

# Rebellion

## 2 Samuel 15

### June 6, 2021

**Introduction:** If you don't want to get robbed, guard your house.

**Context:** consequences for David's sin

#### 1. Absalom // The Man Who Wants to be King

- Disturbing family dynamics are at play almost from the beginning
- 2 Samuel 3 we find a list of David's first 6 sons
- Ammon, Tamar, Absalom What is David doing?
- A subtle cord begins to be developed through the narrative where David is strangely distant and passive.
- Absalom flees to his grandfather's house
- Absalom is in exile for 3 years

For two years Absalom wasn't able to see the king, David is completely absent, uninvolved, and passive with his son.

#### 2 Samuel 15:1

After this Absalom got himself a chariot and horses, and fifty men to run before him.

#### 2. Absalom // The Man Who Becomes the Enemy of the King

- Impressive Presence: Horses and Chariots
- Shows a treasonous rebellion against David.
- The Bible consistently depicts only enemies of the Lord and his covenant people as having them.
- He was joining his ambitions with symbols of hostility against the Lord and Israel. these highly visible symbols of royalty

#### 3. Absalom // The Man Who Becomes an Enemy of the King

#### 2 Samuel 15:2-5

2 And Absalom used to rise early and stand beside the way of the gate. And when any man had a dispute to come before the king for judgment, Absalom would call to him and say, "From what city are you?" And when he said, "Your servant is of such and such a tribe in Israel," 3 Absalom would say to him, "See, your claims are good and right, but there is no man designated by the king to hear you."

#### Personal Connection:

Tell Them What They Want to Hear "See, your claims are good and right" sows seeds of discontentment. The courts are all backed up,

## **2 Samuel 15:4-5**

4 Then Absalom would say, "Oh that I were judge in the land!" Then every man with a dispute or cause might come to me, and I would give him justice." 5 And whenever a man came near to pay homage to him, he would put out his hand and take hold of him and kiss him.

**A Better Option: manipulates their hearts.**

## **2 Samuel 15:6**

Thus Absalom did to all of Israel who came to the king for judgment. So Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel.

Absalom stole the hearts of the people: Absalom, who wants to be king, has become the enemy of the king, and (3) Absalom: The Man Ready to Lead a Rebellion Against the King intentionally plundered the wishes and desires of the people of Israel to where their allegiances now resided with him, instead of with king David.

"Heart" The heart encompasses the whole person, denoting a person's center for physical and emotional-intellectual-moral activities; which it is where the physical and spiritual realms are connected.

## **Proverbs 27:19 (NLT)**

19 As a face is reflected in water, so the heart reflects the real person.

This means that where your heart is, is where you will be. The people of Israel, their hearts now belonged to Absalom because of his deceptive work and manipulation.

## **2 Samuel 15: 7-9**

7 And at the end of four years Absalom said to the king, "Please let me go and pay my vow, which I have vowed to the Lord, in Hebron. 8 For your servant vowed a vow while I lived at Geshur in Aram, saying, 'If the Lord will indeed bring me back to Jerusalem, then I will offer worship to the Lord.'" 9 The king said to him, "Go in peace." So he arose and went to Hebron.

**Since the Torah required vows to be fulfilled quickly (cf. Deut 23:21), Absalom's slackness in this matter should have raised suspicion about his true devotion to the Lord.**

Where was David? David has committed adultery, murdered a man, and now he is a failed father.

We have the highest of responsibilities to care for our children, not in the ways they want but in the ways they need. The failure of fathers in our country is well documented consider this

"There is a father absence crisis in America. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 18.3 million children, 1 in 4, live without a biological, step, or adoptive father in the home. Consequently, there is a father factor in nearly all social ills facing America today." *National Fatherhood Initiative*

Men, we can do better. We must do better. You can be like your heavenly Father rather than your earthly one.

I also know some of you have deep regrets especially if you are feeling regret.

### **Real Simple Tips for Fatherhood //**

1. Love the mother of your children well.
2. Let your kids hear you pray for them.
3. Bring your family to church and participate.
4. Get home from work on time.
5. Don't work when you're off work.
6. When you are not working, spend the majority of your time with your family.
7. Play with your kids. Just because you are home doesn't mean you are present.
8. Say "I love you" every day.
9. When you are angry, put yourself on time-out.
10. Quickly acknowledge your own mistakes ("I was wrong") and actively apologize ("I'm sorry; please forgive me") whenever it might be appropriate.

So David has not been involved enough to see what is happening and let's Absalom go to Hebron:

### **2 Samuel 15:10-11**

10 But while he was there, he sent secret messengers to all the tribes of Israel to stir up a rebellion against the king. "As soon as you hear the ram's horn," his message read, "you are to say, 'Absalom has been crowned king in Hebron.'" 11 He took 200 men from Jerusalem with him as guests, but they knew nothing of his intentions.

- Strategy
- Burnt offerings and fellowship offerings: served as an opportunity for festive celebration and a communal meal before the Lord.
- Without realizing it, had entered into an alliance with the man who was rebelling against the king.

Because Absalom had stolen the hearts of the people he is now leading a rebellion against the king

### **We Must Guard our Hearts // Active**

#### **Proverbs 4:23 (NLT)**

Guard your heart above all else,  
For it determines the course of your life.

### **Why we need to guard our hearts //**

There is an enemy of God, the Bible calls him Satan, Satan hates Jesus and he hates you **and he is in the business of stealing hearts.**

Now before I say anything else I need to say this and be crystal clear. Jesus triumphed over Satan and all his demons through His work of redemption, particularly by canceling the authority of sin over us at the cross, and His exaltation to the right hand of the Father. Satan is already condemned and his final destruction is sure (John 12:31, 16:11, Rev 20:7-10). Jesus wins.

This means that Satan is desperate and he wants to take as many people with him as he can, Now, I believe that the Bible teaches that Satan actually has no legal authority over believers, but he tries to make

us ineffective, by any means possible, usually this just takes him singing us a little lullaby and putting us to sleep but it can mean that he tries to make life miserable as he seeks to steal, kill, and destroy.

- In studying this week I kept wondering “where is David? What is he doing?”
- “Where was He?” We must also ask “*Where Are We?*”

We are in the fight of our lives for our lives and for many of us we’re nowhere to be found. Not fighting, fighting the wrong enemy.

### **Alarms**

- 22% of Churched Adults Have Stopped Going to In-Person or Digital Church. The number gets worse as you go younger.
- 50% of Churched Millennials Have Stopped Going to In-Person or Digital Church.
- Podcasts or personalities on tiktok and Instagram who lead them on a path of deconstruction that challenge their assumptions and the result for many is that they start walking away from Jesus.

### **Beach Analogy //**

It is also not intended to be an analogy that covers every area of Soteriology.

**This is how it feels . . . we have an ocean full of people that need to be rescued and we can’t even keep who we have safely on shore.**

So How Do We Guard Our Hearts?

1. A Serious Pursuit of Holiness
2. A Serious Pursuit of Worship

We need you in the fight and I’m concerned that if you don’t engage your heart will be stolen, and we don’t just need you safely on shore, we need you picking up that buoy and start rescuing people, who then pick up that buoy and start rescuing people. It’s called leading people to pursue a Jesus-first life and it takes all of us to guarding our hearts with everything we got.