February 3, 2019
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
The CROWN : Episode 3
HOLD ON LOOSELY
Pastor Adam Stadtmiller

2 Samuel 3:1 and 6-11

The war between the house of Saul and the house of David lasted a long time. David grew stronger and stronger, while the house of Saul grew weaker and weaker.—[6] During the war between the house of Saul and the house of David, Abner had been strengthening his own position in the house of Saul. [7] Now Saul had had a concubine named Rizpah daughter of Aiah. And Ish-Bosheth said to Abner, "Why did you sleep with my father's concubine?" [8] Abner was very angry because of what Ish-Bosheth said. So he answered, "Am I a dog's head—on Judah's side? This very day I am loyal to the house of your father Saul and to his family and friends. I haven't **handed you over to David**. Yet now you accuse me of an offense involving this woman! [9] May God deal with Abner, be it ever so severely, if I do not do for David what the LORD promised him on oath[1] [10] and **transfer the kingdom** from the house of Saul and establish David's throne over Israel and Judah from Dan to Beersheba." [11] Ish-Bosheth did not dare to say another word to Abner, **because he was afraid of him**.

Lessons From The Crown

1. Never chase your destiny.
2. Seek the right thing.
3. Hold on loosely—Surrender

"Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a difficult battle
you know nothing about." - *Plato*

[1] **2 Samuel 7:13** He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

If you are going to walk with God, than you will have to fight an internal civil war where the only path to ultimate victory is total surrender.

- God is in the business of establishing kingdoms to surrendered hearts.
    - **Psalm 31:15-16** *My life is in your hands. Save me from my enemies and from those who are chasing me.* [16] *Show your kindness to me, your servant. Save me because of your love*.

Saul ruled a kingdom engrossed in fear of loss.

- "The most dangerous creation of any society is the man that has nothing to lose."

  - James Baldwin
- When you live in fear you negotiate with life from a position of weakness.

Food for the journey: Use these questions and challenges to go deeper in personal reflection or in one of our community groups.

1. What are you afraid of losing? How much of that fear do you allow to navigate your life?
2. Pastor Adam mentioned that if we are to walk with God, than we would have to fight an internal civil war. What do you think he meant by that?
3. How do we passively let God establish his purposes in our lives without be complacent?
4. Psalm 31:15-16 says that God saves you because of his love. Are you in touch with the love of God at a level that births trust in times of difficulty?
5. How would your life be different if you gave up striving to build your own kingdom?