

## Summer in Samuel – Week 12 – 2 Samuel 15

**2 Samuel 15:1-13:** *In the course of time, Absalom provided himself with a chariot and horses and with fifty men to run ahead of him. <sup>2</sup> He would get up early and stand by the side of the road leading to the city gate. Whenever anyone came with a complaint to be placed before the king for a decision, Absalom would call out to him, “What town are you from?” He would answer, “Your servant is from one of the tribes of Israel.” <sup>3</sup> Then Absalom would say to him, “Look, your claims are valid and proper, but there is no representative of the king to hear you.” <sup>4</sup> And Absalom would add, “If only I were appointed judge in the land! Then everyone who has a complaint or case could come to me and I would see that they receive justice.”*

<sup>5</sup> Also, whenever anyone approached him to bow down before him, Absalom would reach out his hand, take hold of him and kiss him. <sup>6</sup> Absalom behaved in this way toward all the Israelites who came to the king asking for justice, and so he stole the hearts of the people of Israel.

<sup>7</sup> At the end of four years, Absalom said to the king, “Let me go to Hebron and fulfill a vow I made to the Lord. <sup>8</sup> While your servant was living at Geshur in Aram, I made this vow: ‘If the Lord takes me back to Jerusalem, I will worship the Lord in Hebron.’”

<sup>9</sup> The king said to him, “Go in peace.” So he went to Hebron.

<sup>10</sup> Then Absalom sent secret messengers throughout the tribes of Israel to say, “As soon as you hear the sound of the trumpets, then say, ‘Absalom is king in Hebron.’” <sup>11</sup> Two hundred men from Jerusalem had accompanied Absalom. They had been invited as guests and went quite innocently, knowing nothing about the matter. <sup>12</sup> While Absalom was offering sacrifices, he also sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David’s counselor, to come from Giloh, his hometown. And so the conspiracy gained strength, and Absalom’s following kept on increasing. <sup>13</sup> A messenger came and told David, “The hearts of the people of Israel are with Absalom.”

INTRO to Series: “Summer in Samuel” – Throughout Scripture, we see that God uses imperfect people to accomplish His perfect will and purposes for this world. Those who are faithful are set apart because of their trust in Him, whether in successes or failures. Our “Summer in Samuel” study will take us into the books of 1 and 2 Samuel and a few of the Psalms, where time and again God demonstrates His faithfulness. The stories of people like Hannah, Samuel, and David will remind us that no matter the season—in good times and bad—those who put their trust in Him are not put to shame.

INTRO to **2 Samuel 15-16:** The consequences of David’s sins from **2 Samuel 11-12** take a heavy toll in his life in the chapters that follow. In **2 Samuel 13**, one of David’s sons, Amnon, commits despicable acts towards his own sister Tamar. This sets off a series of actions where another of David’s sons, Absalom, arranges the death of Amnon and then begins setting himself up to challenge David for the throne of King of Israel.

### I. Absalom’s Heart: Pride and Selfish Ambition (2 Samuel 15:1-12)

-Absalom's behavior in **vs. 1-6** – riding in a chariot with an army in front of him and intervening at the city gate with promises to settle disputes makes his intentions clear: he's acting like a king would act.

-David had been willing to wait patiently for God's will and timing while Saul was king, but Absalom was trying to take matters into his own hands with no regard for the Lord.

-David was a man after God's own heart who most often sought the Lord and to do that which was right and just (**2 Samuel 8:15**), Absalom was acting more like a politician telling each person what *they* wanted to hear.

-Absalom deceived David about why he wanted to go to Hebron, and David, sent Absalom with his blessing as his father and king. Rather than going to worship in Hebron, Absalom set himself up as King of Judah and won over the hearts of the people in the land of David and his ancestors (**vs. 7-12**).

-Though David had already defeated many great enemies and been delivered from the years of fleeing for his life from Saul, his Absalom will prove to be the most troubling challenge of his life.

## **II. David's Desires: Faith and Trust (Psalm 3)**

-In **Psalm 3**, which is titled "A psalm of David. When he fled from his son Absalom," David seems to declare his faith in God's protection and providence even in the face of his fear of Absalom.

### **Psalm 3:**

*<sup>1</sup> Lord, how many are my foes!*

*How many rise up against me!*

*<sup>2</sup> Many are saying of me,*

*"God will not deliver him."*

*<sup>3</sup> But you, Lord, are a shield around me,*

*my glory, the One who lifts my head high.*

*<sup>4</sup> I call out to the Lord,*

*and he answers me from his holy mountain.*

*<sup>5</sup> I lie down and sleep;*

*I wake again, because the Lord sustains me.*

*<sup>6</sup> I will not fear though tens of thousands*

*assail me on every side.*

*<sup>7</sup> Arise, Lord!*

*Deliver me, my God!*

*Strike all my enemies on the jaw;*

*break the teeth of the wicked.*

*<sup>8</sup> From the Lord comes deliverance.*

*May your blessing be on your people.*

### III. David's Actions: Fear and Doubt (2 Samuel 15:13-15, 16:5-12)

**-vs. 13-16:** *A messenger came and told David, "The hearts of the people of Israel are with Absalom."*

*<sup>14</sup> Then David said to all his officials who were with him in Jerusalem, "Come! We must flee, or none of us will escape from Absalom. We must leave immediately, or he will move quickly to overtake us and bring ruin on us and put the city to the sword."*

*<sup>15</sup> The king's officials answered him, "Your servants are ready to do whatever our lord the king chooses."*

*<sup>16</sup> The king set out, with his entire household following him; but he left ten concubines to take care of the palace.*

-David's actions in response to Absalom's conspiracy and threats seemed like the opposite of his words in **Psalm 3**. Rather than seeking the Lord and trusting in Him, David gave into fear and ran away.

-David and many of the people of Israel headed out from Jerusalem, over the Mount of Olives, towards the wilderness.

-David left Jerusalem, and Absalom and his men took over the city and the palace.

-The people wept as David and his large caravan of people and soldiers passed by. One man (Shimei), however, called out curses upon David and pelted David and his soldiers with rocks. Though this would have been a deadly mistake in the past, David told his men not to harm Shimei because David believed the terrible things being said about him, even though he was the king, were deserved (see **2 Samuel 16:5-12** below).

#### **Other Scriptures Referenced:**

**2 Samuel 16:5-12:** *As King David approached Bahurim, a man from the same clan as Saul's family came out from there. His name was Shimei son of Gera, and he cursed as he came out. <sup>6</sup> He pelted David and all the king's officials with stones, though all the troops and the special guard were on David's right and left. <sup>7</sup> As he cursed, Shimei said, "Get out, get out, you murderer, you scoundrel! <sup>8</sup> The Lord has repaid you for all the blood you shed in the household of Saul, in whose place you have reigned. The Lord has given the kingdom into the hands of your son Absalom. You have come to ruin because you are a murderer!"*

*<sup>9</sup> Then Abishai son of Zeruiah said to the king, "Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? Let me go over and cut off his head."*

*<sup>10</sup> But the king said, "What does this have to do with you, you sons of Zeruiah? If he is cursing because the Lord said to him, 'Curse David,' who can ask, 'Why do you do this?'"*

*<sup>11</sup> David then said to Abishai and all his officials, "My son, my own flesh and blood, is trying to kill me. How much more, then, this Benjamite! Leave him alone; let him curse,*

*for the Lord has told him to. <sup>12</sup> It may be that the Lord will look upon my misery and restore to me his covenant blessing instead of his curse today.”*

**Romans 16:17-20:** *I urge you, brothers and sisters, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. <sup>18</sup> For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people. <sup>19</sup> Everyone has heard about your obedience, so I rejoice because of you; but I want you to be wise about what is good, and innocent about what is evil. <sup>20</sup> The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.*

**James 1:13-15:** *When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; <sup>14</sup> but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. <sup>15</sup> Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.*

### **Other Quotes/Resources:**

“The confident warrior who stood up to Goliath is now a self-pitying shell of his former self.” –Heath Thomas and J.D. Greear