

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1) 03 Jun 2018	.....2Sam 1-2	..... Respected
2) 10 Jun	.....2Sam 3-4	..... Crowned
3) 17 Jun	.....2Sam 5-6	..... Celebrated
4) 24 Jun	.....2Sam 7-8	..... Established
5) 01 Jul	.....2Sam 9-10	..... Valued
6) 08 Jul	.....2Sam 11-12	..... Accountable
7) 15 Jul	.....2Sam 13-14	..... Grieved
8) 22 Jul	.....2Sam 15-17	..... Deposed
9) 29 Jul	.....2Sam 18-19	..... Restored
10) 05 Aug	.....2Sam 20	..... Averted
11) 12 Aug	.....2Sam 21	..... Resolved
12) 19 Aug	.....2Sam 22-23	..... Thankful
13) 26 Aug	.....2Sam 24	..... Disciplined

INTRODUCTION

- David's 3rd son, Absalom, conspires against his Dad, chases his Dad out of Jerusalem, seeks his Dad's demise, and sleeps with his Dad's concubines. Again, what made David's family so dysfunctional? And, what fixes dysfunctional behavior?
- Food for thought:** Would David's troubles had occurred if he did not have his fling with Bathsheba.
 - According to John Calvin's teaching, King David had no choice for he was commanded by God to lust and sin, and thereby, eventually produce Solomon with his ill-gotten wife, Bathsheba
 - A better perspective is that God is so sovereign He can work with our sinful ways and even with the dysfunctional family members our sins produce to work His will out.
 - If David had controlled his lust, as God commands all of us to, Solomon should not have been born under the circumstances which occurred with David and Bathsheba, and Christ could have come through possibly another son of David or even through Bathsheba if her husband, Uriah, had died by other means than by the murderous hand of David.

Passage	Comments
2Samuel 15:1-12	<p>Absalom's Conspiracy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> When Absalom's scheming behavior was happening, his intentions were quite obscure, but in hindsight the evidence of his conspiracy was quite obvious: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v1. He formed an army (chariots, horses, soldiers) v2. He did more & more of the King's duties (possibly with the king's knowledge & concurrence) vv3-6. He stole away the people's hearts from the king (he played politics & kissed up to the people – promising them everything, but delivering nothing) From a church perspective, when should suspicious behavior be challenged? What is suspicious behavior? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Playing of politics (formation of opposing camps)? <input type="checkbox"/> Sowing dissent? <input type="checkbox"/> Other questionable behavior?
15:13-37	<p>David Flees Jerusalem</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> David seemingly made the wisest choice to flee? When is it appropriate to flee a struggle or fight it? v16. Why did David leave his concubines behind? vv24-29. David sends the ARK & the Priests back. David understood this principle – Having the ARK did not guarantee God's blessings. The ARK was a strong national symbol and should remain in the capital as a reminder of the people of their focus to be on God <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Also, David understood the need to have some spies within Absalom's camp (Hushai, Zadok & his sons) David's faith was in God, but he was to use whatever means were at his disposal (spies, military strength, & craftiness) to give him the edge
16:1-23	<p>Drama Continues with Ziba, Shimei, & Ahithophel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How do you get drama to stop once it starts? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do you be gentle or take a heavy-handed approach? Do you ignore it or fight fire with fire?

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> David's approach was to let things play out, knowing his sins initiated much of it, if not all of it David's hope was that one day the Lord would prepare a table before him in the presence of his enemies. IOW, David's enemies would see him being honored by God..... Psalm 23
17:1-29	<p>Conspiracies Continue with Bathsheba's Grandfather</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ahithophel, David's advisor, was the grandfather of Bathsheba 2Sam 11:3; 23:34 Apparently, there was a family fall out, or Ahithophel held a grudge for David killing his favorite son-n-law, Uriah, and now it was get-even time Where should Ahithophel's loyalty have been? Should he have been like Daniel, who made a stand to protect and encourage his leader (Darius), though, his leader was not perfect? Daniel 11:1
A Word on Suicide	<p>Recorded suicides and assisted-suicides in the Bible:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Abimelech had someone kill him..... Judges 9:54 Saul speared himself..... 1Sam 31:4 Saul's armor-bearer speared himself 1Sam 31:5 Ahithophel hanged/strangled himself. 2Sam 17:23 Judas hanged himself Mat 27:5; Acts 1:18 Many try to commit suicide during the tumultuous Tribulation, but are unsuccessful Rev 9:6 Was Jesus' death a suicide or an assisted-suicide? He had to die at a specific time, on a specific date, at the hands of a specific people, for a specific reason, and in a specific way! <p>Consider this. Suicide is not God's ideal way to end one's life. We should be watchful of those who are in despair and be ready to help wherever we can.</p>
God's Word Fixes Life's Problems	<p>How Do We Prevent or Fix Dysfunctional Behavior?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do all things with love 1Cor 16:14 Wives, submit to your husband Eph 5:22 Men, love your wife as Christ loved the Ch. Eph 5:25 Fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath.. Eph 6:4 Be gentle to all 2Tim 2:24 Others???

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- One of the by-products of adversity and opposition is that it provides an opportunity for true friendship to rise to the surface **1Cor 11:19**
- David did all he could do, humanly speaking, to survive this ordeal, knowing full well God would need to provide the victory
- His hope, as seen throughout his psalms was in His God to forgive him, to restore him, and to vindicate him..... **Psalm 43**

NEXT WEEK: 2Samuel 18-19. Absalom is slain and David is restored to the throne, but not without more drama. God's will is accomplished even with everyone doing things the wrong way for the wrong reasons.

