

10-1-2025 – Journey with King David – Week 13 – Absalom's Conspiracy

Intro: 2 men, 2 paths. Arrogant/humble. Godly/godless. Warning/exemplary

Last week - David failed to punish Amnon for the rape of Tamar.

Absalom put justice in his own hands. **2 yrs later**, he killed **Amnon**.

- led to Absalom's **pride, ambition, and desire for power**.
- **Absalom fled** into exile, lived in shadow of another king (grandfather) **for 3 yrs**, and **his bitterness and longing for the throne festered**.
 - He's brought back to Jerusalem, **2 more yrs** before seeing David
 - Finally, they **reconcile** – David kissed Solomon, he bowed.

Absalom praised as the **most handsome man** in all Israel. **2 Sam 14:25-27**

says he cut his hair only once a yr; had 3 sons, daughter – Tamar.

- **2 Sam. 15** – he strategically gains a following, wins people over by lying. suggesting King David won't give justice, "but I would."
 - **Absalom plays politics – stages drama**. Charm & good-looks
- **CH. 15** - Absalom bought a chariot and horses, and he hired fifty bodyguards to run ahead of him. ² He got up early every morning and went out to the gate of the city. When people brought a case to the king for judgment, Absalom would ask where in Israel they were from, and they would tell him their tribe. ³ Then Absalom would say, "You've really got a strong case here! It's too bad the king doesn't have anyone to hear it. ⁴ I wish I were the judge. Then everyone could bring their cases to me for judgment, and I would give them justice!" ⁵ When people tried to bow before him, Absalom wouldn't let them. Instead, he took them by the hand and kissed them. ⁶ Absalom did this with everyone who came to the king for judgment, and **so he stole the hearts of all the people of Israel**.

Absalom is starting a rebellion – against Father & throne.

Truth: This rebellion starting much earlier... after David's abuse of Bathsheba; Nathan met w/David - story of rich man/poor man – David: "You're that man"

Consequence – "from this time on, your family will live by the sword"

"This is what the LORD says: Because of what you have done, I will cause your own household to rebel against you. I will give your wives to another man before your very eyes, and he will go to bed with them in public view. ¹² You did it secretly, but I will make this happen to you openly in the sight of all Israel." – **2 Sam. 12:11-12**

- Our sin has consequences. Here's how it played out for David.

Absalom lies to the people, and to his father, too.

Wants to go to **Hebron** – **sacrifice to the Lord for bringing me back to Jerusalem**. David – go fulfill your vow.

In Hebron, Absalom secretly sends messengers . . . ram's horn/crowned king

- Hebron was site of David's first palace. Absalom born there.
- **Absalom sent for Ahithophel**, one of David's counselors.
 - David is forced into action. . . flees Jerusalem w/ his household.
 - But leaves 10 concubines to take care of the palace.
 - 600 men go w/David. Many are loyal to David.
 - **Hushai** - David sent him to Jerusalem; tell Absalom, 'I will now be your adviser, O king, just as I was your father's adviser in the past.' Then you can frustrate and counter Ahithophel's advice. Zadok & Abiathar, the priests, will be there. Tell them the plans being made in the king's palace, and they will send their sons Ahimaaz and Jonathan to tell me what is going on."
- So **Hushai** returned to Jerusalem, just as Absalom arrived. He will be David's eyes & ears . . . David can be warned.
 - David prays – **let Ahithophel's advice** to Absalom be **bad**.

David flees to Mount of Olives. Has 2 notable encounters.

- 1st, **Ziba**. Servant of Mephibosheth. He **lies**. "get back kingdom"
 - **Life lesson #1 – people lie. Bribe & butter you up.**
- 2nd, **Shimei** – **curses David**. "Murder, scoundrel" U stole Saul's throne

- Ignores it. If God told him to curse me, leave him alone.
- Or perhaps – God “will bless me b/c of these curses today.”
 - **Life Lesson #2. Leave revenge to God. Be mature.**
 - **Focus on what’s really important. Distraction . . . crows.**
- **David is weary.** Rests at the Jordan River.

Meanwhile – Absalom is plotting. Has 2 advisors – Ahithophel & David’s spy, Hushai. Absalom asks Ahithophel, what should I do next?

2 SAM., Ch. 16 - ²¹ Ahithophel told him, “Go and sleep with your father’s concubines, for he has left them here to look after the palace. Then all Israel will know that you have insulted your father beyond hope of reconciliation, and they will throw their support to you.” ²² So they set up a tent on the palace roof where everyone could see it, and Absalom went in and had sex with his father’s concubines.

- **Life lesson #3 – God can use anyone to accomplish His Word.**

This fulfilled God’s punishment on David for his acts w/ Bathsheba.

Years have gone by ... but this fact is true: **we reap what we sow.**

And the **people would see** this as **Absalom claiming the throne.**

Absalom hears 2 plans.

¹⁴ Then Absalom and all the men of Israel said, “Hushai’s advice is better than Ahithophel’s.” For the LORD had determined to defeat the counsel of Ahithophel, which really was the better plan, so that he could bring disaster on Absalom!

Again, we may not understand ... **but God’s providence is in all things.**

David is warned ... knows the plan. Army ready!

2 Armies go to war. **David gave 1 command: deal gently w/ young Absalom.**

- Battle rages in **Ephraim**. **2 Sam. 18:7 – 20,000 died.**
- David’s men come across Absalom in the forest – dangling/tree.
 - They tell Joab. What? Why didn’t you kill him?
 - Joab took 3 daggers – plunged into Absalom’s heart.
 - Then 10 armor bearers surrounded him, and killed Absalom.
 - Joab sends a messenger to David – **2 Sam. 18:31-33:**

- "I have good news for my lord the king. Today the LORD has rescued you from all those who rebelled against you."
- ³² "What about young Absalom?" the king demanded. "Is he all right?"
- And the Ethiopian replied, "May all of your enemies, my lord the king, both now and in the future, share the fate of that young man!"
- ³³ The king was overcome with emotion. He went up to the room over the gateway and burst into tears. And as he went, he cried, "O my son Absalom! My son, my son Absalom! If only I had died instead of you! O Absalom, my son, my son."

David grieves for Absalom. But it doesn't go over well w/Joab.

"We saved your life today and the lives of your sons, your daughters, and your wives and concubines. Yet you act like this, making us feel ashamed of ourselves. ⁶ You seem to love those who hate you and hate those who love you. You have made it clear today that your commanders and troops mean nothing to you. It seems that if Absalom had lived and all of us had died, you would be pleased. ⁷ Now go out there and congratulate your troops, for I swear by the LORD that if you don't go out, not a single one of them will remain here tonight.

- David goes to the town gate, takes his seat, news: **King is there.**
 - o David **returns to Jerusalem**, people **welcome** him back.
 - Mephibosheth greets him... says Ziba slandered him.
 - David divides the land . . . Mephibosheth – give all/glad-back.

Truth to take away:

1. **Sometimes, family rejects us . . .** God never will. God didn't reject D.
 - God gives us what we need . . . those who walk away, u don't need.
2. **God knows how to bring us home again.** His way; His time.
 - We wish we never had to leave . . . but journeys give us wisdom.
 - Journeys help us **appreciate** the ones who fight for us; walk w/us; stay.
3. **Chosen Servants of God are not saved from heartbreak.**
 - Mary – chosen, highly favored... would watch Jesus die/cross.
 - Paul – chosen, messenger... would write from prison.
 - o We'll have suffering, struggle... cause of Christ too great to give up
 - o "Our suffering is light and temporary and is producing for us an eternal glory that is greater than anything we can imagine." – **2 Cor. 4:17**