

Face Crises with Courage

2 Samuel 15:13-14,24-26,30-37; 19:7-8a

Introduction

We will all face crisis situations, and when we do we can respond with faith. We will deal with health issues, face family turmoil, confront problems at work.

As we look at the way David faced a devastating circumstances in his life, we can learn important lessons for successfully dealing with our own crises.

If ever a man was equipped to be a demagogue and lead people astray, that man was Absalom. He was a handsome man whose charm was difficult to resist (14:25–26), and he had royal blood in his veins from both his father and his mother. The fact that he had no character wasn't important to most of the people who, like sheep, would follow anybody who told them what they wanted to hear and gave them what they wanted to have.

Absalom was not only a consummate liar, but he was a patient man who was able to discern just the right hour to act. He waited two years before having Amnon murdered (13:23), and now he waited four years before openly rebelling against his father and seizing the throne (v. 7)

CONTINUE TO TRUST GOD (2 Sam. 15:13-14; 24-26)

Vs. 13-14 - Absalom and Ahithophel had their trumpeters and messengers ready to act, and at the signal, the word quickly spread throughout the land: "Absalom is king! He reigns from Hebron!" The anonymous messenger who informed David actually helped to save the king's life. However lethargic David may have been before now, he immediately moved into action, because David always did his best during a crisis.

His first official order was for his family, officials and special bodyguard to leave Jerusalem immediately. If Absalom had the whole nation following him, it would be easy for armies from Judah and the northern tribes to surround Jerusalem and leave no way of escape. David knew that the same Absalom who killed Amnon would also kill his brothers and possibly even his father, so it was imperative that everybody flee.

Vs 24-26 -When you read David's exile psalms, you can't help but see his trust in God and his conviction that no matter how disordered and disturbed everything was, the Lord was still on His throne. No matter how David felt, he knew that the Lord would always keep His covenant and fulfill His promises.

David said ... if God wants me to survive, I will survive. If he wants to destroy me in the wilderness so be it.

APPLICATION:

Today we try to tell God what is best and what to do.

Our heart should be "Not my will, but Thine be done"

Zadok and Abiathar shared the high priestly duties and had helped to bring the ark to Jerusalem so they thought it wise to take the ark to David. Absalom had usurped his father's throne, but the priests would not allow him to have the throne of God. They joined David's camp and brought many of the Levites with them, and Abiathar offered sacrifices and no doubt called upon God to guide and protect the king. But David told them to take the ark back to Jerusalem! He didn't want the throne of God treated like a good-luck charm as in the days of Eli when the glory departed from Israel (1 Sam. 4).

Absalom and his men were trying to turn David's glory into shame (Ps. 4:2), but God's favor was upon the king and He would restore him to his throne. David had seen God's power and glory in His sanctuary (Ps. 63:2), and he would see it by faith there in the wilderness. But even if God rejected David, the king was prepared to accept Jehovah's sovereign will.

Faith without works is dead, so David assigned the two priests to be his eyes and ears in Jerusalem and to send him all the information that would help him plan his strategy. Zadok's son Ahimaaz and Jonathan the son of Abiathar would be the messengers and bring the information to him. David was a gifted tactician, and he had an effective spy system that kept him informed of Saul's every move.

DON'T ISOLATE YOURSELF FROM OTHERS (2 Sam. 15:30-37)

Another messenger arrived in David's camp and informed the king that Ahithophel had deserted him for Absalom (see v. 12).

Ahithophel may have turned on David because he was Bathsheba's Grandfather ...still have hatred in his heart for what David had done.

David wrote about the experience

1 - "Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted up his heel against me" (Ps. 41:9 nkjv).

2 - "For it is not an enemy who reproaches me; then I could bear it.... But it was you, a man my equal, my companion and my acquaintance" (Ps. 55:11-14).

Vs. 32 = What do you do when one of your closest confidants betrays you?

You do what David did—you pray and you worship. "O Lord, I pray thee, turn the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness. And it came to pass, that when David was come to the top of the mount ... he worshipped"

Weeping did not stop his worship.

I can tell you from personal experience that the most natural thing in the world is when sorrow and trouble comes we want to pull back and feel sorry for ourselves. We get depressed and discouraged. That is the time we need the Lord the most.

As he had done with Zadok and Abiathar and their two sons, so David did with Hushai: he sent him back to Jerusalem to "serve" Absalom as a double agent, so he could keep an eye on his son because he was sure his son would try to kill David.

All five men were taking risks for the sake of the Lord and the kingdom, but they considered it an honor to serve their king and help restore him to the throne.

Of course, later Hushai would greet the king and go to work doing all he could to obstruct his plans and keep David informed.

Humanly speaking, were it not for Hushai's counsel to Absalom, David might have been slain in the wilderness.

The plan worked and Hushai alerted David as to the battle plans. David was able to counter the offensives and win the battle after his son Absalom's hair was caught in a tree.

3

FULFILL YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES (2 Sam. 19:7-8a)

The repeated theme in this chapter is “bringing back the king” . David was across the Jordan in Mahanaim, but he belonged in Jerusalem. All the tribes, including David’s own tribe of Judah, had participated in Absalom’s rebellion to some extent; now it was time for them to bring their king back to Jerusalem.

Years of intrigue and intertribal conflict left Israel a deeply divided nation, and there was a desperate need for a strong display of unity and loyalty.

Joab’s short but cutting speech – SNAP OUT OF IT was the message. Don’t you understand these people placed their lives on the line for you. All you are doing is sitting around moaning and groaning.

These words jolted the king back to reality, and David took his place at the gate— where his men came to him and where he acknowledged their brave service.

The one thing that’s missing in the entire Absalom episode is David’s seeking the mind of the Lord as he made decisions.

The younger David called for the Urim and Thummim or asked for the counsel of a prophet, but apart from his prayer in 15:31, we don’t find David requesting guidance.

We wish David had sought God’s direction as he dealt with Absalom and the problems he created.

Application:

Our outlook affects others.

Discouragement and depression will be used by satan to defeat us and affect our family and friends.

Paul said in Philippians 4:11 I have learned in whatever state I am to be content.

Everyday we must realize that we are blessed.