

16/08/09 pm

# **Nip it in the Bud!**

**2 Samuel 3:22-30**

*Theme: Personal grudges must be forgiven or resultant sin may grow to horrific proportions.*

## **Background (2:1—3:21)**

- David was King over Judah.
- Ish-Bosheth was anointed King over Israel.
- At Battle of Gibeon David's men were victorious:
  - Abner killed Asahel;
  - Asahel's brother, Joab, held this against Abner.

- The house of David grew stronger.
- Abner defected to David.
- Abner and David agreed how to transfer the kingdom.
- After a feast David sent Abner on his way *in peace* (3:21).

# Joab's Reaction to Abner Visiting David (3:22-25)

- Joab returned from a raid.
- He reacted strongly against Abner's visit – 3:24-25.
- What do we *sense* in his words?  
Anger and bitterness!

## **1st principle:**

1. Personal grudges that are unchecked lead to anger and bitterness.

People will hurt us!

The anger and bitterness which result from holding grudges have no place in the life of a Christian, *cf.*

Eph. 4:31a-c.

## **2nd principle:**

2. Personal grudges that are unchecked lead to slander.

Note what Joab said about Abner in 3:25.

There is no evidence that this true!

*In conversation, how do you speak about someone who has hurt you?*

*Slander can come easily.*

*Slander has no place in the behaviour of a Christian, cf. Eph. 4:31d.*

# Joab Murders Abner (3:26-30)

## 3rd principle:

3. Personal grudges that are not forgiven can lead to murder.

Christians may often murder in their hearts. *Cf.* Mat. 5:21-22; 1 Jn. 3:15.

# Checking Personal Grudges— Forgiveness is the Key

*The text does not deal with this but  
we must!*

*Repent of your sin.*

*Forgive the person who hurt you, cf.  
Col. 3:15.*

*Leave that person in God's hands,  
cf. 2 Tim. 4:14.*

*Forgiveness is not easy. It is painful.*

*But Christians must forgive.*

*It is often a journey.*

*Hurt lessens as you consciously  
forgive the person who hurt you.*

*If you hold the grudge it will consume  
you.*

***Be killing sin or it will be killing you.***

**(John Owen)**