

## Week of October 7, 2018

<u>This Week's Focus</u>: Jesus is the only righteous King who lived a perfect life and died in the stead of rebellious sinners so that we might be made the righteousness of God.

## This Week's Text: 2 Samuel 4

"For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." **2 Corinthians 5:21** 

## Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- What has the Holy Spirit impressed on your heart and mind from this week's sermon/text? What have you learned more clearly about yourself and about God?
- Briefly recount the story from 2 Samuel 1 through chapter 4. What triggered the civil war
   between the 11 tribes of Israel and Judah and what's been the outcome thus far?
- Share how the presence and sovereign power of God are revealed in this text.
- What bad news did Ish-bosheth receive that depleted his courage (verse 1)? Do tend to rely on your own strength and abilities to serve God and others? Does serving God guarantee you an endless supply of energy? How can you tell the difference between the kind of exhaustion that follows self-reliance and the kind that follows Spirit-empowerment?
- What contributed to the spirit of hopelessness in Israel at this time (verses 1,4, 5-6)? Have circumstances in your life ever made you feel hopeless? Discuss the hope that we have in the gospel of Jesus Christ (Romans 5:1-5).
- Why did Rechab and Baanah murder Ish-bosheth? What did they misjudge about King David?
   How can we grow in our knowledge of King Jesus' character and heart? Discuss how a growing understanding of our sin and the gospel propels us into deeper worship.
- How did Rechab and Baanah deliver their "good news" to David? Have you ever attempted
  to justify sinful acts or intentions with theological language? Have you ever misused theology
  to avoid loving others?
- How did David respond to Rechab and Baanah's news? Contrast his treatment of Abner's and the assassins' remains. What does this reveal about the nature of God and his eternal kingdom establish through David, God's anointed (Proverbs 16:12; Isaiah 32:1)?

- Why is the gospel good news to unrighteous, rebellious sinners (Romans 1:16-17)? How does Jesus' life, atoning death, and resurrection from the grave reconcile God's justice toward sin and his grace toward sinners (Romans 3:21-26, 2 Corinthians 5:21)?
- How does this passage encourage you to declare and demonstrate the gospel to those in your community and spheres of influence?