

Journey Through the Bible (57)

The United Kingdom (11)

David – Consequences

2 Samuel 13-18

The United Kingdom

- We are continuing the 9th of 17 time periods of Bible history – the United Kingdom. This was a period where Israel is governed by a king.
- Currently we are studying the life of David as king.
- In our last lesson we noted a dark event in David's life – his adultery with Bathsheba and the results that followed. Recall that Nathan when he confronted David declared several things that would happen, including his family turning against him.

The United Kingdom

- Tonight, we notice some of these consequences as they unfolded.
- NOTE: The events of this lesson are not found in the Chronicles.

Concerning our text

- **2 Samuel 13**
- **13** – some time after David's sin (we are not given a specific time), Amnon, David's oldest son (who SHOULD have been heir apparent to the throne) saw his half sister Tamar (full sister of Absalom) and lusted after her. He "love" was so strong he was losing weight.
- A (worthless) friend named Jonadab found out and helped him conspire to take Tamar. He pretended sickness and when David visited him, he requested that Tamar prepare food for him. It was granted but then as she was preparing cakes for him, Amnon violated her. She pleaded with him, but he would not listen.

Concerning our text

- **2 Samuel 13**
- **13** – When he finished, he hated her and had her cast out of his house. She mourns and tears her robe. Absalom finds out and takes her in but does nothing at the time, though he hated his brother. David also finds out and is very angry (but does nothing!)
- **13:23ff** – 2 years later (bitterness harbored) Absalom conspires and has Amnon killed by his servants.

Concerning our text

- **2 Samuel 13**
- **13:30-33** – David is told that ALL his sons had been killed by Absalom. But Jonadab, David's brother corrects the misinformation and says only Amnon had been killed, and that was because of what he did to Tamar.
- **13:34ff** – Absalom then flees to Geshur where he remains for 3 years. David and his other sons mourn the tragedy that has happened.
- But, **vs. 39** notes that David longed for Absalom. NOTE: Absalom did what David SHOULD have done because of Amnon's behavior.

Concerning our text

- **2 Samuel 14**
- **14:1ff** – after 3 years, Joab, David's commander knows he is concerned about Absalom and devises a plan to permit him to return to the city. He finds a wise woman who challenges him. Absalom is allowed to return but David will not meet with him.
- **14:25** – meanwhile, after 2 more years Absalom desires to see the king. He gets Joab's attention by burning down his fields of barley. Finally, he sees David and is kissed by him (likely forgiven). Remember, what Absalom did could have been prevented had David acted prudently.

Concerning our text

- **2 Samuel 15**
- **15:1ff** – Absalom begins to turn the people against David by criticizing him. He stole the hearts of the people.
- **15:7** – after awhile (texts say 40 years, but it could be 4 years) Absalom requests that he be permitted to go to Hebron to pay a vow to YHWH. He is permitted and while there, he begins his plan to overthrow the king. David hears of it and has to flee from Jerusalem. The rest of ch. 15 records his leaving – with loyal servants weeping as they went. **Vs. 24** notes that Zadok and Levites brought the Ark of God with them. But David tells them to return the Ark to Jerusalem. Note **vs. 25-29** – he makes arrangements to be informed.

Concerning our text

- **2 Samuel 15**
- **15:32ff** – he makes further arrangements with a man named Hushai, sending him back to join up with Absalom, but to also thwart the scheming of Ahitophel. Absalom comes into the city.
- **16:1** – meanwhile, a servant of Mephibosheth, Ziba, comes to David with rations. He also tells David that Mephibosheth supported the overthrow and intended to reclaim the throne of Saul. David gives all of Mephibosheth's belongings to Ziba. (More on this later).

Concerning our text

- **2 Samuel 16-17**
- **16:5ff**– as David continues to wander in the wilderness, a man named Shimei follows and curses David as blood thirsty and a rogue. Abishai offers to silence Shimei but note David's response – **vs. 10-12**.
- **16:15-17:4** – Meanwhile, Absalom seeks advice from Ahithophel, one of David's former advisors. He is told to violate the remaining concubines openly and then to pursue David with a small army.
- **17:5-14** – he then seeks advice from Hushai (the one David told to return). He notes that David was skilled and his men would defeat that army. He suggested gathering the men of ALL Israel and then overthrow David. Absalom likes his advice better.

Concerning our text

- **2 Samuel 17-18**
- **17:15ff** – Hushai then sends warning to David through Jonathan and Ahimaaz, priests. They cross over the Jordan to safety. Ahithophel, whose advice had been rejected then went home and hanged himself. After being strengthened, the men with David are ready to engage in battle.
- **18:1ff** – David divides his troops into 3 groups and sends them in different directions. David also wants to go but is forbidden (too valuable to risk it).
- As they prepared for battle David had 1 request, *“Deal gently for my sake with the young man Absalom.”*

Concerning our text

- **2 Samuel 18**
- **18:6** – the battlefield included woods in Ephraim. As the people of Israel (Absalom) are being overthrown they flee. As Absalom meets the servants of David, he goes under a tree and his hair is caught in it. His capture is reported to Joab and asked why he did not kill him. The man answered he would not slay the king's son for any amount. But Joab goes to where Absalom is and kills him with 3 spears.
- The war is called off (objective achieved).

Concerning our text

- **2 Samuel 18**
- **18:19ff** – servants are sent to David to report to him about Absalom. The first servant speaks of victory but does not answer the question, “Is the young man Absalom safe.” The second servant answers declaring that every enemy of David ought to be like Absalom.
- **18:33** – David mourns when he hears of Absalom’s death.
- We will stop here and resume this account in our next lesson.

Lessons to consider

- God's counsel will be carried out
- A predominant message of God's word is an understanding that His will cannot be stopped.
- **Psalm 33:11**, *The counsel of the LORD stands forever, The plans of His heart to all generations.*

Lessons to consider

- Love and lust are not the same thing
- We see that in Amnon's disposition.
- We live in a sensual society that often confuses the two or at least treats them as equally valid and acceptable.
- Lust is driven only by one's physical desires and offers nothing but temporal gratification. It is selfish. When acted upon, it often leads to regrets.
- Love is about REAL relationship and lasting connection. It is about sacrifice.
- **1 Thessalonians 4:3-5**, calls for us to live in sanctification and learning to control yourself.

- What is the source of your advice?
- When you need REAL direction that affects who you really are, who are you going to turn to?
- A peer with a selfish agenda and evil intentions, OR someone who has experience and has thought through the results and consequences?
- **Proverbs 13:20, 1 Corinthians 15:33**
- This is somewhat related to our previous point! Is it someone feeding into your cravings or your well being?

- When we delay justice we are welcoming problems
- David should have addressed Amnon's behavior immediately and sternly.
- DID his own past indiscretions hinder him?
- **Ecclesiastes 8:11, Isaiah 26:9-10**, ... *Let grace be shown to the wicked, yet he will not learn righteousness; In the land of uprightness, he will deal unjustly, and will not behold the majesty of the LORD.*

- Revenge is often very destructive
- Absalom's behavior against Amnon was brutal and corrupt.
- **Romans 12:19** – leave it in God's hands.
- NOTE: Leaving revenge in God's hands is no excuse to ignore and fail to deal with bad conduct!

Lessons to consider

- Don't believe everything you hear
- David thought all of his sons had been killed by Absalom UNTIL it was corrected.
- We live in a time where many put out sensational information, especially online, that is simply not true.
- The wise will take time to openly investigate
- **1 John 4:1** calls for us to test the spirits whether they are of God.
Proverbs 18:17, *The first one to plead his cause seems right, Until his neighbor comes and examines him.*

Lessons to consider

- The damage broken families can cause
- The Bible is filled with examples of broken families – spouses, siblings, parent/child, more distant relatives, etc.
- BUT we also find clear direction that governs what a healthy, godly family should look like.
- **Cf. Colossians 3:18-21, Proverbs 22:6, etc.**

- The value of diplomacy
- The “wise woman” (**14:2**) who came to David after Absalom’s years of exile delivered her message tactfully
- **Colossians 4:6**, *Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.*
- **Proverbs 15:1**, *A soft answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger.*

Lessons to consider

- Time does NOT heal all wounds
- After many years (at least 7), David finally sees Absalom. Think of the damage done because the problems were not addressed earlier or immediately.
- Sometimes what one needs to deal with hurt is time – to process and let the immediacy of something pass so that a rational decisions and action take place. BUT ignoring something usually does not make it go away.

- Forgiveness is not always easy.
- David struggled with it concerning Absalom. Absalom did NOT! We see in our account the complexity that it might involve.
- But let us not forget that we too NEED forgiveness.
- **Matthew 6:14-15, Colossians 3:13** – let us forgive even as we have been forgiven by our God.

Lessons to consider

- Influence is a powerful thing
- It can be a two-edged sword. We can influence others, either for good or bad.
- Absalom, in a scheming way, turned the people against David. His intentions were clearly evil.
- **Proverbs 13:20**, *He who walks with wise men will be wise, But the companion of fools will be destroyed.*
- Be careful WHO you let influence you.

- Pride goes before a fall
- Absalom was prideful in his actions. It ultimately cost him his life.
- **Proverbs 16:18**
- Do NOT let your pride lead to reckless and evil actions. Even if you succeed, it will only be temporal.

Concluding thoughts

- In our studies of the history of God's people, we are reminded that there are consequences to the choices we make.
- Even though the events recorded occurred thousands of years ago, the nature of man has not changed, both good and bad.
- We must learn to THINK before we act, OR we are doomed to repeat what we could have learned from.
- AND the results likely will not change!

Where are your choices leading
you?

