INTRODUCTION

Absalom is slain and David is restored to the throne, but not without more drama. God’s will is still accomplished even with everyone doing things the wrong way for the wrong reasons. What a God!

Passage | Comments
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**2Samuel 18:1-4** | David Listened to Others
- vv1-5. David listened to the advice of his people and did not go out to battle but stayed within the city with the other non-combatants (women, children, the aged)
  - The reason given was not due to his advanced age but due to his high value as a morale booster
  - Other examples where leaders listened to others:
    1. Moses took advice from Jethro. Exod 18
    2. Paul heeded the advice from other brethren to escape to safer places. Acts 9:25; 17:10
    3. Wise men listen to others. Prov 12:15
- Yet, there are times to ignore what others say to us:
  1. David opted to take on Goliath and not listen to his brothers & he became king. 1Samuel 17
  2. Jesus did not listen to Peter’s advice to avoid Jerusalem & he became our Savior. Mat 16:23
  3. Paul was resolved to go to Jerusalem and not listen to others, & he impacted the world from jail
- Now how do we discern the difference from the advice to follow and the advice to ignore?
  - Lines up with Scripture?
  - Feel good about it?
  - The majority say do it?
  - Other thoughts?

**2Samuel 18:5-33** | Joab Ignores His King’s orders & Slays Absalom
- This isn’t the 1st time Joab did things his own way. Sometimes it was for good, other times not so good
- Joab refused to continue numbering Israel. 1Chron 21
- Joab slew Abner who was trying to make peace with King David. 2Sam 3
- Joab slew Absalom, son of David. 2Sam 18
- Joab slew General Amasa. 2Sam 20:8-13
- Joab changed his alliance to Adonijah. 1Kings 1:19
- Why was Joab, at times, the most loyal follower of David, and at other times, totally obstinate?
  - Nepotism?
  - Personal agenda?
  - Other?
- Note: Nepotism can be bad in Govt, business & church. YET nepotism can also be a good thing, assuming all parties operate within biblical principles and not take advantage of friendship or kinship for selfish gain.
- Recall some of the Apostles were blood brothers (Peter & Andrew, James & John)

**19:8-23** | David is Restored to the Throne
- v9. Everyone was quarreling throughout all the tribes over who was in charge or should be in charge
- Should it be the old guard (King David & gang)?
- Should there be some new blood in charge?
- Does this sound like church squabbles?
- vv13-23. Notice how David quelled some discontent
  - He compromised & brought in new leaders (Amasa)
  - And he showed mercy to deserters (Shemei & Joab)
- But these changes were short-lived. Joab would kill Amasa and Solomon would kill Shemei & Joab
- Is there ever a simple solution to restore unity?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Never
  - Sometimes
  - Depends
- What is God’s solution to keep and/or restore unity be it on a national scale or at the church level?
- Remember: Even to maintain a semblance of unity during the Millennial reign of Christ, Jesus must rule with a “rod of iron” Rev 12:5; 19:15
- So unity this side of Glory always takes work and everyone must recognize & respect who is in charge (be it King, President, or Dad)
- Only when evil is totally removed from God’s kingdom will we see true unity at work

**19:24-43** | Mop Up Continues
- vv24-30. Mephibosheth was not disloyal as Ziba contended. The only resolution was to divide the land between the two. Ziba made out, and Mephibosheth was content just to have David back on the throne.
- Should we be more like Mephibosheth during earthly squabbles and be willing to take a loss for unity’s sake? Or should we fight for what’s ours? 1Cor 6:7

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- All the problems David experienced to recapture his throne could have been easily avoided if he heeded God’s word “Do Not Commit Adultery.”
- But, men do fail by taking their focus off of God.
- Fortunately, God is willing to forgive and restore. YET, sin always has consequences even when there is true repentance and humility.

NEXT WEEK: 2Samuel 20. The drama back to the throne is not over yet. A second revolt must be put down and Joab takes matters into his own hands once more & kills General Amasa for lingering too long.