

Did You Know As An Outward Sign Of Mourning People Tore Their Clothes?

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II Samuel 1:1-12

1 After the death of Saul, David returned from striking down the Amalekites and stayed in Ziklag two days. **2** On the third day a man arrived from Saul's camp with his clothes torn and dust on his head. When he came to David, he fell to the ground to pay him honor. **3** "Where have you come from?" David asked him. He answered, "I have escaped from the Israelite camp." **4** "What happened?" David asked. "Tell me." "The men fled from the battle," he replied. "Many of them fell and died. And Saul and his son Jonathan are dead." **5** Then David said to the young man who brought him the report, "How do you know that Saul and his son Jonathan are dead?" **6** "I happened to be on Mount Gilboa," the young man said, "and there was Saul, leaning on his spear, with the chariots and their drivers in hot pursuit. **7** When he turned around and saw me, he called out to me, and I said, 'What can I do?' **8** "He asked me, 'Who are you?' " "An Amalekite," I answered. **9** "Then he said to me, 'Stand here by me and kill me! I'm in the throes of death, but I'm still alive.' **10** "So I stood beside him and killed him, because I knew that after he had fallen he could not survive. And I took the crown that was on his head and the band on his arm and have brought them here to my lord." **11** Then David and all the men with him took hold of their clothes and tore them. **12** They mourned and wept and fasted till evening for Saul and his son Jonathan, and for the army of the LORD and for the nation of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword.

In II Samuel 1 as we read, we can see that David was mourning the loss of Saul and his son Jonathan. David was in mourning because he had a great respect for Saul and Jonathan was David's best friend. He had a real relationship with both of these men. David was so hurt

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from what he had learned about Saul and Jonathan that he and all the men that was with him with tore their clothes. If you tore your clothes during that time it was a sign that you were in mourning. David was showing genuine sorrow for the loss of Saul and Jonathan because of the respect and honor he had for both of them. David was not afraid to grieve and show his love for Saul and Jonathan. He showed that he cared for them tremendously. And as we read, we see he also wept and fasted till evening. His actions really showed they were near and dear to David's heart.

How many of us have taken the time to truly grieve for those we cared about? Have we been able to grieve in a way that would show others that we really and truly cared about someone and that they meant the world to us? Or how many of us have held in what we felt and never showed any sign because we were too embarrassed or didn't want others to see us cry or we didn't want others to think that we were weak?

- In these days and times, we don't have to tear our clothes, but we can show an outward sign of how much someone meant to us. It's alright if we express our feelings. We can mourn, we cry, and we can fast. We can help others know it is ok to miss someone and show respect and honor for them even if they are no longer with us.

- When David tore his clothes as a sign of mourning, it showed David's character. He was a man that showed love, care and that he was a true friend. I encourage us on today, to be like David. Let us show love, care and be a true friend. It's ok to mourn and show some sign for those we love. Did you know as an outward sign of mourning people tore their clothes?