

2 Samuel 18: "Regret": Loving Others Before It's Too Late

2 Samuel 17 Review: The Plan

- 3 Plans; Those Saved, To be saved, Never to be saved

2 Samuel 18:

Regret Noun [Middle English *regretten*, *to lament*, from Old French *regreter* : *re-*, *re-* + *-greter*, *to weep*]

1. A sense of loss and longing for someone or something gone.
2. A feeling of disappointment or distress about something that one wishes could be different.

- David's son Absalom is about to attack his father for the throne
- David will be fill with regret this day

1Then David **numbered the people** who were with him and set over them commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds.2 David sent the people out, one third under the command of **Joab**, one third under the command of **Abishai** the son of Zeruiah, Joab's brother, and one third under the command of **Ittai the Gittite**.

- Numbered: To form groups, not pride as later
- Joab, Abashai, Ittai the Philistine

And the king said to the people, "I myself will surely go out with you also." 3But the people said, "You should not go out; for if we indeed flee, they will not care about us; even if half of us die, they will not care about us. But you are worth ten thousand of us; therefore now it is better that you be ready to **help us from the city**." 4Then the king said to them, "Whatever seems best to you I will do." So the king stood beside the gate, and all the people went out by hundreds and thousands. 5The king charged Joab and Abishai and Ittai, saying, "**Deal gently for my sake with the young man Absalom.**" And **all the people heard** when the king charged all the commanders concerning Absalom.

- David , an older man, stays, will fight from the city if necessary
- "Deal gently with my son"; all the people heard
- Davids men now defend themselves against Israel (brothers)

6Then the people went out into the field against Israel, and the battle

took place in the **forest** of Ephraim. 7The people of Israel were **defeated** there before the servants of David, and the slaughter there that day was great, 20,000 men. 8For the battle there was spread over the whole countryside, and the forest devoured **more people that day than the sword devoured.**

- Battle in a forest, Absalom's men defeated by David
- Dense forest and fast pursuit killed many

9Now Absalom **happened to meet** the servants of David. For Absalom was riding on his mule, and the mule went under the thick branches of a great oak. And his **head caught** fast in the oak, so he was left hanging between heaven and earth, while the mule that was under him kept going. 10When a certain man saw it, **he told Joab** and said, "Behold, **I saw Absalom hanging in an oak.**"

- Hushai convinced Absalom to go himself; a poor soldier
- Hanging in an oak; riding a mule that kept going

11Then Joab said to the man who had told him, "Now behold, you saw him! **Why then did you not strike him** there to the ground? And I would have given you ten pieces of silver and a belt." 12The man said to Joab, "Even if I should receive a thousand pieces of silver in my hand, I would not put out my hand against the king's son; for in our hearing the king charged you and Abishai and Ittai, saying, 'Protect for me the young man Absalom!' 13"Otherwise, if I had dealt treacherously against his life (and **there is nothing hidden** from the king), then you yourself would have stood aloof."

- Joab: I would have given you a reward
- The King would find out and you would throw me under the bus
- **David:** Protect my son

14Then Joab said, "**I will not waste time here with you.**" So he took **three spears** in his hand and thrust them through the heart of Absalom while he was yet alive in the midst of the oak. 15And **ten young men** who carried Joab's armor gathered around and struck Absalom and killed him. 16Then Joab **blew the trumpet**, and the people returned from pursuing Israel, for Joab restrained the people. 17They took Absalom and cast him into a **deep pit** in the forest and erected over him a very great heap of stones And **all Israel fled**, each to his tent.

- **Joab:** Impatient uses 3 spears; ten want-a-be Joab's join in

- Grave: Deep pit covered with stones; symbolic of law penalty

Deuteronomy 21:20 "They shall say to the elders of his city, 'This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious, he will not obey us, he is a glutton and a drunkard.' 21"Then all the men of his city shall stone him to death; so you shall remove the evil from your midst, and all Israel will hear of it and fear.

- **All Israel** (Absalom's men) **fled**: Ahithophel was correct:

Matthew 26:31 ..."You will all fall away because of Me this night, for it is written, ' **I WILL STRIKE DOWN THE SHEPHERD, AND THE SHEEP OF THE FLOCK SHALL BE SCATTERED.**'

- **Trumpet**: War is over, take out the king...you win...but what
- 2 dead sons, 1 wounded daughter, pile of regret

18Now Absalom in his lifetime had taken and set up for himself a pillar which is in the King's Valley, for he said, "I have **no son** to preserve my name." So he named the pillar after his own name, and it is called **Absalom's Monument** to this day.

- **Sad Ending**: No son's; only a pillar in the King's Valley for the would-be-king
- Leaves behind many Would haves, Could haves, Should haves
- How could things have been different?

19Then **Ahimaaz** the son of Zadok said, "Please let me run and bring the king news that the LORD has freed him from the hand of his enemies." 20But Joab said to him, "You are not the man to carry news this day, but you shall carry news another day; however, you shall carry no news today because the king's son is dead." 21Then Joab said to the **Cushite**, "Go, tell the king what you have seen." So the Cushite bowed to Joab and ran. 22Now Ahimaaz the son of Zadok said once more to Joab, "But whatever happens, please let me also run after the Cushite." And Joab said, "Why would you run, my son, since you will have no reward for going?" 23"But whatever happens," he said, "I will run." So he said to him, "**Run.**" Then Ahimaaz ran by way of the plain and **passed up the Cushite.**

- **Ahimahaz**: Priest son wants to break news gently even if he dies
- **Cushite**: Foreigner with "no name", no relation to David runs first

- Ahimahaz convinces Joab then follows; even passing the Cushite

24Now David was sitting between the two gates; and the watchman went up to the roof of the gate by the wall, and **raised his eyes** and looked, and behold, a man running by himself. 25The watchman called and told the king. And the king said, "If he is **by himself** there is good news in his mouth." And he came nearer and nearer. 26Then the watchman saw another man running; and the watchman called to the gatekeeper and said, "Behold, another man running by himself." And the king said, "**This one also is bringing good news.**" 27The watchman said, "I think the running of the first one is like the running of Ahimaaz the son of Zadok " And the king said, "**This is a good man** and comes with good news." 28Ahimaaz called and said to the king, "**All is well.**" And he prostrated himself before the king with his face to the ground And he said, "Blessed is the LORD your God, who has delivered up the men who lifted their hands against my lord the king." 29The king said, "**Is it well with the young man Absalom?**"

- **David:** Head down; hoping against hope...for what?
- **One:** Must be good news, **Two:** Must be good news, Ahimaaz is a good man with good news!
- "**Is it well with the young man Absalom?**" uh-oh

And Ahimaaz answered, "When Joab sent the king's servant, and your servant, I saw a great tumult, but I did not know what it was." 30Then the king said,

- **Evades** the question

"Turn aside and stand here." So he turned aside and stood still. 31Behold, the Cushite arrived, and the Cushite said, "Let my lord the king receive good news, for the LORD has freed you this day from the hand of all those who rose up against you." 32Then the king said to the Cushite, "**Is it well with the young man Absalom?**" And the Cushite answered, "Let the enemies of my lord the king, and all who rise up against you for evil, be as that young man!"

- **Anticipated Shock**

33The king was deeply moved and went up to the chamber over the gate and wept. And thus he said as he walked, "O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would I had died instead of you, O Absalom, my son, my son!"

APPLICATION: A Life of No Regret; Loving others before it's Too Late

- David missed many opportunities to make things right w/ Absalom; to love him
- No more opportunities for David; what can we learn?
- Joe and Dad
- God asks only 2 things: Love Him and love others **as ourselves**, no regret

Matthew 22:36 (Read) "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" 37And He said to him, " 'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.' 38"This is the great and foremost commandment. 39"The second is like it, '**YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.**' 40"On these two commandments depend the **whole Law and the Prophets.**"

- "I do love God, just not people!"... Impossible (love grows cold)

1 John 4:20 If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; **for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen.**

John 14:15 "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

- His commandments are not a burden

Matthew 11:29 "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and **YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. 30"For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.**"

- **Yoke:** Walking with Him; loving as He loves with no regrets
- Love God and love others as our self. [passenger seat]

1 John 4:19 We love, because **He first loved us.**

- Motivation to love is a response to His love for us;; we are a mirror of His love
- **Humility:** The Day before the Crucifixion
- Unlike David, Jesus has no regret

John 13:1 (Read) Now before the Feast of the Passover, Jesus

knowing that His hour had come that He would depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end [showed them the full extent of his love NIV].

2During supper, the devil having already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, to betray Him,³ Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come forth from God and was going back to God, ⁴got up from supper, and laid aside His garments; and taking a towel, He girded Himself. ⁵Then He poured water into the basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. ⁵Then He poured water into the basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. ⁶So He came to Simon Peter. He said to Him, "Lord, do You wash my feet?" ⁷Jesus answered and said to him, "What I do you do not realize now, but you will understand hereafter." ⁸Peter said to Him, "Never shall You wash my feet!" Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me." ⁹Simon **Peter said to Him**, "Lord, then wash not only my feet, but also my hands and my head."

- Giving up my rights, considering others better than myself, what is best for them, taking no offense, not counting wrongs
- At the table [last supper]

John 13:34 (Read) "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵" By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." ³⁶Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, where are You going?" Jesus answered, "Where I go, you cannot follow Me now; but you will follow later." ³⁷Peter said to Him, "Lord, why can I not follow You right now? I will lay down my life for You." ³⁸Jesus answered, "**Will you lay down your life for Me? Truly, truly, I say to you, a rooster will not crow until you deny Me three times.**"

- After denying His Lord and Friend Peter is at the Cross as David was at the gate thinking of what might have been

PETER

- "You are Simon the son of John; you shall be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).
- "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."
- Peter's mother in law healed in Peter's house
- Made an apostle
- Walking on the water
- You are the Christ who do people say I am

- Get behind me Satan
- Peter James and John (transfiguration) 3 houses?
- Peter James and John and raising the little girl, just them
- "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life.

John 6:67 So Jesus said to the twelve, "You do not want to go away also, do you?" 68 Simon Peter answered Him, "**Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life. 69**"**We have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God."**

- How many times? 7, no 70 times 70
- Peter and John prepared Passover
- Who touched me: peter said the crowd is pressing
- Go away : after the big catch
- I will never fall away even if all.
- "I say to you, Peter, the rooster will not crow today until you have denied three times that you know Me."
- Peter James and John: with him in Gethsemane
- Found sleeping
- Cut off ear
- Followed at a distance
- Warming with enemies; Servant girl; Denial
- Rooster crows, Jesus looks at Peter with love...Peter filled with regret

After the Resurrection

John 21:2 (Read) Simon Peter, and Thomas called Didymus, and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together. 3Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will also come with you." They went out and got into the boat; and that night they caught nothing. 4But when the day was now breaking, Jesus stood on the beach; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. 5So Jesus said to them, "Children, you do not have any fish, do you?" They answered Him, "No." 6And He said to them, "Cast the net on the right-hand side of the boat and you will find a catch." So they cast, and then they were not able to haul it in because of the **great number of fish**. 7Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord."

- Day was breaking, rooster crowing, Peter thinking
- Great number of fish: He knows it is Jesus

So when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put his outer garment on (for he was stripped for work), and threw himself into the sea. 8But the other disciples came in the little boat, for they were not far from the land, but about one hundred yards away, dragging the net full of fish. 9So when they got out on the land, they saw a charcoal fire already laid and fish placed on it, and bread. 10Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish which you have now caught." 11Simon Peter went up and drew the net to land, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, the net was not torn. 12Jesus said to them, **"Come and have breakfast."** None of the disciples ventured to question Him, "Who are You?" knowing that it was the Lord. 13Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and the fish likewise. 14This is now the third time that Jesus was manifested to the disciples, after He was raised from the dead.

- It is His kindness that leads to repentance
- Restoration

15So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You " He said to him, "Tend My lambs." 16He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Shepherd My sheep." 17He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You " Jesus said to him, "Tend My sheep.

CONCLUSION: REGRET

- If you have regret and cannot make it right any more: **Jesus wants to restore you**
- Motivated by His love for you, not by regret (burnout)
- Not living in Self-pity which is Satanic, but to **Love others as if they will die tomorrow**