

## No Good Deed Goes Unpunished

First Chronicles 19–20

Don Ruhl • Savage Street, Grants Pass, Oregon • September 29, In the year of our Lord Christ, 2021

Scripture Reader and Reading: Jacob Noveske – First Chronicles 19.3–5

Song Leader and Song Suggestions: Phil Joseph – Songs on doing good works

### I. First Chronicles 19.1–2 • Showing Kindness

**19.1 It happened after this that Nahash the king of the people of Ammon died, and his son reigned in his place. 2 Then David said, “I will show kindness to Hanun the son of Nahash, because his father showed kindness to me.” So David sent messengers to comfort him concerning his father. And David’s servants came to Hanun in the land of the people of Ammon to comfort him.**

- A. If you know David, this did not surprise you.
- B. David wanted to pay back what he had received.
- C. Show kindness to people who have lost a loved one.

### II. First Chronicles 19.3–5 • No Good Deed Goes Unpunished

**3 And the princes of the people of Ammon said to Hanun, “Do you think that David really honors your father because he has sent comforters to you? Did his servants not come to you to search and to overthrow and to spy out the land?” 4 Therefore Hanun took David’s servants, shaved them, and cut off their garments in the middle, at their buttocks, and sent them away. 5 Then some went and told David about the men; and he sent to meet them, because the men were greatly ashamed. And the king said, “Wait at Jericho until your beards have grown, and then return.”**

- A. Sometimes relationships with the survivors changes things.
  - 1. In this case, Hanun had not had dealings with David.
  - 2. Therefore, he and his advisors were suspicious of David’s intentions.
- B. The new king of Ammon humiliated David’s servants,
  - 1. shaving their beards and
  - 2. cutting off their garments at their buttocks.
    - a) Perhaps we can see the humiliation of the latter, but not the former.

- b) Beards in the Middle East, even now, are valued highly.
    - (1) It symbolizes manhood.
    - (2) So this was an attack on their manhood for everyone to see.
  - C. Be careful from whom you receive advice.
    - 1. The new king's advisers, and the king himself,
    - 2. assumed that David's motives would be like theirs.
- “There is nothing so well meant but it may be ill interpreted, and is wont to be so by men who love nobody but themselves.”**
- Patrick in *Homiletic Commentary: Chronicles*, page 88**
- D. You may have genuine intentions, but
    - 1. some will doubt your sincerity.
    - 2. Prepare yourself to experience criticism and hard hearts.

### **III. First Chronicles 19.6–7 • Do Not Make Yourself Repulsive to a Man Who Has God's Heart**

**6 When the people of Ammon saw that they had made themselves repulsive to David, Hanun and the people of Ammon sent a thousand talents of silver to hire for themselves chariots and horsemen from Mesopotamia, from Syrian Maacah, and from Zobah. 7 So they hired for themselves thirty-two thousand chariots, with the king of Maacah and his people, who came and encamped before Medeba. Also the people of Ammon gathered together from their cities, and came to battle.**

- A. Hanun and the Ammonites had no idea what they had set in motion.
  - 1. His lack of experience as a king showed up with this foolish maneuver.
  - 2. As Solomon observed wisely:

**16           Woe to you, O land, when your king is a child...**

**– Ecclesiastes 10.16**

- B. Remember that Israel and Ammon were related.
- C. So the children of Ammon hired three armies from other nations.
  - 1. However, they were in the wrong,
  - 2. Israel and David were in the right.
    - a) Therefore, the outcome had been set
    - b) before the battle even begun.
      - (1) If you have wronged someone
      - (2) own up to it quickly,
        - (a) lest something bad happen.

#### **IV. First Chronicles 19.8–19 • What Leaders Have to Do**

**8** Now when David heard of it, he sent Joab and all the army of the mighty men. **9** Then the people of Ammon came out and put themselves in battle array before the gate of the city, and the kings who had come were by themselves in the field. **10** When Joab saw that the battle line was against him before and behind, he chose some of Israel's best, and put them in battle array against the Syrians. **11** And the rest of the people he put under the command of Abishai his brother, and they set themselves in battle array against the people of Ammon. **12** Then he said, "If the Syrians are too strong for me, then you shall help me; but if the people of Ammon are too strong for you, then I will help you. **13** Be of good courage, and let us be strong for our people and for the cities of our God. And may the LORD do what is good in His sight." **14** So Joab and the people who were with him drew near for the battle against the Syrians, and they fled before him. **15** When the people of Ammon saw that the Syrians were fleeing, they also fled before Abishai his brother, and entered the city. So Joab went to Jerusalem. **16** Now when the Syrians saw that they had been defeated by Israel, they sent messengers and brought the Syrians who were beyond the River, and Shophach the commander of Hadadezer's army went before them. **17** When it was told David, he gathered all Israel, crossed over the Jordan and came upon them, and set up in battle array against them. So when David had set up in battle array against the Syrians, they fought with him. **18** Then the Syrians fled before Israel; and David killed seven thousand charioteers and forty thousand foot soldiers of the Syrians, and killed Shophach the commander of the army. **19** And when the servants of Hadadezer saw that they were defeated by Israel, they made peace with David and became his servants. So the Syrians were not willing to help the people of Ammon any-

**more.**

A. Do not make yourself repulsive to a man or woman of God.

1. Not because they will attack you.
2. However, you will suffer for it.
  - a) David had to take action because
  - b) Ammon was taking action against him and Israel, and
    - (1) David was the king.
    - (2) If you make yourself repulsive to someone who is of God, expect:
      - (a) To be cursed by God – Genesis 12, for
      - (b) you are touching God's eye.

**8 ...he who touches you touches the apple of His eye.**

**– Zechariah 2.8**

B. Not everything about Joab was bad.

1. His brief communication with his brother showed:
  - a) his understanding and leadership in military matters,
  - b) his understanding of encouragement to those under his authority,
  - c) his understanding of seeing things in a spiritual light,
    - (1) wanting to fight for their people, and
    - (2) wanting to fight for the cities of God, and
  - d) his understanding that the Lord will do what is right in his sight.
2. Joab could see that their fight meant
  - a) something good for the people of Israel, and
  - b) something good for the cause of God.
3. Joab had enough wisdom to see

- a) the need for mutual help.
- b) You help me, I help you.

**9 Two are better than one,  
Because they have a good reward for their labor.  
10 For if they fall, one will lift up his companion.  
But woe to him who is alone when he falls,  
For he has no one to help him up.  
11 Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm;  
But how can one be warm alone?  
12 Though one may be overpowered by another,  
Two can withstand him.  
And a threefold cord is not quickly broken.**

**– Ecclesiastes 4.9–12**

- (1) When someone offers help,
- (2) take it because you do not know
  - (a) how you shall end without that help, and
  - (b) you will be able to return that help later.

4. While Joab had major problems,
- a) he also displayed great leadership skills.
  - b) Joab had what it takes to lead and
  - c) David chose him for those reasons:

**“A good leader must, out of his own abundance, put life and spirits into all others; if a lion lead sheep into the field, there is hope of victory.”**

**– Hall**

- d) Nehemiah had those qualities:

**14 And I looked, and arose and said to the nobles, to the leaders, and to the rest of the people, “Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, great and awesome, and fight for your brethren, your sons, your**

**daughters, your wives, and your houses.”**

**– Nehemiah 4.14**

C. In verse 13, look how Joab ended his brief message:

**“...may the LORD do what is good in His sight.”**

1. Truly, life comes down to this truth.
2. The Lord will do what is right in his sight.
  - a) That is why we must always be on the Lord’s side.
  - b) It is not about being right in a dispute, but
    - (1) it is about being right with the Lord.
    - (2) That way the outcome he brings will also bring you favor.

D. The Syrians lost twice to Israel during these days.

1. Some people make the same foolish mistakes repeatedly because
2. they never learn regardless of how much they suffer.

**“An obstinate man does not hold opinions, they hold him.”**

**– Pope**

E. David was in the right.

1. Therefore, God granted him a massive victory.
2. However, I would not be surprised if David did not feel too victorious.

#### **V. First Chronicles 20.1–3 • A Time to Battle**

**20.1 It happened in the spring of the year, at the time kings go out to battle, that Joab led out the armed forces and ravaged the country of the people of Ammon, and came and besieged Rabbah. But David stayed at Jerusalem. And Joab defeated Rabbah and overthrew it. 2 Then David took their king’s crown from his head, and found it to weigh a talent of gold, and there were precious stones in it. And it was set on David’s head. Also he brought out the spoil of**

**the city in great abundance. 3 And he brought out the people who were in it, and put them to work with saws, with iron picks, and with axes. So David did to all the cities of the people of Ammon. Then David and all the people returned to Jerusalem.**

A. Ezra did not mention

1. that this was the time that David and Bathsheba came together, because
2. it was not Ezra's task to detail David's life but his reign.
  - a) You may have noticed that he has run through much of David's reign.
  - b) He is only establishing or reconfirming
    - (1) what we read in Second Samuel about David's reign,
    - (2) showing why it was necessary to rebuild the temple, etc.

B. By the way, what did the Ammonites think

1. of their new king Hanun
2. who brought on this humiliation?

C. This was part of the stockpiling of materials for the temple.

1. That is also what Ezra wanted to show.
2. The temple by Solomon
  - a) was built with materials from Israel's conquered enemies.
  - b) This reminds me of the tabernacle and all its furnishings.
    - (1) The Israelites had been slaves in Egypt.
    - (2) Therefore, they would not have all that material, especially the costly ones.
      - (a) Yet, you will remember that the Lord told Israel
      - (b) to ask for those things from the Egyptians,
        - i) who gave to Israel generously and willingly.
        - ii) This all foreshadowed
          - (1) that the true tabernacle, the true temple

(2) would be built of both Jews and Gentiles.

## VI. First Chronicles 20.4–8 • Giants Fell Like Dominoes

**4** Now it happened afterward that war broke out at Gezer with the Philistines, at which time Sibbechai the Hushathite killed Sippai, who was one of the sons of the giant. And they were subdued. **5** Again there was war with the Philistines, and Elhanan the son of Jair killed Lahmi the brother of Goliath the Gittite, the shaft of whose spear was like a weaver's beam. **6** Yet again there was war at Gath, where there was a man of great stature, with twenty-four fingers and toes, six on each hand and six on each foot; and he also was born to the giant. **7** So when he defied Israel, Jonathan the son of Shimea, David's brother, killed him. **8** These were born to the giant in Gath, and they fell by the hand of David and by the hand of his servants.

A. David and his men could defeat Goliath and his sons because

B. the Lord does not save with sword or spear or the large size of a man.

1. But by my spirit

2. Psalm 147.10

**10 He does not delight in the strength of the horse;  
He takes no pleasure in the legs of a man.**

3. Zechariah 4.6

**6 So he answered and said to me:**

**“This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel:  
'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,'  
Says the LORD of hosts.”**

4. Zechariah 4.10

**10 For who has despised the day of small things?**

C. Yes, our enemy has great power.

1. They have us out-financed.

2. They have captured every single institution in America.
3. They have us outnumbered.
  - a) How can the poor little church by comparison do anything?
  - b) Has failure been predetermined?
    - (1) No.
    - (2) Remember David and Goliath.
    - (3) Remember Gideon and his lamps and pitchers.
    - (4) Remember Samson and the jawbone of a donkey.
    - (5) Remember the carpenter and the Roman Empire.

**“We need not fear great men against us while we have the great God for us.”**

**– Homiletic Commentary: Chronicles, page 92**

- (a) Okay, so what? Goliath and sons were gigantic.
- (b) What is that to the God who created all things?
  - i) Did an extra toe on each foot and
  - ii) did an extra finger on each hand
    - (1) enable Goliath’s son to defeat Israel, or
    - (2) did Israel did him?
- (c) So then, does all the stuff of the enemies of the church
  - i) make them greater than us?
  - ii) Remember the message of the Book of Revelation.