

Cleaving to the King **2 Samuel 19:41-20:26**

Introduction:

1. The time finally came for King David to return to his palace in Jerusalem. Absalom's rebellion had been quenched, and in this chapter David is returning home.
2. But, on the way back home, there arose a contention between the ten northern tribes of Israel and the southern tribe of Judah. 19:41-43
3. Because of this contention, a man rose up against David (Sheba – 20:1), and the ten northern tribes of Israel followed Sheba in his rebellion (20:2a). But the rest of the verse caught my attention. "...*the men of Judah clave unto their king...*" **20:2b**
 - The word "*clave*" means "to cling to; to glue to."
4. This is what is needed so desperately today - believers who will cleave and cling to their Lord and King (Jesus Christ) like Superglue.
5. Notice what Barnabas exhorted his converts to do in Acts 11:23. This is what we need today!
6. When we think of this idea of clinging and glue, it reminds me of wallpaper. You glue it to the wall. But have you ever noticed that over time, or when steam is applied, the wallpaper will sometimes begin to separate itself from the wall and fall away.
7. This reminds me of many believers in our culture today. They cleave to the King when it's convenient or fun. But when a little heat is applied, they fall away. God give us some Superglue Christians – some Gorilla Glue believers! We must cleave to the King!
8. This morning I want to look at our text and derive some principles that will help us to cleave to our King, Jesus Christ.

First, we must dwell in unity with each other. 19:41-43

1. Here is the scene: The king is coming back, and it's a time of victory, celebration, and joy. But right in the middle of this festive occasion, a dispute starts between the ten tribes of Israel and the tribe of Judah. They are arguing about who should lead the parade - who should be front and center in the escort of the king.
2. As a result of this dispute, a man leads a rebellion against David, and there is a tribal split (kind of like a church split)! What a reminder of the present day church.
3. These people forgot that they were on the same team with the same king. Sometimes **we forget** that we are on the same team serving the same King (Jesus). God desires that we dwell in unity with one another and love each other.
4. It breaks God's heart when He sees us fighting, bickering, getting angry with each other, and allowing ourselves to be hurt over insignificant things. Psalm 133:1
 - We cannot possibly cleave to Jesus and be out of sorts with each other.
1 John 4:20

- Even preachers get this tribal mentality. “What camp or tribe are you in?” This must make God sick. I’m in the Jesus camp!
5. Did you know that God hates discord and contention among brethren? Proverbs 6:16, 19
 6. When there is contention between believers, we cannot possibly cleave to Christ because our heart is not right with God. God desires that CrossRoads dwells in unity.
 7. Imagine if there was a car in the parking lot, and the engine was in one place, the body in another, the transmission and tires in another place, etc. Are you going anywhere? No, because it’s not together. It is not in unity. It’s the same way with the church. 1 Corinthians 1:10-13
 8. If we are to cleave to the king, we must dwell in unity with each other.

Second, we must exhibit our loyalty by our sacrifice. 20:4-5

1. After Sheba rose up in rebellion and led the ten tribes away with him, David decided he had better get some troops together. He commissioned Amasa to assemble an army. vs. 4
2. But Amasa couldn’t get enough men together in three days (vs. 5). They wanted to march with the king in victory, but weren’t as eager to fight his battles. They wanted to prance along with him in triumph, but were not as eager to go on the front lines and sacrifice for him. They would cleave to the king if it was convenient.
3. Today in our culture, so many love a loyalty that is cheap and easy. But if we will cleave to the King, it will take sacrifice. Matthew 16:24; 2 Timothy 2:3, 3:12
4. So many times our thoughts are consumed with ideas like, “What will Christ do for me? How will He bless me? How will He make my life easier?” Shouldn’t our thoughts be consumed with ideas like, “What can I do for Christ? How can I serve Him and sacrifice for Him after all He has done for me?”
5. If we are to cleave to the King, we must exhibit our loyalty by our sacrifice.

Third, we must be aware of the enemy’s plans. 20:8-10

1. Amasa finally got some troops together and met Joab, and they left together to pursue Sheba. Amasa had been given Joab’s position as general, so Joab had a vendetta against Amasa. Notice what happened. vs. 8-10
 - Amasa was totally ignorant of Joab’s plan. He never saw it coming.
2. If you are a believer today, Satan is your enemy, and he has a vendetta against you. He desires to destroy you (1 Peter 5:8). We are warned to **not** be ignorant of Satan’s devices (2 Corinthians 2:11). If you are cleaving to the King, rest assured, Satan will come at you.
3. This story of Joab and Amasa parallels how Satan seeks to destroy us:

- Joab destroyed Amasa while Amasa was busy for the king.
 - This is what Satan does to you. While you are busy serving Christ, Satan will attempt to catch you off guard and neutralize you in your service. This is why we must make sure that we are serving Christ in faith and not in the flesh. Ephesians 6:16
- Joab used deceit to destroy Amasa.
 - Satan is said to be subtle and cunning. God warns us to not be deceived. Galatians 6:7
- Amasa was unaware of Joab's intentions.
 - As a believer in a wicked world, you cannot afford to be ignorant of Satan's devices, and walk in a casual, lackadaisical manner. Ephesians 5:14-15

Fourth, we must cast off the works of darkness. 20:15-22

1. When the city cast out the sin and evil, there was peace once again.
2. Sin robs us of our peace and that sweet fellowship with Christ. Maybe you're here today and you were once cleaving to Christ, but some particular sin has hindered you in your walk with Christ.
3. What is the answer? Hebrews 12:1; cf. Romans 13:12

In Conclusion:

1. Are you cleaving to the King? Are you walking in a close relationship with Christ? Or, are you like that sagging wallpaper that is losing its grip.
2. Have you been struggling in your heart with bitterness, anger, and sin issues? Turn it over to God today. Turn to Christ, and begin cleaving to Him once again.