

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

PREVENTING SOUL DAMAGE

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PART 4: BETRAYAL

Jesus warned us that in the last days people will be offended, there shall be betrayals and people will hate one another. **Matthew 24:10**

There is no doubt in my mind that these things will come to pass. Offense, hate and betrayal have always been with us but Jesus was speaking of an intensifying of these three things on a scale that the human race has never seen before. We need to prepare ourselves for these times so that we can handle it in the power of the Holy Spirit. **2 Corinthians 10:3-6**

King David faced the worst possible betrayal at the hand of his own son, Absalom. As we look back on this event, there are three things we should observe:

1. David did not guide and rule his children with a firm hand, as a result, Absalom lost respect for his father and in time it turned into hate.
2. When David should have disciplined his children, he let it slide and opened the door for Satan to come in and afflict him.
3. David did not enlist the help of his wives to rule and discipline the children, instead, the Bible shows that David used his wives as sex objects, but had no respect or love for them.

BETRAYAL

David surrounded himself with relatives and one of his generals was Joab, who was the son to David's sister Zeruah. Joab was not only a warrior but he was also a skilled politician who wanted to cover all bases. Joab was about the same age as his cousin Absalom, and when King David would die in the future, it is always good to be in the graces of a future king.

When Joab realized that King David was yearning for Absalom to come back, he set up a scheme. **2 Samuel 14:1-3, 19-23**

Instead of judging Absalom for the murder of his brother, David forbade Absalom from coming to the palace and seeing the king. **verse 24**

Absalom knew he was a handsome man and became very proud. The people liked him very much. **verses 25-26**

According to custom, the oldest son would become the next king. Amnon was the first born to David and he had been eliminated by Absalom. The second son born to David was Chileab, who had become the crown prince and stood between Absalom and the throne.



Absalom wanted to be restored as a prince again after two years and wanted to have his cousin Joab to negotiate with David but he refused. **verses 28-29**

Absalom forced Joab to come and talk to him and he persuaded Joab to speak on his behalf. **verses 30-33**

Instead of rebuking his son and passing judgment for the murder of his brother, David put his approval on Absalom.

LOSING RESPECT

Absalom had lost all respect for his father and started to plot on how to overthrow and kill him. **2 Samuel 15:1-6**

Absalom at the age of 40 started his quest for the throne of Israel by lying to his father and gathering a rebellion against him. **verses 7-11**

PROCLAIMING HIMSELF AS KING OF ISRAEL

Absalom established himself in the city of Hebron as the King of Israel, and David fled from Jerusalem when he heard about it. **verses 12-14**

David had brought this calamity upon himself by not taking control of his own family and judging the sins of his children. His soul was very much wounded and it was during his flight from Absalom that he wrote **Psalms 3:1-8**.

There was much weeping. **2 Samuel 15:30**

One of David's most trusted counselors had betrayed him. **verse 31**

Absalom had murder in his heart and was determined to murder his own father. **2 Samuel 17:1-4**

THE BATTLE

Even though his son had betrayed and was planning to kill him, David did not want his son Absalom to be killed, because even though Absalom had made many mistakes, David was still willing to forgive his rebellious son. **2 Samuel 18:1-5**

Absalom and his men were no match for David's men of war and 20,000 were killed and the rest fled. **verses 6-8**

Absalom was caught by the pride of his life, his hair. **verses 9-10**

When Joab found out that Absalom had gotten entangled and was hanging in a tree, he showed no mercy for his cousin and killed him. **verses 11-15**

Absalom's body was treated like a beast and was thrown into a pit. **verses 16-17**

THE MOURNING

David did not rejoice when word came that his son had been killed and his army sent fleeing, but went into deep grief even though if Absalom had won the battle, he would not have hesitated to kill his father. **verses 28-33**

David's nephew and general, Joab, became very angry because he had risked his life by siding with David and defeated Absalom and now he was not thankful.
2 Samuel 19:1-6

Joab threatened David with an ultimatum: stop grieving and go out and thank the people who stood by your side. **verse 7**

David had no choice but to resume his duties as king. **verse 8**

SUMMARY

1. King David could have stopped the entire rebellion if he would have arrested Absalom and judged him for the murder of his brother.
2. By not stopping the rebellion, he caused great damage to his own soul and the deaths of tens of thousands of Israelites.
3. King David showed his true heart when he cried over Absalom and forgave him in death even though he would have killed David without hesitation.
4. More tragedy struck the David's family when Adonijah rebelled and tried to set himself up as king near the end of David's life. **1 Kings 1:5-7**

Solomon had Adonijah killed after he was established as the king of Israel.
1 Kings 2:23-25

WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM DAVID'S FAMILY?

Despite his faults and severe shortcomings, David knew that God was his only refuge. **Psalm 13:1-6**

David knew that only God could heal his wounded soul, and in the end, the only thing that mattered was his standing with God. **Psalm 103:1-18**

God had this to say about David: **1 Samuel 13:14; Acts 13:22**

You will do well if you heed the words of Jesus. **Matthew 5:43-48**

A loving and forgiving Christian has no soul damage!

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

DO YOU HAVE AN EAR TO HEAR WITH?