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**Taking Care of Business**  
**Series: Divided Heart, Divided Nation**  
**The Village Church at Shell Point**  
**Evening Service**  
**August 18, 2024**

I. **The Fulcrum of 1 Kings 2**

- A. Text: **1 King 2.1-9** – fulcrum around which the first two chapters revolves
1. 1 Kings 2:1–4 (ESV) —
    - a. 1 When David’s time to die drew near, he commanded Solomon his son, saying,
    - b. 2 “I am about to go the way of all the earth. Be strong, and show yourself a man,
    - c. 3 and keep the charge of the LORD your God, walking in his ways and keeping his statutes, his commandments, his rules, and his testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn,
    - d. 4 that the LORD may establish his word that he spoke concerning me, saying, ‘If your sons pay close attention to their way, to walk before me in faithfulness with all their heart and with all their soul, you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.’
  2. Charge of David to Solomon
    - a. During the time of coregency (days, months, a year or two)
    - b. Typical in transitions during times of peace
  3. Reminiscent of Moses’ charge to Joshua
    - a. **Joshua 1:6–9** (ESV) —
      - (1) 6 Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them.
      - (2) 7 Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you.
      - (3) Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go.
      - (4) 8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it.
      - (5) For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.
      - (6) 9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”
  4. Foundations of the charge

- a. **Law of Moses**
- (1) **1 Kings 2:3** (ESV) — 3 and keep the charge of the LORD your God, walking in his ways and keeping his statutes, his commandments, his rules, and his testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn...
- b. **Deuteronomic influence**
- (1) Deuteronomy – second giving of the law
  - (2) Preparation for entering Promised Land
  - (3) Conditions were attached to the Abrahamic promise
  - (4) Continued presence in the land was conditional upon fulfillment of the covenant stipulations, laws
  - (5) Success was contingent in following the law of Moses
  - (6) Failure was the cause of exile, first of Israel, then of Judah
- c. **Davidic covenant** – v 4
- (1) **1 Kings 2:4** (ESV) — 4 that the LORD may establish his word that he spoke concerning me, saying, ‘If your sons pay close attention to their way, to walk before me in faithfulness with all their heart and with all their soul, you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.’
  - (2) **2 Samuel 7:8–17** (ESV) — 8 Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. 9 And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. 10 And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, 11 from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. 12 When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. 14 I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, 15 but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. 16 And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.’ ” 17 In

accordance with all these words, and in accordance with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.

- (3) God denies David the opportunity to build a temple
- (4) God promises that the temple will be built by his son, successor (Solomon)
- (5) God also promises that there would always be one in the line of David who would be king

d. David's explanation of the covenant to Solomon

- (1) **1 Chronicles 22:6–13** (ESV) — 6 Then he called for Solomon his son and charged him to build a house for the LORD, the God of Israel. 7 David said to Solomon, “My son, I had it in my heart to build a house to the name of the LORD my God. 8 But the word of the LORD came to me, saying, ‘You have shed much blood and have waged great wars. You shall not build a house to my name, because you have shed so much blood before me on the earth. 9 Behold, a son shall be born to you who shall be a man of rest. I will give him rest from all his surrounding enemies. For his name shall be Solomon, and I will give peace and quiet to Israel in his days. 10 He shall build a house for my name. He shall be my son, and I will be his father, and I will establish his royal throne in Israel forever.’ 11 “Now, my son, the LORD be with you, so that you may succeed in building the house of the LORD your God, as he has spoken concerning you. 12 Only, may the LORD grant you discretion and understanding, that when he gives you charge over Israel you may keep the law of the LORD your God. 13 Then you will prosper if you are careful to observe the statutes and the rules that the LORD commanded Moses for Israel. Be strong and courageous. Fear not; do not be dismayed.

e. Conditions of the Davidic covenant

- (1) Keeping the law of Moses

f. David puts both the Mosaic covenant and Davidic covenant together as one in his charge to Solomon

g. **1 Kings 2:3–4** (ESV) —

- (1) 3 and keep the charge of the LORD your God, walking in his ways and keeping his statutes, his commandments, his rules, and his testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn,
- (2) 4 that the LORD may establish his word that he spoke concerning me, saying, ‘If your sons pay close attention to their way, to walk before me in faithfulness with all their

heart and with all their soul, you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.’

B. **1 Kings 2:5–9** (ESV) —

1. 5 “Moreover, you also know what Joab the son of Zeruiah did to me, how he dealt with the two commanders of the armies of Israel, Abner the son of Ner, and Amasa the son of Jether, whom he killed, avenging in time of peace for blood that had been shed in war, and putting the blood of war on the belt around his waist and on the sandals on his feet.
2. 6 Act therefore according to your wisdom, but do not let his gray head go down to Sheol in peace.
3. 7 But deal loyally with the sons of Barzillai the Gileadite, and let them be among those who eat at your table, for with such loyalty they met me when I fled from Absalom your brother.
4. 8 And there is also with you Shimei the son of Gera, the Benjaminite from Bahurim, who cursed me with a grievous curse on the day when I went to Mahanaim. But when he came down to meet me at the Jordan, I swore to him by the LORD, saying, ‘I will not put you to death with the sword.’
5. 9 Now therefore do not hold him guiltless, for you are a wise man. You will know what you ought to do to him, and you shall bring his gray head down with blood to Sheol.”
6. Instructions to Solomon concerning people
  - a. Joab
  - b. Barzillai (sons)
  - c. Shimei
7. Others in Chapter 2 the Solomon deals with not on this list
  - a. Still fit within the general charge to take care of matters that result in the establishment of the Davidic kingdom under Solomon
  - b. Adonijah
  - c. Abiathar

C. The entire section amounts to a charge from David to Solomon to take care of business

1. TCB Express bulletin board
  - a. TCBY?
  - b. The Country’s Best Yogurt
2. Brainchild of Rachel – Israeli doctoral student
  - a. TCB = Taking Care of Business
3. Things go much more smoothly when we take care of business

II. **Unfinished Business**

A. Ironic

1. 1 Kings 1 – David hasn’t taken care of business
2. David – old, ill, cold
  - a. Abishag appointed nurse, human hot-water-bottle
    - (1) Selected by winning the Miss Israel contest

- (2) Included in his household with status as concubine
- 3. David, while he had prepared Solomon in his growing years with the tools of great leadership, hasn't gone to the trouble of establishing him as heir to the throne, at least as far as servants and public are concerned
- 4. Oldest living son – Adonijah – seeks to assume the throne
  - a. Basis of his claim is primogeniture – oldest and closest relative would assume the throne of departing monarch
  - b. Very common practice in ancient world
- 5. Adonijah was premature – might have had a better chance had he waited until David died
  - a. Perhaps he wanted to assert his position before David had a chance to act decisively in favor of someone else
- 6. Adonijah consolidates his position by gaining support
  - a. Joab – commander of the army
  - b. Abiathar – priest
  - c. Others, including many of David's relatives
- 7. Word gets back to Nathan about Adonijah's actions
  - a. Nathan and Bathsheba plan to apprise David of the developments
  - b. Remind David of promises made to Solomon
- 8. David finds that he himself has unfinished business to take care of
  - a. Before he charges Solomon to take care of business, he has to muster up the energy at the end of his life to take care of what he should have taken care of long ago
- B. Do you have any unfinished business to take care of?
  - 1. Common in our generation
    - a. Sit back and retire
    - b. Usually accumulated all kinds of stuff
    - c. Eventually, the patriarch and matriarch passes on
    - d. Children end up having to sort through things that should have been taken care of years earlier
  - 2. Dad's home when he passed in 1999
    - a. K-rations from WWII
      - (1) Presumably still edible
- C. Don't have to be old to suffer from this problem
  - 1. Most of us have unfinished business to take care of
  - 2. What is it for you?
    - a. Children
    - b. Material possessions
    - c. Relationships
      - (1) Forgiveness granted
      - (2) Confessions made
- D. David had to take care of unfinished business before he charged Solomon
- E. The rest of Chapter 2 shows Solomon responding to this charge in taking care of business
  - 1. Deals with several personalities

2. Each of those personalities represents a dimension of the Kingdom that falls under Solomon's responsibility
3. Each one has application to our own little domains of responsibility
4. If we take care of business in our domains, we will need to address these same areas

### III. Adonijah: Removing Illegitimate Authority

- A. Not mentioned in David's charge
  1. David probably thought that issue was resolved
  2. Once Adonijah realized what David did in establishing Solomon as heir to the throne, he very quickly abdicated his own position, fearing for his life
- B. Adonijah flees to the altar, grasps the horns of the altar as place of refuge established in the law of Moses for any who have committed involuntary manslaughter
  1. Hopes the same sanctuary might be granted him
- C. Solomon grants him such refuge
  1. Stipulates a condition
    - a. Must be a worthy man, not wicked
    - b. He will be protected by Solomon
  2. Sends him to his house
    - a. Way of declaring peace between the two
- D. After David dies, different story
  1. Adonijah requests, through Bathsheba, Abishag as wife
  2. Surface – understandable
    - a. Abishag was Miss Israel
  3. Adonijah's request indicates continuing thoughts of the kingdom that was almost his
    - a. Perhaps he hasn't given up the thought of having it
  4. Presents his request for Abishag as a kind of consolation prize
- E. Bathsheba presents request to Solomon
  1. Solomon's wisdom begins to be exercised
  2. Sees through his scheme
- F. King's harem was seen to pass on to successor
  1. Nathan speaking for God to David:
    - a. **2 Samuel 12:8** (ESV) —
      - (1) 8 And I gave you your master's house and your master's wives into your arms and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah. And if this were too little, I would add to you as much more.
    - b. Saul's harem was given to his successor
  2. Absalom took David's concubines when he approached Jerusalem
    - a. Way of establishing his claim to the throne
    - b. **2 Samuel 16:20–22** (ESV) —
      - (1) 20 Then Absalom said to Ahithophel, "Give your counsel. What shall we do?"

- (2) 21 Ahithophel said to Absalom, “Go in to your father’s concubines, whom he has left to keep the house, and all Israel will hear that you have made yourself a stench to your father, and the hands of all who are with you will be strengthened.”
        - (3) 22 So they pitched a tent for Absalom on the roof. And Absalom went in to his father’s concubines in the sight of all Israel.
      - 3. Curious example
        - a. **Ishbosheth**
          - (1) Following Saul’s death, Saul’s commander, Abner, made Ishbosheth king over Israel
        - b. Abner took one of Saul’s concubines to himself
          - (1) Evoked an angry response by Ishbosheth
        - c. Response makes sense if Ishbosheth believed the concubines would pass to the successor
      - 4. Others examples of this practice – Persia
- G. Once the request was made, Solomon saw through it
  - 1. **1 Kings 2:22** (ESV) —
    - a. 22 King Solomon answered his mother, “And why do you ask Abishag the Shunammite for Adonijah?
    - b. Ask for him the kingdom also, for he is my older brother, and on his side are Abiathar the priest and Joab the son of Zeruiah.”
- H. Solomon wisely did away with Adonijah
  - 1. **Illegitimate authority**
- I. What about you? Other illegitimate authorities competing for your allegiance that you haven’t taken care of?
  - 1. Is the Lordship of Christ supreme in your thinking?
  - 2. Does His kingship supercede all others?
  - 3. Are you subject to His word above all the other voices in our culture that compete for our allegiance
- J. Solomon acted to remove illegitimate authority
  - 1. Will you?
- IV. **Abiathar: Removing Compromised Worship**
- A. Again, not mentioned in David’s charge
    - 1. But again, Solomon, being wise, knows he must do something
  - B. **1 Kings 2:26–27** (ESV) —
    - 1. 26 And to Abiathar the priest the king said, “Go to Anathoth, to your estate, for you deserve death.
    - 2. But I will not at this time put you to death, because you carried the ark of the Lord GOD before David my father, and because you shared in all my father’s affliction.”

3. 27 So Solomon expelled Abiathar from being priest to the LORD, thus fulfilling the word of the LORD that he had spoken concerning the house of Eli in Shiloh.
- C. Abiathar was loyal to Adonijah
    1. Already demonstrates a compromised priesthood
  - D. Nevertheless, Solomon recognizes the office, at least, that Abiathar held
    1. Also, his loyalty to David
  - E. Doesn't want to kill Abiathar
    1. Still sends Abiathar packing
  - F. Not without reason
    1. Abiathar was a descendant of Eli
    2. Eli's sons were notoriously corrupt priests
    3. Fulfilled God's word to Eli
    4. **1 Samuel 2:30–33** (ESV) —
      - a. 30 Therefore the LORD, the God of Israel, declares: 'I promised that your house and the house of your father should go in and out before me forever,' but now the LORD declares: 'Far be it from me, for those who honor me I will honor, and those who despise me shall be lightly esteemed.
      - b. 31 Behold, the days are coming when I will cut off your strength and the strength of your father's house, so that there will not be an old man in your house.
      - c. 32 Then in distress you will look with envious eye on all the prosperity that shall be bestowed on Israel, and there shall not be an old man in your house forever.
      - d. 33 The only one of you whom I shall not cut off from my altar shall be spared to weep his eyes out to grieve his heart, and all the descendants of your house shall die by the sword of men.
    5. Eli was a man who didn't take care of business either
      - a. Allowed sons to run roughshod over priesthood with discipline
      - b. Two chief culprits died on the same day as a result
    6. While Eli still had some children to continue in the priesthood, that wouldn't last forever
    7. Solomon ended Eli's line with the dismissal of Abiathar
  - G. Solomon took care of compromised worship
    1. The exaltation of anything over Christ – idolatry
      - a. Not that Abiathar was engaged in pure idolatry
      - b. But was certainly compromised in his support of Adonijah
      - c. Made him oppose God's disposition of the kingship
    2. Solomon recognized that he couldn't have a godly kingdom with a compromised priesthood
    3. He acted to remove compromised worship
  - H. How about you?
    1. Are there any areas of compromised worship that need to be set aside?
    2. What idols tend to take the place of your worship of God?



- I. Solomon took care of business regarding compromised worship
  - 1. Have you?

V. **Joab: Rejecting Worldly Means**

- A. Joab is mentioned by David in his charge to Solomon
  - 1. Basis of David's direction was Joab's murder of Abner and Amasa during a period in which David was at peace with them
- B. **1 Kings 2:28–34** (ESV) —
  - 1. 28 When the news came to Joab—for Joab had supported Adonijah although he had not supported Absalom—Joab fled to the tent of the LORD and caught hold of the horns of the altar.
  - 2. 29 And when it was told King Solomon, “Joab has fled to the tent of the LORD, and behold, he is beside the altar,” Solomon sent Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, saying, “Go, strike him down.”
  - 3. 30 So Benaiah came to the tent of the LORD and said to him, “The king commands, ‘Come out.’ ” But he said, “No, I will die here.” Then Benaiah brought the king word again, saying, “Thus said Joab, and thus he answered me.”
  - 4. 31 The king replied to him, “Do as he has said, strike him down and bury him, and thus take away from me and from my father's house the guilt for the blood that Joab shed without cause.
  - 5. 32 The LORD will bring back his bloody deeds on his own head, because, without the knowledge of my father David, he attacked and killed with the sword two men more righteous and better than himself, Abner the son of Ner, commander of the army of Israel, and Amasa the son of Jether, commander of the army of Judah.
  - 6. 33 So shall their blood come back on the head of Joab and on the head of his descendants forever. But for David and for his descendants and for his house and for his throne there shall be peace from the LORD forevermore.”
  - 7. 34 Then Benaiah the son of Jehoiada went up and struck him down and put him to death. And he was buried in his own house in the wilderness.
- C. Wonder why David didn't do something with Joab in the first place
  - 1. Probably because of Joab's unflinching loyalty to David
  - 2. Joab often had glimpses of spiritual insight as well
    - a. When he opposed the census David was intent on taking
    - b. Got David in trouble
- D. But Joab also took matters into his own hands, acted outside of David's (and God's) authority
  - 1. As a result, he represents the application of worldly wisdom and worldly means to issues which need to have God's direction
  - 2. There is a way that seems right to a man, but the end thereof is the way of death (Proverbs)
  - 3. Joab flew by the seat of his own pants as much as by the dictates of God's word

- E. In any event, with Adonijah killed and Abiathar deposed, he knew the jig was up
  - 1. He went to the horns of the altar for refuge just like Adonijah
  - 2. Unfortunately, the altar is only a refuge for involuntary manslaughter, not murder
  - 3. Eventually Solomon had him killed right there
- F. Solomon took care of business by expunging worldly wisdom from his kingdom
  - 1. Solomon was known for his wisdom
    - a. Especially the early Solomon
  - 2. Knew something of what Paul would write
    - a. **1 Corinthians 1:18–25** (ESV) —
      - (1) 18 For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.
      - (2) 19 For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”
      - (3) 20 Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?
      - (4) 21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe.
      - (5) 22 For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom,
      - (6) 23 but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles,
      - (7) 24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.
      - (8) 25 For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.
- G. Have you expunged worldly wisdom from your domain?
  - 1. Does the world’s thinking influence decisions you make for your life and family?
  - 2. Hard to image the world not being a major influence
  - 3. Especially in America
    - a. Certainly worldly thinking influences the church
    - b. Churches are grown more like Burger Kings are built than like the church was planted in the New Testament

VI. **Shimei: Removing Remaining Corruption**

- A. **1 Kings 2:36–46** (ESV) —
  - 1. 36 Then the king sent and summoned Shimei and said to him, “Build yourself a house in Jerusalem and dwell there, and do not go out from there to any place whatever.
  - 2. 37 For on the day you go out and cross the brook Kidron, know for certain that you shall die. Your blood shall be on your own head.”

3. 38 And Shimei said to the king, “What you say is good; as my lord the king has said, so will your servant do.” So Shimei lived in Jerusalem many days.
  4. 39 But it happened at the end of three years that two of Shimei’s servants ran away to Achish, son of Maacah, king of Gath. And when it was told Shimei, “Behold, your servants are in Gath,”
  5. 40 Shimei arose and saddled a donkey and went to Gath to Achish to seek his servants. Shimei went and brought his servants from Gath.
  6. 41 And when Solomon was told that Shimei had gone from Jerusalem to Gath and returned,
  7. 42 the king sent and summoned Shimei and said to him, “Did I not make you swear by the LORD and solemnly warn you, saying, ‘Know for certain that on the day you go out and go to any place whatever, you shall die’? And you said to me, ‘What you say is good; I will obey.’”
  8. 43 Why then have you not kept your oath to the LORD and the commandment with which I commanded you?”
  9. 44 The king also said to Shimei, “You know in your own heart all the harm that you did to David my father. So the LORD will bring back your harm on your own head.
  10. 45 But King Solomon shall be blessed, and the throne of David shall be established before the LORD forever.”
  11. 46 Then the king commanded Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and he went out and struck him down, and he died. So the kingdom was established in the hand of Solomon.
- B. Shimei, from Benjamin, had cursed David while on the run from Absalom
1. David had pardoned him
- C. When tide turned and David was on the ascendancy, Shimei asked David not to consider him guilty
1. Even though he deserved to die, David didn’t kill him
    - a. Indicated that no one should be executed on that day when victory had been declared
- D. Nevertheless, Shimei was, and continued to be, a really bad guy
- E. Still present in Solomon’s kingdom
1. Still nasty as ever
  2. Solomon sought to neutralize his influences
  3. Consigned him to house in Jerusalem so he could not associate with other scoundrels in Benjamin and cause trouble
- F. David had indicated that Solomon should send him to the grave in blood, but that Solomon would use his wisdom to decide how to do it
- G. Solomon did use his wisdom
1. Allowed Shimei to show his true colors and bring upon himself the reason for his execution
  2. When his servants fled to Benjamin, without asking for Solomon’s permission or assistance, Shimei went after him, violating his restrictions
  3. That was the end of Shimei

- H. Solomon acted to eliminate continuing corruption from the kingdom
    - 1. Are you acting to eliminate continuing corruption from your own life?
  - I. **Romans 6:12–14** (ESV) —
    - 1. 12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions.
    - 2. 13 Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.
    - 3. 14 For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.
  - J. We are all constantly repenting sinners
    - 1. Always looking to root our continuing corruption
    - 2. Never stop mortifying the flesh, putting to death the deeds of the sinful nature
    - 3. Just as Solomon rooted out continuing corruption from the kingdom
- VII. **Barzillai: Remembering Kindness**
- A. **1 Kings 2:7** (ESV) —
    - 1. 7 But deal loyally with the sons of Barzillai the Gileadite, and let them be among those who eat at your table, for with such loyalty they met me when I fled from Absalom your brother.
  - B. Up til now, Solomon was acting in judgment and discipline
    - 1. But taking care of business means more than acting in discipline and judgment
    - 2. There are positive dimensions of TCB
  - C. David wanted to Solomon to remember the kindnesses Barzillai had done for him when he was running from Absalom
    - 1. Solomon was to act kindly to his sons
    - 2. Presumably, he did just that
  - D. TCB means acting with love, mercy and kindness to others
    - 1. If we don't, we're not taking care of business
  - E. God speaks through Micah to give us a proper balanced account of what taking care of business means for us
    - 1. **Micah 6:8** (ESV) —
      - a. 8 He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?
  - F. Certainly Solomon was doing justice
    - 1. But presumably he also loved kindness and acted accordingly with respect to the sons of Barzillai
  - G. Are there kindnesses that you know of that need to be cared for as you take care of business?
    - 1. Perhaps now is the time to do something about them
    - 2. I can think of quite a number of those that I need to care for

VIII. Summary

- A. David and Solomon took care of business
  - 1. Unfinished
  - 2. Removed
    - a. Illegitimate authority
    - b. Compromised worship
    - c. Worldly wisdom and means
    - d. Continuing corruption
  - 3. Engaged in acts of kindness
- B. Will you do the same in your domain?