

SERMON OUTLINE

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

- a) In our Scripture passage today, we read of the lament of King David for a man named Abner.
 - i) 2 Samuel 3:33, 38
- b) Abner was a great man, yet he died foolishly and needlessly.
 - i) David called him a prince.
 - ii) He was a brave man and a discerning man.
 - iii) He died in middle age and in a time of robust health.
 - iv) He died in a heedless and foolish manner.
- c) In today's message, we will learn four things about Abner.
 - i) If you are not a Christian, Abner may reflect you.

2) HIS FEARFUL DANGER (2 SAMUEL 2:17-24)

- a) Abner was in a place of fearful danger.
- b) Abner was fighting in a battle against David, the king of Israel.
 - i) Abner was on the wrong side.
 - ii) He had not yet come over to David's side, which he would do later on.
- c) Abner was losing this battle and was running away from the battle.
 - i) He was defeated.
 - ii) He heard footsteps behind him.
 - iii) He looks back to see a man named Asahel chasing him.
 - (1) 2 Samuel 2:17-19
- d) 2 Samuel 2:20-22
 - i) The Bible says that Asahel was the track star of his day.
 - (1) 2 Samuel 2:18
 - ii) 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.
 - iii) Abner did not want to do battle with Asahel because Asahel was Joab's brother.
 - iv) Abner expressed that he did not want to fight with Asahel, but Asahel stayed relentlessly on his trail.
- e) Abner knew that he must do something in self-defense.
 - i) In an act of desperation, Abner took his spear and rammed it backwards, piercing the body of the younger man who was chasing him.
 - ii) Asahel was so wounded that he died.
 - iii) 2 Samuel 2:23
- f) Joab, Asahel's brother, was David's commander-in-chief.
- g) There was a law in Israel regarding the avenger of blood.
 - i) 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.
 - ii) Joab was the avenger of Asahel's blood.
- h) 2 Samuel 2:24
 - i) Abner is in severe danger, being pursued by Joab.

- ii) 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)
 - a) David said that Abner died as a fool dies.
 - i) 2 Samuel 3:33
 - b) 2 Samuel 3:27
 - i) Abner was killed by Joab.
 - (1) This broke David's heart.
 - ii) 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.
 - c) 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.
 - i) Every man needed his time in court.
 - ii) God in His mercy set up cities across the land of Israel known as cities of refuge.
 - iii) If anyone was being pursued by an avenger of blood, then he could go inside one of these cities of refuge and be safe.
 - iv) Joshua 20:1-3, 7
 - (1) Hebron was one of these cities of refuge.
 - d) 2 Samuel 3:27
 - i) Abner died at the doorway of the city of refuge, right at the place of safety.
 - ii) 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.
 - (a) 2 Samuel 3:33
 - iii) Abner died right outside the gate of the city of refuge.
 - e) There are many people today who are like Abner.
 - i) They are wise and capable.
 - ii) They can build buildings and give speeches.
 - iii) They are intellectuals and leaders.
 - iv) They are successful in every other realm, but they die foolishly because they die without the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - f) Luke 12:16-20
 - i) Jesus told a parable about a man whose fields produced so bountifully that he didn't have room to store it all.
 - ii) The man decided to tear down his old barns and build bigger barns in which to store his goods.
 - iii) 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.
 - iv) God called him a fool, for his soul would be required of him that night.
 - (1) Then, who would get all of his goods?

- v) The counterpart of this man was Abner in the Old Testament.
 - g) Have you considered the value of your soul, or will you die like a fool dies?
 - i) Are you going to die right outside the city of refuge?
 - ii) Do you know who your city of refuge is?
 - (1) It is the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - h) These cities of refuge in the Old Testament were types, pictures and prophecies of the Lord Jesus.
 - i) Proverbs 18:10
 - ii) Jesus is our city of refuge.
 - i) Mark 8:36-37
 - i) Your soul is worth more than all the stocks, bonds, gold, rubies, real estate and institutions of this world put together.
 - j) 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)
- a) How could an otherwise brilliant man die like a fool?
 - i) He was deceived.
 - b) 2 Samuel 3:27, 33-34
 - i) Abner's hands were not bound, and he wasn't chained.
 - ii) Joab killed Abner by deception.
 - c) How is it that so many smart, brilliant and wise people die and go to Hell?
 - i) They are deceived, and they are deceived by the devil.
 - ii) Revelation 12:9
 - iii) 2 Corinthians 4:4
 - iv) 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.
 - (a) Jesus said to come to Him; that His yoke is easy and His burden is light.
 - (i) Matthew 11:28-30
 - (ii) John 10:10
 - (b) It's not hard to be a Christian.
 - (c) The Bible says that the way of the transgressor is hard.
 - (i) Proverbs 13:15
 - d) Joab was a murderer.
 - i) He wanted to harm Abner and to put him to death.
 - ii) Joab did it with a smile on his face and his arm around Abner, as though he wanted to speak secretly to Abner.
 - e) Our friendly enemy is the devil.

- i) 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
- 5) HIS FINAL DETERMINATION (2 SAMUEL 2:32)
- a) 2 Samuel 2:32
 - i) All they could do was stand at Abner's grave and weep.
 - b) Ecclesiastes 11:3
 - i) "In the place where the tree falleth, there it shall be."
 - ii) When we die, our destiny is fixed.
(1) There is nothing we can do to change it.
 - c) Hebrews 9:27
 - d) Abner's final determination was decided at the moment of death.
 - e) He was deceived, and he died.
 - i) All of David's tears could not bring him back.
 - f) David wept after the fact.
 - i) 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.
 - g) Jesus wept before the fact.
 - i) Jesus wept over the city of Jerusalem.
 - ii) He wept over unbelief.
 - iii) We need to ask God to give us a heart that's broken over the lost destiny of loved ones.
 - iv) God sees our tears when we weep for the unsaved.
 - h) We pray without fasting, and we pray without weeping.
 - i) Where is our broken heart for the lost?
 - i) The Bible says that when Zion travailed, she brought forth her children.
 - i) Isaiah 66:8
 - ii) May God forgive the coldness of our churches and the sterility of our hearts.
 - j) David wept, but he wept after the fact.
 - i) He waited too late.
 - k) It is not up to the pastor of the church to win our family members and neighbors to Christ.
 - i) It is up to us.
 - ii) If God is not burdening our hearts with the unsaved, then that tells us something about the condition of our hearts.
- 6) CONCLUSION
- a) There is a world of Abner's out there.
 - i) They're brilliant and great people.
 - ii) But they are going to die like a fool dies, and we need to weep over them.
 - iii) We need to have a broken heart for those who are without the Lord Jesus Christ.

- b) If we are going to win souls, we better get busy.
 - i) There is one thing we can do here on Earth that we can't do in Heaven, and that is win souls.
 - ii) When we die, our days of soul-winning will be over.
- c) 2 Samuel 3:27
 - i) Abner was in the very gate when he died.
 - ii) The gate speaks of Jesus Christ Himself.
 - (1) John 10:9
 - iii) Abner was so very close, yet he was lost.
- d) There are some today who are close to being saved, but they are still lost.
 - i) To be half saved is to be altogether lost.
 - ii) No one is half saved.
- e) At the very door of salvation, at the very door of the city of refuge, Abner died.
 - i) All he had to do was to step inside, but he let Joab deceive him.
- f) The Lord Jesus Christ is our city of refuge.
 - i) If you are not yet saved, you are right at the very door.
 - ii) Won't you open your heart to Jesus?
 - iii) Romans 10:8-9
- g) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- h) 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.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16