



# DISCIPLE

**Desire Determination Discipline Diligence Delight Doer**

**Course:** A Survey of the Bible: Genesis to Revelation

**Lesson:** 21\_3e - **PSALMS**

**Passage:** Psalms 3

**Disciples Meditate** (Psalm 1:1-3)

★ **MEDITATION TAKES TIME and EFFORT!**

## MEDITATION #5 on Psalm 3

Sin, Sovereignty, and Responsibility

**SIN HAS CONSEQUENCES!**

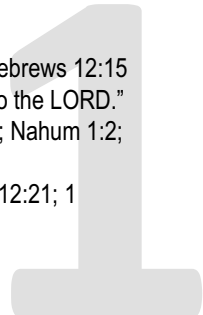
### REMEMBER 2 SAMUEL 12:9-14

**Diamonds to Rags** (1 Samuel 13:20-21)

- Tamar, twice a princess, in a moment of time is stripped of her royalty and must spend the rest of her days in desolation. (v. 20)
- Tamar gets no justice from the King. (v. 21)
- Did David's natural affections for His first-born cloud his judgment as king?
- WARNING: Luke 14:26-27

**Absalom's Hatred** (1 Samuel 13:22, 32)

- Leviticus 19:17, 18
- The danger of the root of bitterness: Ephesians 4:31-32; Hebrews 12:15
- **WE MUST ALWAYS REMEMBER:** "Vengeance belongs to the LORD."  
(Romans 12:19; Deuteronomy 32:35, 43; Psalm 94:1-2; Nahum 1:2; Hebrews 10:30)
- WE are not to return EVIL with EVIL but GOOD. (Romans 12:21; 1 Thessalonians 5:15)



## **Masked Deception** (1 Samuel 13:23-27)

- After TWO full years . . . Many have forgotten. But Absalom's wrath has only grown.
- (v. 24) Absalom begins his deceit. He **MUST** have known that the King would never come – why would he have his father witness the murder of the king's firstborn.
- (v. 26) Absalom urges the king to allow Amnon to come – perhaps as the king's representative.
- (v. 27) **“WHY SHOULD HE GO WITH YOU?”**
- (v. 27) Even silence can be a lie.
- **ABSALOM IS DECEIVING HIS OWN FATHER.**
- Absalom will mask his devious crime in the midst of a **FAMILY** feast!

## **“FEAR NOT!”** (1 Samuel 13:28-29)

- Absalom hires servants to do his work.
- Absalom would make Amnon merry (drunk) with wine before killing him.
- Absalom tells his servants, “Do not be afraid!”
  - **DO NOT BE AFRAID** of **RIGHTEOUS MEN**.
  - **DO NOT BE AFRAID** of **GOD**.
  - **DO NOT BE AFRAID** of the **CONSEQUENCES** of **YOUR ACTIONS**.
- “Be courageous and valiant!!???”
- Absalom's servant **OBEY** Absalom rather than the clear word of God.
- Consider Amnon. He came to party but ended up **DEAD**. We **TRULY** do not know what each day holds for us! (Proverbs 27:1; James 4:13-16)

**Though we see the hand of man in all of this we must not ignore the hand of God!**

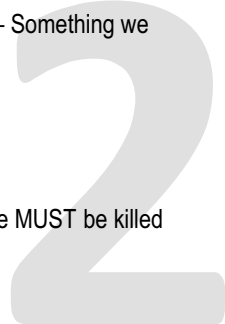
God has unsheathed HIS SWORD! (12:10-11)

## **Test All Things** (1 Samuel 13:30-33)

- David first receives a **FALSE** report. He fails to **TEST** (investigate) the news carefully.
- 1 Thessalonians 5:21, 22 — **TEST ALL THINGS!** – Something we humans do not do.
- How did Jonadab know???

## **No City of Refuge for Absalom** (1 Samuel 13:36-39)

- City of Refuge: Numbers 35:9-34
- Absalom's crime was **PREMEDITATED** and therefore he **MUST** be killed himself. (Genesis 9:6; Numbers 35:29-31)
- Absalom flees to his grandfather's home.



- Absalom spend three years away from Jerusalem.

## God's Righteous Retribution

- ① As David's murder of Uriah was not a sudden act of UNpremeditated evil – BUT a premeditated, planned act, so Absalom's removal of Amnon, his brother, was a carefully calculated act. (Remember Numbers 15:30-31)
- ② The murder of Uriah was a means unto an end; so the killing of Amnon a means unto an end – Absalom being the next in line for the kingdom.
- ③ David did not kill Uriah with his own hand, so too, Absalom had others do the work of murder.
- ④ As David made Uriah drunk, so did Absalom instruct his servants to wait until Amnon's 'heart was merry with wine.'

## David's Attitude Towards Absalom (1 Samuel 13:39 and 14:1)

- Almost all English version do not give an accurate picture of David's attitude towards his son.
- (13:39) "David longed to go out against Absalom."
  - This would be difficult since that would mean going to war against his own father-in-law. Political marriages were a sort of peace treaty between two kingdoms.
  - "to go out" can be used in the hostile sense – Deut. 28:7
- (14:1) There is no verb "longed for" in the verse. Literally, it says, "Now Joab perceived . . . that the king's heart was *out to or against* Absalom."
- Consider 14:24. If David longed for Absalom then chapter 14 does not fit. Why would Joab have to go through all this trickery if David would only need a little nudge?
- David allowed his son to stay in exile – though there was mounting pressure from within and without his palace.

## The Joab's Evil Plan (1 Samuel 14:1-3)

## The Deceptive Story (1 Samuel 14:4-11)

## The Accusation (1 Samuel 14:12-17)

## The SIN Uncovered (1 Samuel 14:18-24)

- In the end, it "seems" that Absalom is getting off free!!!



## **Vanity, Vanity** (1 Samuel 14:25-27)

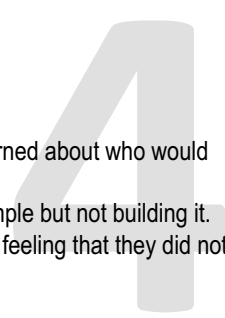
- The only GOOD thing that Scripture says about Absalom is that he had a lot of hair and that he was handsome.
  - These three verses tell us:
    - (v. 25) The people praised Absalom for his good looks.
    - (v. 26) Absalom was so conceited that he weighed his hair.
    - (v. 27) He had a family.
  - NOTHING is said about HONESTY, INTEGRITY, WISDOM or PIETY!
- “OUR TIMES insist on style over substance, cosmetics over content, manner over matter.”
- Absalom would make a great 21<sup>st</sup> century politician.
- What do YOU look for in your leaders? How would you describe real leadership?

## **The Reconciliation** (1 Samuel 14:28-33)

- Absalom remains under house arrest for two years. This shows David's conviction to his judgment.
- He summons Joab twice, but Joab refuses to come both times.
- Absalom orders his servants to burn Joab's field.
- Look at Absalom's words carefully:
  - (v. 32) “Why have I come from Geshur? It would be better if I was still there!”
  - (v. 32) “Let me see the king's face; but if there is any iniquity in me, let him execute me!”
    - Absalom cannot see his own crime (sin).
    - Absalom is not appreciative of the MERCY given him.
    - Absalom CHALLENGES his father to find any sin and if he does then EXECUTE him!
      - Absalom is playing with his father's affections.
- Joab convinces the King to see the son.
- Absalom comes and PROSTRATES himself before the king – feigning his submission to the throne and his father.
- David sees this as genuine repentance and IMMEDIATELY PARDONS Absalom with a KISS. (v. 33)

## **The Work of a Usurper** (1 Samuel 15:15:1-6)

- Political situation in Israel:
  - ① The king was getting old and people were concerned about who would succeed him.
  - ② The king was spending lots of money on the Temple but not building it.
  - ③ People were drifting away from God and had the feeling that they did not NEED Him.



- One must consider that Absalom, though David's firstborn, is no longer a considered candidate for the throne by David and his closest advisors.
- BUT as soon as Absalom is set free from house arrest he begins to spring his 5 years of planning. (3-Geshur; 2-Jerusalem)
- (v. 1) He gets a chariot with horses and 50 men to clear his way and proclaim his coming. (Consider Deuteronomy 17:16)
- (vv. 2-4) Absalom starts to put into the minds of people that he should be king.
  - Absalom is not interested in justice. He wants the THRONE.
  - He tells the people what they want to hear.
  - He pretends to be compassionate concerning their needs, but what he is really interested in is HIMSELF!!
  - (v. 5) His embraces and kisses are EMPTY!
  - Absalom did not have to make the hard decisions as Israel's judge. But he could TALK ABOUT how he could do a better job!!
- (v. 6) Absalom won the hearts of the people of Israel by FLATTERY! (See Romans 16:18; Psalm 12:1-3; Proverbs 26:28; 29:5; Jude 15-16; 1 Thessalonians 2:5 [cf. 2 Timothy 4:3-4])
- During this time the king was ill. See Psalms 38, 39, 41, 55.
- LESSON for US: Absalom is SEDUCING the people of God. What would you do if you were in Jerusalem during this time?
  - David is GOD's APPOINTED king. Absalom is turning people away from God's appointed leader.
  - APPEARANCES are VERY DECEPTIVE. WORDS can be VERY DECEPTIVE. **TEST ALL THINGS**. (1 Thessalonians 5:21)

## The REBELLION (1 Samuel 15:7-12)

- After **FOUR** years Absalom asks the king permission to go to Hebron to pay a vow. One has to ask why it took so long (at least 6 years).
- (vv. 7-8) This UGLY POLITICIAN uses RELIGION to accomplish his plan to overthrow the King and his father!!! **HE WILL NOT BE HELD GUILTLESS FOR TAKING THE NAME OF THE LORD IN VAIN.** (Exodus 20:7)
- (v. 9) The king says, "Go in PEACE." ***These are David's last words to his son!***
- Absalom will leave in peace but will return with WAR.
- (v. 10) Absalom sends spies to ready his act of treason. "Spies" tell us that things are not being done with honesty and integrity. "Spies" do DIRTY work.
- (v. 11) Absalom invites 200 men to go with him. They do not know anything of Absalom's plan. Absalom will USE their IGNORANCE to accomplish his purpose. AND deceive the common people.
- (v. 12) Absalom sends for Ahithophel, **the grandfather of Bethsheba** – an old counselor of David. (see 11:3 and 23:34).

## **Enemies in David's Camp** (1 Samuel 15:12)

- Absalom, David's firstborn, is planning to overthrow his father's kingdom.
- Ahithophel joins Absalom's camp and strengthens the conspiracy.
- Read Psalm 41 to get an idea of what is happening in David's palace.

## **David Understands the "Hand of God"**

- Remember: 2 Samuel 12:9-12
- David humbly bows to the consequences of his sins.
- Earlier we studied David suffering because of righteousness.
- NOW we see the same man suffering because of transgressions.

## **Bad News** (1 Samuel 15:13)

- Consider the pain David's must have felt.
- What pain would you feel?
- What pain did Christ feel?

## **David Orders an Evacuation** (1 Samuel 15:14)

- David evacuates to save the city from war.
- He bows to the "hand of God."

## **TRUE SERVANTS** (1 Samuel 15:15)

- "The revolt of Absalom and his stealing the hearts of so many people afforded an opportunity for these servants of David to manifest their unswerving loyalty and deep devotion to their master."
- There is always TARES in the Church. Difficulties helps to weed out the tares. (Matthew 13:24-30; 36-43)
- GOD says that there must be factions (divisions; controversies) in the Church so that TRUTH might be recognized. (1 Cor. 11:19; see Deut. 13:1-4; consider Job 12:16 and Ezekiel 14:9)
- Though MANY when to Absalom these stayed with David. Here is a PRINCIPLE: If we maintain close fellowship with Christ (David is the antitype) the seductions of Satan will not allure us away from our allegiances to the KING.
- These servants were willing to STICK with David when things were going well and they enjoyed the blessings of the Kingdom, AND when things were NOT AT ALL GOOD.
- These servants were willing to stand next to their king even if it meant their own lives. (1 John 3:16)
- They were "ready to do WHATEVER" their lord commanded. (Luke 6:46; John 15:14, 21; 1 John 5:3)

## **David's Decision or the Hand of God** (1 Samuel 15:16)

- David DECIDED to leave some of his concubines "to keep house."
- COULD DAVID DECIDE DIFFERENTLY???
- Meditate on the word "ALL" in Romans 11:36
- David made a voluntary decision to leave ten of his concubines to "keep house."
- NEVERTHELESS GOD was behind his decision.
- MAN is accountable for his actions.
- GOD is sovereign over all.
- The BIBLE teaches BOTH TRUTHS.

## **The Gentiles Follow the King** (1 Samuel 15:17-22)

- (v. 18) The men that had followed David since GATH. (see 1 Samuel 23:13; 25:13; 30:1, 9)
  - Interestingly, verse 13 told us that the hearts of the men of Israel were with Absalom and reject their TRUE king, but the Gentiles FOLLOWED the King. Do you see the picture here?
- (v. 18) These men became FOLLOWER while David lived in the enemies territory! (See Psalm 110:2-3)
- NOTICE David's concern for his followers. Note Jesus' same concern in John 18:8.
- (v. 19) WE ARE FOREIGNERS in this world. (see Hebrews 11:13; 1 Peter 2:11; Philippians 3:20) – BUT Ittai decided to STAY with the king.
- (v. 21) Are Ittai's words our words to our LORD?
  - See Philippians 1:20, 29
  - See Ruth 1:16, 17

## **Crossing the Kidron Valley** (1 Samuel 15:23)

- Kidron means "dark"; "black"; "turbid"; "muddy"
- The sewage of the city was dumped into this valley.
- The filth from the temple sacrifices for sin were also dumped here.
  - The picture was the sins of the people were carried away before God's face and washed away by the waters of this brook.
- This was an UNCLEAN place outside the city. (see Lev. 14:40; 45)
- The ashes of destroyed IDOLS were dumped here. (2 Chron. 15:16; 30:14; 2 Kings 23:4, 6)
- David crossing this brook was a PICTURE that his SON would one day also do – see John 1:18.
- The messianic psalm 69 speaks of the DEEP MIRE – perhaps a picture of Christ crossing the Kidron.

- FIVE POINTS of CONNECTION between David, the antitype, and Christ:
  - ① This was the brook of humiliation that David crossed at the beginning of his humiliation – so with Christ.
  - ② David had be rejected as king when he crossed – so with Christ.
  - ③ David was not alone but had a small company of “friends” with him when he crossed – so with Christ.
  - ④ Ahithophel, a ‘familiar friend” had joined the ranks of Absalom – so did Judas betray Christ.
  - ⑤ A multitude sided with Absalom but a small remnant wept for their king — so too with Christ. The multitude cried, ‘crucify Him’ but a small remnant wept for Him (Luke 23:27)

HERE IS WHERE PSALM 3 FITS!

