

Class 6 Absalom & Ahithophel – Betrayal!

1. Absalom (2 Sam 13-19) His name appears almost 100 X in these chapters!!!!

Background: Amnon rapes his half-sister Tamar, who was Absalom's full-sister!

2 Samuel 12:10 "Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house..."

2 Samuel 13:1-3 "After this..."

Consequences of Sin! David 'lost control' of his sons because he lost his moral integrity!

He plotted his brother's death, and deceived his father in the process (2 Sam. 13:23-27, **32**)
(Absalom's approach Lev 19:17,18; Pro 26:24-26)

2 Sam 13:22 – spoke neither 'good or bad' about the Tamar incident. It became a 'taboo' subject in the family – they continued 'normal' family relations externally – but inside were filled with suspicion & hate

Aside: 1. Irony - Absalom assassinated Amnon in much the same way he was later murdered!
Cp. 2 Sam 13:28-29 and 2Sa 18:9-12

2. Sheepshearers – Judah & Hirah (Gen. 38), Nabal (1 Sam 25), Absalom (2 Sam 13),
Those who killed Jesus (Isa 53)

Note: "Absalom fled" 3X (v. 34, 37, 38) See Proverbs 28:1

Upon his return, Absalom works full time to become King (2 Sam. 15).

As next in line for the Kingship, and seeing his father's malaise, he perhaps justified his evil plot. He had not known discipline, and was now acting with unrestrained desire.

1Ki 1:6 – David had never 'told off' Adonijah! (We can assume same was true of Absalom)
Instructing and disciplining our children is NOT an optional exercise! We MUST do it!

Pr 13:24 – 'rod' in this verse is the same word as 'dart' in 2 Sam.18:14. Because David did not use the rod on Absalom, Joab thrust one through his heart!!

*** We cannot use our upbringing (or lack of it) as an excuse to sin.

*** How important is it to instil self-discipline into our children (by example and with consistent and sustained effort/discipline!) See Ps 3:1 - title

Aside: David had required a 'fourfold' restoration and lost 4 sons (Bathsheba's firstborn, Amnon, Absalom and Adonijah (all firstborns!))
[Ahinoam & Amnon, Maacah & Absalom, Haggith & Adonijah, Bathsheba & Her firstborn]

1 John 3:15 – hatred of brother = murder. [How serious a matter is this!!!]

2. Ahithophel: **1Ch 27:33-34** – one of King David's highest-ranking officials!

He was a confidant and close friend! Ps 55:12-14

Show Ahithophel's connection to Bathsheba.

2 Sam. 23:34 – Ahithophel's son Eliam is one of David's mighty men! A friend of Uriah?!

2Sa11:3 – Bathsheba was Eliam's daughter (thus Ahithophel's granddaughter!)

Aside: Ahithophel's behaviour NOT justified! (Despite David's sin!)

2Sam. 9:4-5 – Machir (son of Ammiel=Eliam and therefore Bathsheba's brother!) cared for Mephibosheth and later tended to David (**2Sam.17:27**). Obviously he harboured no grudge to David.

[Note: David's bad behaviour did not justify Ahithophel's reaction! Friend's need to show kindness even when the other is astray.]

Ahithophel's Grudge...What did he want? Did he think God was not in control?

Didn't think God could make something good come out of something bad?

Solomon is the next King – Ahithophel's great-grandson! But he never saw it!

2 Sam 16:20-23– Ahithophel's counsel (He knew about the prophecy 2Sam 12:11, and was now using it against David!)

Ahithophel's counsel was 'visionary' but wicked!!

Do we ever use the scriptures out of spite and anger and self-satisfaction? The Word will come to pass, but at what cost to us personally if we use God's Word in this way!

Can we appear prosperous, even righteous – speaking for God – and yet be eaten through with hate and motivated by revenge??!!

Note the use of "I" in 2Sam.17:1-4 – it was Ahithophel's plan through and through! (**Colour in**)

Cp. Matt 26:47-50 – Judas' treachery. Also 2Sam 17:23 and Matt.27:3-5 – manner of death

Pro 18:19 – a brother offended – David's momentary lapse had a huge ripple affect!

Matt 6:15 – must forgive to gain forgiveness – Ahithophel harboured resentment!

God used these circumstances to allow David to experience the 'sufferings of Christ' – especially betrayal!! 1Pe 4:12-14 See: Psalm 41:9 – cp. Judas

Like David, we too, will have an "Ahithophel moment" – betrayal, disappointment, sadness, ...

Think of all life's experiences as "How is God teaching me to have a fellow-feeling with Christ?"

God surrounded David with people to remind him of who he really was – to see in others what we often cannot see in ourselves!

- As a natural man: filled with vengeance, lust, pride,....
 - o Like Joab, Abishai, Ahithophel, Absalom,...
- As a spiritual man: capable of love, mercy, compassion, forgiveness,....
 - o Abigail, Jonathan, Hushai, Mephibosheth, ...

LOOK FOR THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR LIFE!!