

## 2 Samuel 18:5, 9-15 – Choose Door #2 for the Sake of the King

Didn't You Hear What the Father Said – Sermon

**<sup>5</sup> And the king commanded Joab and Abishai and Ittai, saying, Deal gently for my sake with the young man, even with Absalom. And all the people heard when the king gave all the captains charge concerning Absalom.**

Background: Absalom, David's son was a bad kid. In Chapter 13, Absalom had killed his brother; in Chapter 14, he burned up Joab's barley field; in Chapter 15, he runs his father from the throne; in Chapter 16, he sleeps with his father's wives; in Chapter 17, he is going to war to kill his dad.

The boy was just crazy bad and evil. But he is about to get what's coming to him in this Chapter.

Verse 5 – David gives a command. As a father, he commanded his military leaders to deal gently with Absalom for his sake.

- Wait, Absalom deserved to die. In fact, Chapter 17 says God had intended to bring evil on him. Being gentle was the last thing Absalom deserved.
- David didn't ask them to be gentle because his son deserved it...because he didn't.
- David didn't ask them to be gentle because Absalom was good....because he wasn't.
- David didn't tell them to be gentle because Absalom was good or because he was going to change....he was stuck on stupid.
- But David asks them to do it for his sake. Do it for me; do it because your King asked you; do it for the father; do it because you love me and serve me; do it because I want you to honor my command; do it because I asked you to be kind to me.

Everybody heard the command.

**<sup>9</sup> And Absalom met the servants of David. And Absalom rode upon a mule, and the mule went under the thick boughs of a great oak, and his head caught hold of the oak, and he was taken up between the heaven and the earth; and the mule that was under him went away.**

Verse 9 – Payday comes for Absalom. He gets caught up in a situation he can't get out of. Nothing to support him now....he was just hanging out there. Playing hangman. The scripture says Absalom was caught between heaven and earth.

- Absalom's future rests between his decision to repent or continue to go down the path of destruction. All of us have been caught up and in need; the question is will we choose heaven or hell....life or death?

**<sup>10</sup> And a certain man saw it, and told Joab, and said, Behold, I saw Absalom hanged in an oak. <sup>11</sup> And Joab said unto the man that told him, and, behold, thou sawest him, and why didst thou not smite him there to the ground? And I would have given thee ten shekels of silver, and a girdle.**

Verse 10 – Somebody saw Absalom and told Joab where he was hanging out.

Verse 11 – Joab asks him a key question. You saw him like that, in that situation, and you didn't take him out? Why didn't you smash him? Why didn't you kill him? Why didn't you smoke that dude?

- Facts to consider. If he does it, Joab said he would get a reward. There's some benefit behind taking out your hater.

**<sup>12</sup> And the man said unto Joab, Though I should receive a thousand shekels of silver in mine hand, yet would I not put forth mine hand against the king's son: for in our hearing the king charged thee and Abishai and Ittai, saying, Beware that none touch the young man Absalom. <sup>13</sup> Otherwise I should have wrought falsehood against mine own life: for there is no matter hid from the king, and thou thyself wouldest have set thyself against me.**

Verse 12 – Man has a response to this tempting offer. He wouldn't do it. You could give him 100x that in silver and he wouldn't take that out Absalom. His reasons are:

1. He heard what the King had commanded.
2. There was a warning from the King to be gentle to the boy. There are consequences involved.
3. If he did it, he would be lying to himself; trying to justify why killing him was okay to do.
4. The King would find out because you can't keep this hidden from him.
5. The same person who would have rewarded him (Joab), would have taken him out. The benefits of killing Absalom wouldn't last long. Just a temporary high.
6. So this man takes Door #2. Door #1 is the door your flesh and your feelings and your pride wants you to choose. But true Christians know what comes from being obedient to the King is better than anything the world has to offer. I choose Door #2.

Why do we care what this man had decided to do? Because we are often faced with the same question...why didn't you or why don't you disobey the King.



I'm sure I can't be the only one who has had that moment, or dealt with the temptation to get revenge or take advantage of another person who is down...because in our mind...they deserve it.

- In the natural, it makes perfect sense to deliver the smack down.
- They deserve it, got it coming to them.
- My flesh is gonna feel good about it.
- It's on like Donkey Kong.

But something is telling me to stop. As I go through the process Jesus laid out. To identify I need him; to change my mind about what I want to do; to have new hope and know that He lives in me; to be powered by the Holy Spirit and do those things that bring glory to God.....it is easier to take Door #2.

First, what did I hear the King, the Father say? I heard the King say in Luke 6:

- Luke 6 – 27—But I say unto you that hear, love your enemies, do good to hem which hate you.
  - 28 – Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you.
  - 35 – But love your enemies and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again, and your reward shall be great.
  - 36 – Be ye merciful, as your Father also is merciful.

That's what the King said! I heard the King say:

- Matt 5 – 43-44 –Ye have heard it said, thou shalt love thy neighbor and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.
- 1 Pet 3 – 9 – Not rendering evil for evil, but contrariwise blessing, knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing.
- John 13:34 - A new commandment I give you, that y love one another as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.
- John 14:15 – If ye love me, keep my commandments.
- Rom 12:14 – Bless them which persecute you; bless and curse not.....you mean I can't even cuss them out?
- Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but *rather* give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance *is* mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.
- Rom 12:21 - Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

That's what He said.

But I got two voices in my head now. Two Doors I can choose.

My flesh always want to take the short cut. My emotions sometimes wants to be like:



James Brown said – The big payback  
Ed Crandon (Honeymooners) – One of these days, pow, you're going to the moon.  
The Thing (Fantastic Four) – said its clobbering time.  
Hulk – said smash  
Clint Eastwood – do you feel lucky punk  
LL Cool J – told me Momma said knock you out  
Snoop Dog – said I'm going 187  
Fred Sanford – said how would you like 5 across the lips.

But God said if you love me, keep my commandments. I don't care how much the reward is or how good it might feel, I'm going to obey King Jesus.

The question is do you love Him like that? Can you do it for the King?

I think I'm going with Door #2.

**<sup>14</sup> Then said Joab, I may not tarry thus with thee. And he took three darts in his hand, and thrust them through the heart of Absalom, while he was yet alive in the midst of the oak. <sup>15</sup> And ten young men that bare Joab's armour compassed about and smote Absalom, and slew him.**

Joab tells the man, I ain't got time to hang around talking about this. Joab then takes Absalom out.

See a Joab spirit doesn't love the King like that. Be careful listening to folks with a Joab spirit.

- Don't ask a thief if you should rob a house....they gonna say you should have already robbed it.
- Don't ask a player if you should break that little girls heart...they gonna say you should have already taken advantage.
- At the end of the story....Joab will pay the price.

Do the right thing and treat others gently, not because they deserve it, but because the King said so, and I want to love the King like that. I want to obey the King, because the King died for me and saved me when I didn't deserve it.

Because Jesus was gentle to me when I was lost between heaven and hell, I will obey the soon coming King. There is no reward, no temptation, nothing this world can offer me, that is better than the reward I receive from serving the King!