

2 Samuel 15: Rebellion, Submission, and Conspiracy

2 Samuel 14 Review: "Father"

- **Sin of Omission:** Neglect or failure to do that which should have been done
- **Abba:** Affectionate way to say Father (Daddy). It is a term expressing warm affection and filial (befitting a son or daughters confidence). It has **no perfect equivalent in our language.**

Psalm 18:35 You give me your shield of victory, and your right hand sustains me; you stoop down to make me great.

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1Now it came about **after this** that Absalom provided for himself a **chariot** and horses and fifty men as runners before him.

- After this: David's kiss
- 1st Israelite leader w/ chariots and horses?
- Absalom begins a rebellion against his father and God

Deuteronomy 17:16 "...he shall not multiply horses for himself..

Isaiah 31:1 Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help And **rely on horses, And trust in chariots** because they are many And in horsemen because they are very strong, But they do not look to the Holy One of Israel, nor seek the LORD!

- **David trusted God;** Absalom will trust in his own abilities and stuff; trying to thwart God's plan by force
- **Do we trust** in our government, money, schooling, friends, our own goodness ...**where is our hope?** We are to trust in Jesus for a victorious life

Psalm 20:7 (Of David) Some boast in chariots and some in horses, But **we will boast in the name of the LORD,** our God.

- Solomon, Absalom's brother acquired 1400 chariots and 12,000 horsemen and 1000 wives...his downfall

2Absalom used to rise early and stand beside the way to the gate; and when any man had a suit to come to the king for judgment, Absalom would call to him and say, "From what city are you?" And he would say, "Your servant is from one of the tribes of Israel." 3Then Absalom would say to him, "See, your claims are good and right, but no man listens to you on the part of the king." 4Moreover, Absalom would say, "Oh that one would appoint me judge in the land, then every man who has any suit or cause could come to me and I would give him justice." 5And when a man came near to prostrate himself before him, he would put out his hand and take hold of him and kiss him. 6In this manner Absalom dealt with all Israel who came to the king for judgment; so Absalom **stole away the hearts of the men** of Israel.

- Diverted Israel to himself; dealing
- Won the hearts of men by seemingly "dealing with things" David had avoided; Won the hearts of women w/ looks and sensitivity (Tamar)

7Now it came about at the end of **forty years** that Absalom said to the king, "Please let me go and pay my vow which I have vowed to the LORD, in Hebron. 8"For your servant vowed a vow while I was living at Geshur in Aram, saying, 'If the LORD shall indeed bring me back to Jerusalem, **then I will serve the LORD.**'" 9The king said to him, "Go in peace." So he arose and went to **Hebron**. 10But Absalom sent spies throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, "As soon as you hear the sound of the trumpet, then you shall say, 'Absalom is king in Hebron.'"

- 40 (actually four years) he was 30, David's last decade as King
- Absalom plays the religious guy in order to get what he wants
- Exaltation of self, self promotion, posturing/positioning to be king
- **Motive:** To stir up Israel against David; goes to **Hebron**; Former capital filled with those who resented the move to Jerusalem

11Then two hundred men went with Absalom from Jerusalem, who were **invited and went innocently**, and they did not know anything. 12And Absalom sent for **Ahithophel** the Gilonite, David's counselor, from his city Giloh, while he was offering the sacrifices And the conspiracy was strong, for the people increased continually with

Absalom.

- **Innocently:** Absalom deceiving; not telling the whole story (cults)
- People looking for someone to follow; someone who would lead
- **Ahithophel: David's wise and respected counselor**
- **Ahithophel** may now see Absalom as "**religious**" as Absalom called him while "sacrificing".

13Then a messenger came to David, saying, "The hearts of the men of Israel are with Absalom." 14David said to all his servants who were with him at Jerusalem, "Arise and let us flee, for otherwise none of us will escape from Absalom. Go in haste, or he will overtake us quickly and bring down calamity on us and strike the city with the edge of the sword." 15Then the king's servants said to the king, "Behold, your servants are **ready to do whatever my lord the king chooses.**"

16So the king went out and all his household with him. **But the king left ten concubines** to keep the house.

- **Servants ready to serve:** Faithfulness exemplified by David
- **Concubines:** David moves the prophetic judgment along

17The king went out and all the people with him, and they stopped at the last house. 18Now all his servants passed on beside him, all the **Cherethites, all the Pelethites and all the Gittites, six hundred men who had come with him from Gath**, passed on before the king. 19Then the king said to **Ittai the Gittite**, "Why will you also go with us? Return and **remain with the king**, for you are a foreigner and also an exile; return to your own place. 20"You came only yesterday, and shall I today make you wander with us, while I go where I will? Return and take back your brothers; mercy and truth be with you."

- Six hundred Philistines led by Ittai followed David
- The king: David submits to God...If Absalom is to be king, let **Your will be done!**; David releases his followers to go to Absalom

21**But Ittai answered** the king and said, "As the LORD lives, and as my lord the king lives, surely wherever my lord the king may be, whether for death or for life, there also your servant will be."

22Therefore David said to Ittai, "Go and pass over." So Ittai the Gittite passed over with all his men and all the little ones who were with him. 23While all the country was weeping with a loud voice, all the people passed over. The king also passed over the brook **Kidron**, and all the people passed over toward the way of the wilderness.

John 18:1 (Read) When Jesus had spoken these words, He went forth with His disciples over the ravine of the **Kidron**, where there was a garden, in which He entered with His disciples. 2Now Judas also, who was betraying Him, knew the place, for Jesus had often met there with His disciples.

- David is leaving everything behind at the brook Kidron
- David is coming back to the Lord as he is betrayed by his own Judas, **Ahithophel**

Philippians 3:7 (Read) But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, 9and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, 10that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the **fellowship of His sufferings**, being conformed to His death; 11in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. 12Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. 13Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, 14I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

- Suffering should draw us closer to Jesus; David has only one thing left; God
- He continues to submit; to resolve that **God is God**

24Now behold, Zadok also came, and all the Levites with him carrying the ark of the covenant of God And they set down the ark of God, and Abiathar came up until all the people had finished passing from the city. 25The king said to Zadok, "**Return the ark of God** to the city. If I find favor in the sight of the LORD, then He will bring me back again

and show me both it and His habitation. 26"But if He should say thus, 'I have no delight in you,' behold, here I am, **let Him do to me as seems good to Him.**"

- **David is back**; the humble servant
- The Arc belongs to God's people; take it back to Jerusalem the capital

27The king said also to **Zadok** the priest, "Are you not a seer? Return to the city in peace and your two sons with you, your son Ahimaaz and Jonathan the son of **Abiathar**. 28"See, I am going to wait at the fords of the wilderness until word comes from you to inform me." 29Therefore Zadok and Abiathar returned the ark of God to Jerusalem and remained there.

- Priests Zadok and Abiathar and their sons carry the ark back
- God will use them in His plan

30And David went up the **ascent of the Mount of Olives**, and wept as he went, and his head was covered and he walked barefoot. Then all the people who were with him each covered his head and went up weeping as they went.

- It gets worse for David

31Now someone told David, saying, "**Ahithophel is among the conspirators with Absalom** "

Psalm 41:9 Even my **close friend** in whom I trusted, Who ate my bread, Has lifted up his heel against me.

Psalm 55:12 For it is not an enemy who reproaches me, Then I could bear it; Nor is it one who hates me who has exalted himself against me, Then I could hide myself from him. 13But it is you, a man my equal, My companion and my familiar friend; 14We who had sweet fellowship together Walked in the house of God in the throng.

- Prophetic of Judas
- Why: **Bathsheba's grandfather**; betrayer who resented David

And David said, "O LORD, I pray, **make the counsel of Ahithophel foolishness.**"

- David's prayer begins to be answered immediately

32 It happened as David was coming to the summit, **where God was worshiped**, that behold, **Hushai the Archite** met him with his coat torn and dust on his head. 33 David said to him, "If you pass over with me, then you will be a burden to me. 34 "But if you return to the city, and say to Absalom, 'I will be your servant, O king; as I have been your father's servant in time past, so I will now be your servant,' then you can thwart the counsel of Ahithophel for me.

- My friend, be my spy

35 "Are not **Zadok and Abiathar** the priests with you there? So it shall be that whatever you hear from the king's house, you shall report to Zadok and Abiathar the priests. 36 "Behold their two sons are with them there, Ahimaaz, Zadok's son and Jonathan, Abiathar's son; and by them you shall send me everything that you hear."

- Hushai, Priests Abiathar, Zadok and their two sons...David's CIA

37 So Hushai, David's friend, came into the city, and Absalom came into Jerusalem.

- Intrigue! Suspense!

CONCLUSION: Rebellion, Submission, and Conspiracy

APPLICATION: Willing to Decrease for the Greater Good

- Perhaps David learned humility from his best friend, Jonathan

1 Samuel 18:1 (Read) Now it came about when he had finished speaking to Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as himself. 2 Saul took him that day and did not let him return to his father's house. 3 Then Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself. 4 **Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was on him and gave it to David, with his armor, including his sword and his bow and his belt.**

- **Jonathan** had every earthly right to be king, but submitted to God's will as well as David. He knew God chose David
- **John the Baptist** had many followers, but knew that he was just ushering in the One who deserved the Glory

John 3: 29 (Read) "He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice So this joy of mine has been made full. 30"**He must increase, but I must decrease.** 31"He who comes from above is above all, he who is of the earth is from the earth and speaks of the earth He who comes from heaven is above all.

- Even Jesus Himself did not consider all the splendors of being God something to hold on to, but for our sake He let go

Philippians 2:5 (Read) Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God **a thing to be grasped** [held on to], 7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. 8Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

- Jesus humbled Himself that we might live

God knows the greater good and we are to trust Him