

2 Samuel
Part #10 –
King David vs. Absalom

Civil War



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Introduction

The battle to win the hearts of all Israel resulted in a civil war between the camp of King David and the camp of Israel behind his son, Absalom. Experience meets naïveté!

Introduction – Cont'd

Key Scriptures

And David numbered the people that were with him, and set captains of thousands and captains of hundreds over them. – 2 Samuel 18:1

And David sent forth a third part of the people under the hand of Joab, and a third part under the hand of Abishai the son of Zeruiah, Joab's brother, and a third part under the hand of Ittai the Gittite. And the king said unto the people, I will surely go forth with you myself also.. – 2 Samuel 18:2

Then said the king to Ittai the Gittite, Wherefore goest thou also with us? return to thy place, and abide with the king: for thou art a stranger, and also an exile. Whereas thou camest but yesterday, should I this day make thee go up and down with us? seeing I go whither I may, return thou, and take back thy brethren: mercy and truth be with thee. – 2 Samuel 15:19,20

Introduction – Cont'd

Key Scriptures

And the king commanded Joab and Abishai and Ittai, saying, Deal gently for my sake with the young man, even with Absalom. And all the people heard when the king gave all the captains charge concerning Absalom. – 2 Samuel 18:5

And Absalom met the servants of David. And Absalom rode upon a mule, and the mule went under the thick boughs of a great oak, and his head caught hold of the oak, and he was taken up between the heaven and the earth; and the mule that was under him went away. – 2 Samuel 18:9

Then said Joab, I may not tarry thus with thee. And he took three darts in his hand, and thrust them through the heart of Absalom, while he was yet alive in the midst of the oak. – 2 Samuel 18:14

Introduction – Cont'd

Key Scriptures

Then said Ahimaaz the son of Zadok, Let me now run, and bear the king tidings, how that the LORD hath avenged him of his enemies. And Joab said unto him, Thou shalt not bear tidings this day, but thou shalt bear tidings another day: but this day thou shalt bear no tidings, because the king's son is dead— 2 Samuel 18:19,20

And the king said unto Cushie, Is the young man Absalom safe? And Cushie answered, The enemies of my lord the king, and all that rise against thee to do thee hurt, be as that young man is. – 2 Samuel 18:32

And the king was much moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept: and as he went, thus he said, O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! would God I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son! – 2 Samuel 18:33

Introduction – Cont'd

Key Scriptures

And Joab came into the house to the king, and said, Thou hast shamed this day the faces of all thy servants, which this day have saved thy life, and the lives of thy sons and of thy daughters, and the lives of thy wives, and the lives of thy concubines; – 2 Samuel 19:5

And all the people were at strife throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, The king saved us out of the hand of our enemies, and he delivered us out of the hand of the Philistines; and now he is fled out of the land for Absalom. – 2 Samuel 19:9

And king David sent to Zadok and to Abiathar the priests, saying, Speak unto the elders of Judah, saying, Why are ye the last to bring the king back to his house? seeing the speech of all Israel is come to the king, even to his house. – 2 Samuel 19:11

Keys

Keywords

- Joab
- Abishai
- Ittai the Gittite
- Absalom
- Ahimaaz
- Cushie
- King David
- The Elders
- The watchman
- Amasa
- Stealthily departed
- Covered face
- Children of Israel
- Shimei
- Barzillai & Chimham

In this lesson

House of David precipitates a civil war in Israel

- Master Plan
- Mixed Emotions
- Mixed Signals
- Missed Opportunity
- Misplaced and misspoken words
- Merit and measures

Master Plan

And David sent forth a third part of the people under the hand of Joab, and a third part under the hand of Abishai the son of Zeruiah, Joab's brother, and a third part under the hand of Ittai the Gittite. And the king said unto the people, I will surely go forth with you myself also.. – 2 Samuel 18:2

David divides the host of men

- Captains of Thousands and hundreds.
- Division of the army into three groups under three leaders – Joab, Abishai & Ittai the Gittite
- King David to remain in the camp

Mixed Emotions

And the king commanded Joab and Abishai and Ittai, saying, Deal gently for my sake with the young man, even with Absalom. And all the people heard when the king gave all the captains charge concerning Absalom. – 2 Samuel 18:5

Mixed Emotions

- The betrayal of our emotions
- Sends a mixed messages across the ranks
- Dissipates strength and duplicates responsibilities
- Takes away the will to win or triumph
- Can dissipate precious resources and time
- Affects the chain of command

Mixed Signals

And the man said unto Joab, Though I should receive a thousand shekels of silver in mine hand, yet would I not put forth mine hand against the king's son: for in our hearing the king charged thee and Abishai and Ittai, saying, Beware that none touch the young man Absalom. – 2 Samuel 18:12

Confusion at the decisive place for victory

- Vacillating in adversary's presence
- Could be interpreted as a sign of weakness
- Others don't who is in charge
- Can turn friends into enemies
- Can betray trust
- Can precipitate the loss of life – 2 Samuel 19:13; 20:9-10

Missed Opportunity

And it was told Joab, Behold, the king weepeth and mourneth for Absalom. – 2 Samuel 19:1

Misplaced priorities and missed opportunity

- Requires swift judgment to correct
- Precipitates embarrassment
- Leaves others speculating
- Leaves others in doubt
- Dissipates energy

Misplaced and Misspoken words

And thus said Shimei when he cursed, Come out, come out, thou bloody man, and thou man of Belial: – 2 Samuel 16:7

Shimei believed he was speaking on God's behalf

- Caution! – Your freedom is not a license to speak unadvisedly
- Speaking against the King
- Kingly judgments - Shimei

Merit and measures

And it came to pass, that when David was come to the top of the mount, where he worshipped God, behold, Hushai the Archite came to meet him with his coat rent, and earth upon his head: Unto whom David said, If thou passest on with me, then thou shalt be a burden unto me: – 2 Samuel 15:32-33

Enlargements, Expansions, Mark downs

- Mephibosheth
- Barzillai
- Chimham
- Shimei
- Sheba

Summary

The judgment of King David's house continues



Next Week

War with the Philistines