fool.
            1. 2 Samuel 3:33
      3. Abner died right outside the gate of the city of refuge.
   5. There are many people today who are like Abner.
      1. They are wise and capable.
      2. They can build buildings and give speeches.
      3. They are intellectuals and leaders.
      4. They are successful in every other realm, but they die foolishly because they die without the Lord Jesus Christ.
   6. Luke 12:16-20
      1. Jesus told a parable about a man whose fields produced so bountifully that he didn’t have room to store it all.
      2. The man decided to tear down his old barns and build bigger barns in which to store his goods.
      3. He said that he would then take it easy and eat, drink and be merry, for he had much goods laid up for many years.
      4. God called him a fool, for his soul would be required of him that night.
         1. Then, who would get all of his goods?
      5. The counterpart of this man was Abner in the Old Testament.
   7. Have you considered the value of your soul, or will you die like a fool dies?
      1. Are you going to die right outside the city of refuge?
      2. Do you know who your city of refuge is?
         1. It is the Lord Jesus Christ.
   8. These cities of refuge in the Old Testament were types, pictures and prophecies of the Lord Jesus.
      1. Proverbs 18:10
      2. Jesus is our city of refuge.
   9. Mark 8:36-37
      1. Your soul is worth more than all the stocks, bonds, gold, rubies, real estate and institutions of this world put together.
   10. Charles Haddon Spurgeon said that a person who does not prepare for death is worse than a fool; he is a mad man.
4. his friendly deception (2 samuel 3:27, 33-34)
   1. How could an otherwise brilliant man die like a fool?
      1. He was deceived.
   2. 2 Samuel 3:27, 33-34
      1. Abner’s hands were not bound, and he wasn’t chained.
      2. Joab killed Abner by deception.
   3. How is it that so many smart, brilliant and wise people die and go to Hell?
      1. They are deceived, and they are deceived by the devil.
      2. Revelation 12:9
      3. 2 Corinthians 4:4
      4. The devil has gotten people to believe today that he is their friend and that God is their enemy.
         1. People think negatively about God.
         2. They think that when someone comes to God, that they have to stop living.
         3. They think that it’s hard to be a Christian.
            1. Jesus said to come to Him; that His yoke is easy and His burden is light.

Matthew 11:28-30

John 10:10

* + - * 1. It’s not hard to be a Christian.
        2. The Bible says that the way of the transgressor is hard.

Proverbs 13:15

* 1. Joab was a murderer.
     1. He wanted to harm Abner and to put him to death.
     2. Joab did it with a smile on his face and his arm around Abner, as though he wanted to speak secretly to Abner.
  2. Our friendly enemy is the devil.
     1. He will smile at you and appear to you as an angel of light in order that he might destroy you.
        1. 2 Corinthians 11:14

1. his final determination (2 samuel 2:32)
   1. 2 Samuel 2:32
      1. All they could do was stand at Abner’s grave and weep.
   2. Ecclesiastes 11:3
      1. “In the place where the tree falleth, there it shall be.”
      2. When we die, our destiny is fixed.
         1. There is nothing we can do to change it.
   3. Hebrews 9:27
   4. Abner’s final determination was decided at the moment of death.
   5. He was deceived, and he died.
      1. All of David’s tears could not bring him back.
   6. David wept after the fact.
      1. We need to learn to weep before the fact for the sake of our loved ones who are lost and on their way to Hell.
   7. Jesus wept before the fact.
      1. Jesus wept over the city of Jerusalem.
      2. He wept over unbelief.
      3. We need to ask God to give us a heart that’s broken over the lost destiny of loved ones.
      4. God sees our tears when we weep for the unsaved.
   8. We pray without fasting, and we pray without weeping.
      1. Where is our broken heart for the lost?
   9. The Bible says that when Zion travailed, she brought forth her children.
      1. Isaiah 66:8
      2. May God forgive the coldness of our churches and the sterility of our hearts.
   10. David wept, but he wept after the fact.
       1. He waited too late.
   11. It is not up to the pastor of the church to win our family members and neighbors to Christ.
       1. It is up to us.
       2. If God is not burdening our hearts with the unsaved, then that tells us something about the condition of our hearts.
2. CONCLUSION
   1. There is a world of Abner’s out there.
      1. They’re brilliant and great people.
      2. But they are going to die like a fool dies, and we need to weep over them.
      3. We need to have a broken heart for those who are without the Lord Jesus Christ.
   2. If we are going to win souls, we better get busy.
      1. There is one thing we can do here on Earth that we can’t do in Heaven, and that is win souls.
      2. When we die, our days of soul-winning will be over.
   3. 2 Samuel 3:27
      1. Abner was in the very gate when he died.
      2. The gate speaks of Jesus Christ Himself.
         1. John 10:9
      3. Abner was so very close, yet he was lost.
   4. There are some today who are close to being saved, but they are still lost.
      1. To be half saved is to be altogether lost.
      2. No one is half saved.
   5. At the very door of salvation, at the very door of the city of refuge, Abner died.
      1. All he had to do was to step inside, but he let Joab deceive him.
   6. The Lord Jesus Christ is our city of refuge.
      1. If you are not yet saved, you are right at the very door.
      2. Won’t you open your heart to Jesus?
      3. Romans 10:8-9
   7. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   8. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16