

2 Samuel 4 - Three Things that Contribute to Stability

3 Things that contribute stability

1. **Confidence in the LORD** - we are not shaken when trouble comes
2. **True friendships** - we have people who stand by and support us in time of trial
3. **Integrity of heart** - we are consistent and predictable

Last chapter Abner made Ish-Bosheth the king...Ish-Bosheth was a puppet...afraid of Abner

- 2Sa 3:11 NIV Ish-Bosheth did not dare to say another word to Abner, because he was afraid of him.

At the end of the chapter - Abner was killed

- 2Sa 3:27 NIV Now when Abner returned to Hebron, Joab took him aside into an inner chamber, as if to speak with him privately. And there, to avenge the blood of his brother Asahel, **Joab stabbed him in the stomach, and he died.**

Ish Bosheth lost courage

2Sa 4:1-12 NIV When Ish-Bosheth son of Saul heard that Abner had died in Hebron, **he lost courage**, and all Israel became **alarmed**.

- **Lost Courage** - The idea in this word is that you lose confidence and give up
- **Alarmed** - When leaders lose courage - the people are affected

Confidence in the LORD - *we are not shaken when trouble comes*

Ish-Bosheth had misplaced confidence in Abner - Our confidence must be in the LORD

- Proverbs 3:25-26 Have no fear of sudden disaster or of the ruin that overtakes the wicked, 26 for **the LORD will be your confidence** and will keep your foot from being snared.
- 2Ch 20:12 NIV Our God, will you not judge them? For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. **We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you."**
- Job 13:15 NIV **Though he slay me, yet will I hope in him;** I will surely defend my ways to his face.
- Pro 3:5-6 NIV Trust in the LORD with all your heart and **lean not on your own understanding;** (6) in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

True Friendships

(2) **Now Saul's son had two men who were leaders of raiding bands.** One was named Baanah and the other Rekab; they were sons of Rimmon the Beerothite from the tribe of Benjamin--Beeroth is considered part of Benjamin, (3) because the people of Beeroth fled to Gittaim and have resided there as foreigners to this day. (4) (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 disabled. His name was Mephibosheth.) (5) Now Rekab 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. (6) **They went into the inner part of the house as if to get some wheat, and they stabbed him in the stomach. Then Rekab and his brother Baanah slipped away.** (7) They had gone into the house while he was lying on the bed in his bedroom. After they stabbed and killed him, they cut off his head. Taking it with them, they traveled all night by way of the Arabah.

When is it right to turn against a brother?

- Proverbs 17:17 A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.
- Proverbs 18:24 A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.
- Joh 15:12-14 NIV My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. (13) Greater love has no one than this: **to lay down one's life for one's friends.** (14) You are my friends if you do what I command.

Integrity of Heart - David remained consistent regarding the avenging of his enemies

(8) They brought the head of Ish-Bosheth to David at Hebron and said to the king, "Here is the head of Ish-Bosheth son of Saul, your enemy, who tried to kill you. This day the LORD has avenged my lord the king against Saul and his offspring." (9) David answered Rekab and his brother Baanah, the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, "**As surely as the LORD lives, who has delivered me out of every trouble,** (10) when someone told me, 'Saul is dead,' and thought he was bringing good news, **I seized him and put him to death in Ziklag. That was the reward I gave him for his news!** (11) How much more--when wicked men have killed an innocent man in his own house and on his own bed--should I not now demand his blood from your hand and rid the earth of you!" (12) **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.

- David remembered it is the LORD who has always delivered him - CONFIDENCE in the LORD
- David was loyal to Saul, and he was loyal to Ish-Bosheth in a certain manner
- David's integrity - **he was consistent** - true to what he believed

Definition - Integrity - completeness - unified -- you are outwardly what you are inwardly

The LORD said this about David

- 1Ki 9:4-5 NIV "As for you, if you walk before me faithfully **with integrity of heart and uprightness, as David your father did**, and do all I command and observe my decrees and laws, (5) I will establish your royal throne over Israel forever, as I promised David your father when I said, 'You shall never fail to have a successor on the throne of Israel.'

David said this about the LORD

- 1Ch 29:17 NIV I know, my God, **that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity**. All these things I have given willingly and with honest intent. And now I have seen with joy how willingly your people who are here have given to you.

Stability from integrity

- Job 2:9 NIV His wife said to him, "Are you still maintaining your integrity? Curse God and die!"