

“SMALL BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH SERMONS”

1 Kings 1:7-8

Intro: Going to look at a completely different sermon type – limited use, but we need to know.

I. TRUTH FOUND IN PEOPLE

- A. The Bible is filled with people: It is useful to look at their lives – understand them
 - 1. *Their decisions/actions/words reveal things to us*
 - 2. **They reveal character:** What kind of people they were
 - 3. **They reveal potential paths for us:**
 - a. They were blessed/used by God: *What kinds of things allowed that to happen? Lessons for us*
 - b. They were not blessed/not used: *What stopped the blessing or the plans of God? Lessons for us*
- B. Finding information about a particular person in the Bible
 - 1. **Concordance:** Will list every place that name appears
 - a. Disadvantage: It does not specify if it's a different person with the same name (*time-consuming*)
 - 2. **Encyclopedia (ISBE):** Lists all known information of that name
 - a. Name meaning b. Background c. Scripture references
 - 1. Advantage: The information is sorted by different people of the same name
 - 3. **Bible Dictionaries:** Much of the same information as ISBE
 - a. *Smith's Bible Dictionary* b. *New Unger's Bible Dictionary* c. *NCV Bible Dictionary*
- C. We are looking at the prophet Nathan: 3 references/3 events in his life/ministry
 - 1. **The temple plans:** 2 Sam 7:1-17 or 1 Chron 17:1-15
 - 2. **Rebuking David's Sin:** 2 Sam 12:1-25
 - 3. **Kingdom Succession Plans:** 1 Kings 1:1-53
- D. The key is how to approach a character with limited information
 - 1. A major character – you could do an entire series on their life: David/Moses, etc.
 - 2. He has 3 references – and he is actually the minor player in the stories
 - a. *It may be hard(er) to preach about him textually – to make the whole text be about him*

II. FINDING REVELATION

- A. The key to revelation is asking questions
 - 1. **2 Sam 7:** What was going on? (context) What was his part in it? How does that relate to me/us?
 - a. David's temple plans – wanting Nathan's OK b. 2 parts: Good idea – then not a good idea
 - 1. What to ignore: Lessons of being a prophet 2. David's promise/seed of David, etc.
 - b. Imagine it: Probably a public agreement – then you come back a few minutes later; Actually, no!
 - 1. *Logic/emotion/preference – he speaks quickly; What a great idea!*
 - 2. *But then God spoke: NO!!*
 - 2. **Nathan was able to humble himself and admit a mistake:** Willing to go back on foolish words
 - a. *He had a reverse gear!*
- B. **2 Sam 12: Rebuking David** Ignore the part of being a prophet – relate his actions to us/today
 - 1. Courage to speak up in the face of danger/possible negative consequences
- C. **Kingdom Succession Plans: 1 Kings 1:**
 - 1. He hears of looming trouble: What would normally happen? Kill the other brothers – civil war
 - a. Key question: When did he do right/speak to David? Before Adonijah takes the kingdom!
 - 2. Key thought: Acting wisely to prevent trouble

III. BUILDING THE SERMON

- A. Building and organizing a sermon like this
 - 1. There are 3 instances – very easy to make the 3 events be the three points
 - a. Begin with a thesis statement – big idea: *What makes someone useful & effective for God?*
 - 2. Each point should probably have 2 sections
 - a. Why would this be an important characteristic: The negative tendencies – examples/scripts
 - b. Presenting the good example of Nathan that is the opposite of that
 - 1. Scriptures that show why – blessing of doing this
- B. Ending
 - 1. **1 Kings 1:8^s** *But Zadok the priest, Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, Nathan the prophet, Shimei, Rei, and the mighty men who belonged to David were not with Adonijah.*
 - a. Adonijah knew Nathan wouldn't join rebellion: What would you be known for? Let it be good!