



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Lookin' for a Leader Series, Lesson 19

Lesson Title: David's Son, Absalom, Rebels

Take Home Point: Sin pulls families apart, but God's love puts families together.

Warm-Up:

This morning when I left for work, I decided not to stop for gas even though the gauge showed my car's gas tank was empty. Of course, after only a couple of miles, the engine quit and I coasted to the side of the road. But right away, someone pulled over, emptied a container of fuel into my car, and said, "It's not your fault you didn't get gas earlier." Relieved that I hadn't been delayed, I began driving toward work again, much faster than the speed limit. Naturally a police officer pulled me over. I told him I was just in a hurry to get to work, to which he replied, "Well then, it's not fair that the state law should slow you down. Go as fast as you like." Relieved again, I got to work. My boss gave me a difficult task, so I said I wouldn't do it. He responded, "No problem. I'll just get someone else to do it." Sound like one of your days? Of course not! Bad decisions without bad consequences! What a fantasy!

Read: 2 Samuel 13–19

Observation (What happened?):

What did David do to help set the stage for Absalom to declare himself as king?

How many people died because of Absalom's rebellion?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

How do you think David felt as the actions in this Bible event unfolded before his eyes?

How did David demonstrate his trust in the Lord as this all took place?

Insight:

"That's not fair!" How often have you heard that when someone experiences the natural consequences of a choice that they made? It's as if that person expects the principle of cause and effect to be suspended just for them. Children certainly use that statement, but I don't think I've heard it from them more than from some adults. In this Bible event, Absalom clearly believed he was the rightful king and was willing to do anything, including murder, to claim what he deserved. For him, it was only "fair" that he should be king. Any sense of fairness, already warped by his sin nature, was further perverted by his overwhelming desires. Although we may not display it to the same degree, we are all like Absalom in our inability to determine what is truly fair and right. That is why God is called the Righteous One. He is right; he knows what is right; and he has the right to judge us. We can trust his judgment. We can trust him to be truly "fair" in all his ways with us.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

What consequences of past sin do you still experience? How do you give them to the Lord?

How is Satan trying to pull your family apart? What can you do to resist his schemes?

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