



Lesson 81

Joab Murders Abner

Story Elements

- **Text:** 2 Samuel 3:8-39
- **Setting:** approx. 1020 B.C.
- **Main Characters:** God, David, Abner, and Joab
- **Plot:** Abner defects to Judah; Joab murders his brother's killer.
- **Key word(s):** “ _____ before the LORD” (v 28)
- **Climax:** “Then Joab came to the king, and said, What hast thou done? behold, Abner came unto thee; why is it that thou hast sent him away, and he is quite gone?” (v 24)

Abner Switches Teams (2 Sam. 3:8-25)

1. Abner, the Commander-in-Chief of Ish-bosheth's army, grew in power and influence in the house of Saul (v 8) - even to the point of taking liberties with the deceased king's _____. (v 7)
2. Ish-bosheth, Saul's son and the new king of Israel, lacked the leadership to rein in Abner. When Abner was rebuked for his behavior, he easily dismissed Ish-bosheth and switched his allegiance to _____.
3. Abner sent messengers to David, indicating his desire to defect.
 - a. David's only stipulation was that, upon Abner's defection, _____ be brought back to David. (v 13)
 - b. The terms were agreed upon and Michal was returned to her husband David (much to the dismay of _____, Michal's second “husband”). (v 16)
4. Later, David hosted a feast to honor Abner who acted as a _____ for all the tribes of Israel. (vv 17-19)

Joab's Blood Feud (2 Sam. 3:22-30)

5. Meanwhile, Joab returned from a raiding party to learn that his brother's killer had not only been entertained by David but had been dismissed _____. (vv 22-25)
6. Joab sent messengers after Abner to summon him back under the pretense of official _____. Outside of the gates of Hebron, Joab murdered Abner.

David the Diplomat (2 Sam. 3:31-39)

7. David cursed Joab for his treachery (vv 28-29) and _____ Abner's death.
8. David's reaction to Abner's murder accomplished two things:
 - a. It removed _____ from him that Abner's murder was his doing,
 - b. and it elevated _____ of David's integrity.

9. While certainly disgusted with Joab's treachery, David also knew how to conduct himself politically. When he could've judged Joab severely, he restrained his power until his throne had _____ . (v 39)

Application

10. Abner defected when Ish-bosheth confronted him. Matthew Henry notes, "Proud men will not bear to be _____, especially by those whom they think they have obliged."

Proverbs 16:18 *Pride goeth before destruction, And an haughty spirit before a fall.*

11. What did David mean when he said that Abner died "as a fool dieth?" (vv 33-34) _____

12. What is the difference between how Abner killed Asahel and how Joab killed Abner?

13. How does this story help us understand the 6th commandment? _____

Answer Key

Kew Word(s): guiltless • 1. concubine • 2. David • 3. a) Michal; b) Phaltiel; 4. representative • 5. peaceably • 6. business • 7. mourned • 8. a) suspicion; b) public opinion • 9. stabilized • 10. reproved • 11. Adam Clarke: "He was not taken away by the hand of justice, nor in battle, nor by accident: he died the death of a culprit by falling into the hands of a villain • 12. Asahel was killed legitimately in battle – even after being warned • 13. Killing and murder are different. People have the right to kill in defense of their lives, liberty and property. Murder is the unjust taking of a life