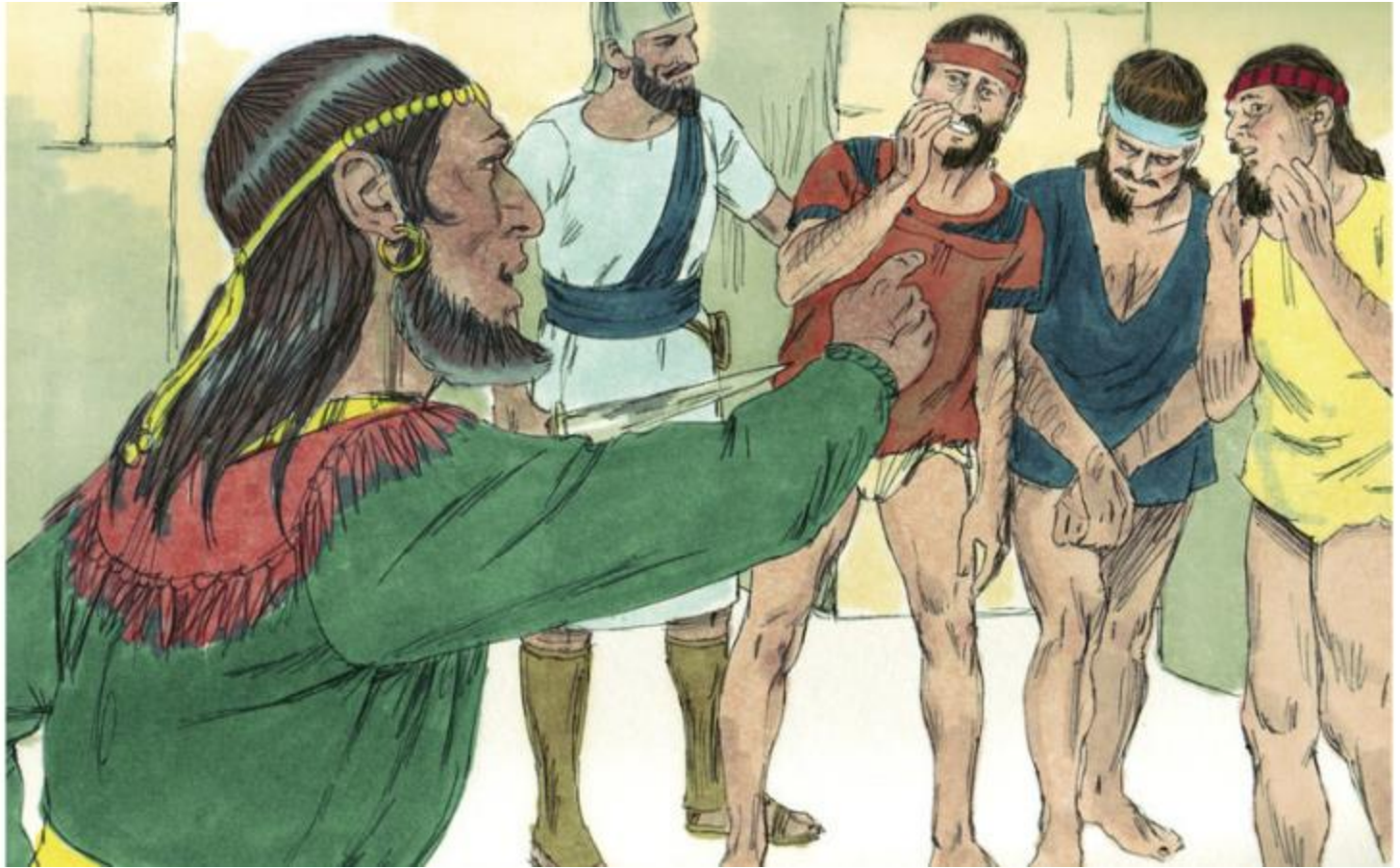


Unequal Yoke / Misunderstanding



Sunday April 23rd, 2023

Previous lesson

- David's search for anyone left of Saul or Jonathan's household.
- Mephibosheth is found and brought to David.
- David restores Saul's inheritance to Mephibosheth.
- Mephibosheth becomes as one of the King's sons.
- In this lesson David learns how being kind to his enemy is misunderstood.

- **2 Samuel 10:1-3 (NKJV)**

¹ It happened after this that the king of the people of Ammon died, and Hanun his son reigned in his place.

² Then David said, "I will show kindness to Hanun the son of Nahash, as his father showed kindness to me." So David sent by the hand of his servants to comfort him concerning his father. And David's servants came into the land of the people of Ammon.

³ And the princes of the people of Ammon said to Hanun their lord, "Do you think that David really honors your father because he has sent comforters to you? Has David not *rather* sent his servants to you to search the city, to spy it out, and to overthrow it?"

- **2 Samuel 10:4-7 (NKJV)**

⁴ Therefore Hanun took David's servants, shaved off half of their beards, cut off their garments in the middle, at their buttocks, and sent them away.

⁵ When they told David, 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."

⁶ When the people of Ammon saw that they had made themselves repulsive to David, the people of Ammon sent and hired the Syrians of Beth Rehob and the Syrians of Zoba, twenty thousand foot soldiers; and from the king of Maacah one thousand men, and from Ish-Tob twelve thousand men.

⁷ Now when David heard *of it*, he sent Joab and all the army of the mighty men.

- **2 Samuel 10:8-11 (NKJV)**

⁸ Then the people of Ammon came out and put themselves in battle array at the entrance of the gate. And the Syrians of Zoba, Beth Rehob, Ish-Tob, and Maacah *were* by themselves in the field.

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ And the rest of the people he put under the command of Abishai his brother, that he might set *them* in battle array against the people of Ammon.

¹¹ 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 come and help you.

- **2 Samuel 10:12-14 (NKJV)**

¹² 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."

¹³ So Joab and the people who *were* with him drew near for the battle against the Syrians, and they fled before him.

¹⁴ When the people of Ammon saw that the Syrians were fleeing, they also fled before Abishai, and entered the city. So Joab returned from the people of Ammon and went to Jerusalem.

¹⁵ When the Syrians saw that they had been defeated by Israel, they gathered together.

¹⁶ Then Hadadezer sent and brought out the Syrians who *were* beyond the River, and they came to Helam. And Shobach the commander of Hadadezer's army *went* before them.

- **2 Samuel 10:15-19 (NKJV)**

¹⁷ When it was told David, he gathered all Israel, crossed over the Jordan, and came to Helam. And the Syrians set themselves in battle array against David and fought with him.

¹⁸ Then the Syrians fled before Israel; and David killed seven hundred charioteers and forty thousand horsemen of the Syrians, and struck Shobach the commander of their army, who died there.

¹⁹ And when all the kings *who were* servants to Hadadezer saw that they were defeated by Israel, they made peace with Israel and served them. So the Syrians were afraid to help the people of Ammon anymore.

Who were Ammon or Ammonites?

- 2 Samuel 10 :1 It happened after this that the king of the people of Ammon died...
- **Genesis 19:36-38 (NKJV) Ammon's birth**
 - ³⁶ Thus both the daughters of Lot were with child by their father.
 - ³⁷ The firstborn bore a son and called his name Moab; he *is* the father of the Moabites to this day.
 - ³⁸ And the younger, she also bore a son and called his name Ben-Ammi; he *is* the father of the people of Ammon to this day.
- **Deuteronomy 2:19 (NKJV) Ammon's possession**
 - ¹⁹ And *when* you come near the people of Ammon, do not harass them or meddle with them, for I will not give you *any* of the land of the people of Ammon *as* a possession, because I have given it to the descendants of Lot *as* a possession.' "

- **Judges 10:6-7 (NKJV) Ammon used against Israel**
⁶ Then the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served the Baals and the Ashtoreths, the gods of Syria, the gods of Sidon, the gods of Moab, the gods of the people of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines; and they forsook the LORD and did not serve Him.
⁷ So the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel; and He sold them into the hands of the Philistines and into the hands of the people of Ammon.
- **1 Samuel 14:47 (NKJV) War with Ammon**
⁴⁷ So Saul established his sovereignty over Israel, and fought against all his enemies on every side, against Moab, against the people of Ammon, against Edom, against the kings of Zobah, and against the Philistines. Wherever he turned, he harassed *them*.

Kindness shown

- **2 Samuel 10:1-2 (NKJV)**

¹ It happened after this that the king of the people of Ammon died, and Hanun his son reigned in his place.

² Then David said, "I will show kindness to Hanun the son of Nahash, as his father showed kindness to me." So David sent by the hand of his servants to comfort him concerning his father.

- Apparently **Nahash, the king of** the Ammonites, had done David a favor at one time. This was the same Nahash whom Saul defeated early in his reign ([1 Sam. 11](#)). **Nahash** might have helped David when he was a fugitive, since Saul was their mutual enemy for a time. Now **David** desired to repay that loyalty, so he **sent messengers to Hanun the son of Nahash**, who was crowned king when his father **died**.

Believer's Bible Commentary

- Sometime during David's flight from Saul, Nahash befriended David probably because Saul hated David. Nahash's name means "serpent." He was a ruthless enemy of Israel. Earlier he and Saul clashed ([1 Samuel 11:1,2](#)). "Then Nahash the Ammonite came up and encamped against Jabesh Gilead; and all the men of Jabesh said to Nahash, "Make a covenant with us, and we will serve you." And Nahash the Ammonite answered them, "On this *condition* I will make a *covenant* with you, that I may put out all your right eyes, and bring reproach on all Israel."
- Saul delivers the men of Jabesh-Gilead. David's desperation in fleeing from Saul lead to a compromise. David's friendship with this enemy of Israel was a violation of the Word of God ([Deuteronomy 23:3-6](#)).

Deuteronomy 23:3-6

- ³ "An Ammonite or Moabite shall not enter the assembly of the LORD; even to the tenth generation none of his *descendants* shall enter the assembly of the LORD forever, ⁴ because they did not meet you with bread and water on the road when you came out of Egypt, and because they hired against you Balaam the son of Beor from Pethor of Mesopotamia, to curse you.
⁵ Nevertheless the LORD your God would not listen to Balaam, but the LORD your God turned the curse into a blessing for you, because the LORD your God loves you.
⁶ You shall not seek their peace nor their prosperity all your days forever.

- God's warnings in Scripture are for our benefit and to help us prevent tragic mistakes. We may not understand them, but they are there for a reason. David is about to find out the reason for [Deuteronomy 23:6](#) which says, "*Thou shalt not seek their peace nor their prosperity all thy days for ever.*"
- David will pay a price of violating this Biblical principle. We will too. God did not want His people yoked up with ungodly people. He is very concerned about the crowd we hang around with and follow ([2 Corinthians 6:14-18](#); [1 John 2:15](#); [Ephesians 5:11](#); [Proverbs 4:14,15](#)).
- Treasures From the Scriptures

- **2 Corinthians 6:14-18 (NKJV)**

¹⁴ Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?

¹⁵ And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?

¹⁶ And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: *"I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people."*

¹⁷ Therefore *"Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you."*

¹⁸ *"I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty."*

- **1 John 2:15-17 (NKJV)**

¹⁵ Do not love the world or the things in the world.
If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

¹⁶ For all that *is* in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--is not of the Father but is of the world.

¹⁷ And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

- **Ephesians 5:8-11 (NKJV)**

⁸ For you were once darkness, but now *you are* light in the Lord. Walk as children of light

⁹ (for the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness, righteousness, and truth),

¹⁰ finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.

¹¹ And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose *them*.

- **Proverbs 4:13-15 (NKJV)**

¹³ Take firm hold of instruction, do not let go; Keep her, for she *is* your life.

¹⁴ Do not enter the path of the wicked, And do not walk in the way of evil.

¹⁵ Avoid it, do not travel on it; Turn away from it and pass on.

- The Ammonites were a Godless nation.
- They believed David's kindness was an intent to spy on them and sought to humiliate David's men.
- They accuse him of an ulterior motive. Hanun's counselors did not believe or understand David's love and compassion for their king's family or his attempts to comfort.

Kindness rejected

- There are times when our acts of kindness or love may be rejected, or misinterpreted by others.
- We too may find ourselves abused by unbelievers. Our confidence about Salvation, Heaven, Hell and the Bible considered as prejudice against other religions, or other races. Our love for the justice of God, hatred for sin, and desire for holiness may be considered judgmental by the lost and result in hatred by them.
- [1 John 3:13](#)— "*Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.*"
- David's ambassadors offer words of comfort. Hanun responds with actions of cruelty. He shaves off half of their beards and cuts off their garments exposing their nakedness. Imagine the hurt and horror of these honorable men as they were experiencing the misery of misunderstanding.

Response to a misunderstanding

- **2 Samuel 10:6-19 (NKJV)**
- ⁶ When the people of Ammon saw that they had made themselves repulsive to David, the people of Ammon sent and hired the Syrians of Beth Rehob and the Syrians of Zoba, twenty thousand foot soldiers; and from the king of Maacah one thousand men, and from Ish-Tob twelve thousand men.
⁷ Now when David heard of it, he sent Joab and all the army of the mighty men.
- ¹⁴ When the people of Ammon saw that the Syrians were fleeing, they also fled before Abishai, and entered the city. So Joab returned from the people of Ammon and went to Jerusalem.
- ¹⁹ And when all the kings *who were* servants to Hadadezer saw that they were defeated by Israel, they made peace with Israel and served them. So the Syrians were afraid to help the people of Ammon anymore.

Proper Response

- Hanun could and should have went to David rather than the other enemies of David and sought to make right for the misunderstanding. War probably could have been avoided.
- What should the believers response be to mistreatment by others ?
- We are told in scripture not to take revenge in our own hands.
- **Matthew 5:38-40 (NKJV)**
 - ³⁸ "You have heard that it was said, '*An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.*'"
 - ³⁹ But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.
 - ⁴⁰ If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have *your* cloak also.

- **Romans 12:17-21 (NKJV)**

¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men.

¹⁸ If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

¹⁹ Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but *rather* give place to wrath; for it is written, "*Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,*" says the Lord.

²⁰ Therefore "*If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.*"

²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Friendship

- You shall not seek their peace nor their prosperity all your days forever.
- And *when* you come near the people of Ammon, do not harass them or meddle with them
- Then David said, "I will show kindness to Hanun the son of Nahash, as his father showed kindness to me."
- **Proverbs 22:24-25 (NKJV)**
 - ²⁴ Make no friendship with an angry man, And with a furious man do not go,
 - ²⁵ Lest you learn his ways And set a snare for your soul.
- **James 4:4 (NKJV)**
 - ⁴ Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

- God doesn't want those who have trusted him to be in a relationship or friendship with those who reject him and have nothing to do with him.
- God wants us to be lights for him to the lost but not join them in their activities that dishonor him.

- **Luke 16:13 (NKJV) An Unequal Yoke**

¹³ No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."

- **Matthew 11:28-30 (NKJV) Yoked with the Lord**

²⁸ Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

²⁹ Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

³⁰ For My yoke *is* easy and My burden is light."

- **1 Thessalonians 1:6-10 (NKJV) Good Examples**

⁶ And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit,

⁷ so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe.

⁸ For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything.

⁹ For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God,

¹⁰ and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, *even* Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.