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## SERMON OUTLINE

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### Dealing with Conflict 2 Samuel 2

- I. Grace based humility – David follows God’s direction in becoming king (2 Samuel 2:1-7).
  - A. Asking God for wisdom – David inquired of God who told him to go to Hebron (2:1-3).
    - **Realize facing some conflict is necessary.**
  - B. Leadership confirmed by men – The men of Judah anointed David as king (2:4a).
    - **Seek consensus in choosing leadership.**
  - C. Reaching out to potential rivals – David affirmed the bravery of the men of Jabesh Gilead (2:4b-7).
    - **Show grace (and wisdom) by affirming those most affected by potential conflict.**
  
- II. Pride based hostility – Abner and Joab create bitter conflict about who will be king (2 Samuel 2: 8-32).
  - A. Power play – Abner unilaterally appoints Saul’s son Ishbosheth as king (2:8-11).
    - **Beware of those who make bold moves to control.**
  - B. Dueling to the death – Abner and Joab’s men duel to the death (2:12-16).
    - **Bitterness leads to mutual destruction.**
  - C. Declaring war – Joab’s men defeat Abner’s, but Abner kills Joab’s brother (2:17-23).
    - **Bitterness is always personal.**
  - D. Declaring a bitter truce – The sides agree to stop killing, but bitterness lingers (2:24-32).
    - **Pursue resolution, not truces, which only temporarily hide roots of bitterness (Hebrews 12:14-15; James 3:14-18).**
    - **Forgive even when resolution is not possible (Ephesians 4:31-32).**