

I. Introduction and review.

II. Joab again rescues David. v. 1-8a

A. David grieves excessively over Absalom. v. 1-4 18:33

1. David's loyal followers, who had risked their lives for him, feel humiliated. v. 1-3
2. David is paralyzed by sorrow and thus neglects his duty. 18:33 19:4

B. Joab rebukes David. v. 5-8a

1. Though Joab's methods are questionable, he is loyal and does what is necessary to preserve David's throne.
2. David is guilty of loving those who hate him and hating those who love him. v. 5-6
3. David must reach out to his people or he will lose his kingdom, doing to himself what Absalom failed to do. v. 7
4. David, to his credit, heeds Joab's counsel and receives the people. v. 8a

C. How are you at giving and receiving rebuke? Prov. 9:7-9

1. We, like Joab, have the duty to rebuke brothers who fall into sin. Mt. 18:15ff Gal. 6:1 James 5:20
2. Do you listen humbly to admonition, even if it is not perfectly delivered? Pr. 27:6 29:1 15:12 1:24ff 10:8

D. How should we mourn?

1. The loss of a loved one is legitimate occasion for grief. Ecc. 3:4 7:2 John 11:35
2. When a believer dies, our mourning is tempered by hope. I Th. 4:13ff Phil. 1:21ff
3. Grief is compounded when we fear that our beloved died in unbelief.
4. We must, however, submit to God's sovereign will and His justice. Lev. 10:1ff
 - a. When Job's children died he did not blame God. Job 1:18-22
 - b. When Aaron's sons died he kept silent. Lev. 10:3
 - c. Absalom died under God's judgment. 17:14 Ex. 20:12 Pr. 30:17 20:20
 - d. We cannot take our child's side against God.
 - e. Trust God that He does what is just and right.
 - f. When we are perfectly sanctified, we will understand.
5. God desires to show mercy to the wayward. They have no-one other than themselves to blame for their calamity. Ezek. 33:11
6. We cannot let our grief keep us from our kingdom duty.

E. How does this passage point us to Christ?

1. Jesus pursued His Father's Kingdom work without distraction. John 4:34 17:4
2. We must put Christ's kingdom even above our families. Luke 14:26 9:59-62 I Sam. 2:29
3. Jesus is enough to satisfy our souls even when people fail us. Jer. 17:5-8
4. One day Jesus will wipe every tear away. Rev. 21:4 Isa. 25:8

III. David is restored as king. v. 8b-15

A. The aftermath of a civil war is complex as a divided nation must be healed.

B. The Northern tribes take initiative to restore David as king. v. 8b-10 5:1ff

1. They recall David's past exploits. v. 9
2. If David was so great, why did they follow Absalom? Acts 17:51-52,27,35-37

3. People are still very fickle when it comes to their leaders.
 4. Those of us who lead must seek to please God and not men. Pr. 29:25 I Th. 2:4
- C. David seeks to rally the support of his tribe, Judah. v. 11-14
1. Though David has won the war, he seeks the consent of those he will govern.
 2. He enlists the support of the priests. v. 11-12
 3. He appoints Absalom's general Amasa (who also is a cousin) to replace Joab as the commander of the army. v. 13 17:25
 4. Why would David elevate a traitor? 17:25 18:5,14 20:9
 5. The hearts of Judah are with David as they seek his return. v. 14-15
- D. These tensions between Judah and the Northern tribes foreshadow future divisions in Israel. v. 40-43
1. The end of Absalom's conspiracy is not the end of David's troubles.
 2. The men of Judah quarrel those from the other tribes of Israel. v. 41-43
 3. Why are only half of the people of Israel accompanying David? v. 40
 4. David seems play on these divisions. v. 11
 5. The divisions between North and South soon cause further trouble. 20:1ff
 6. The consequences of David's great sin will continue beyond his own life when the kingdom is permanently divided. I Ki. 12
 7. Is this a picture of divisions in Christ's church? Gal. 5:15 I Co. 1:10ff Js. 4:1-2
- E. The treatment of David by the people is like the treatment of the Lord by humanity.
1. Our representative Adam rejected God as king and enthroned Satan. Gen. 3:1ff II Co. 4:4
 2. When Jesus came into the world, most rejected Him. John 1:10-11
 3. God's Anointed, Jesus the Son of David, has come and defeated Satan. Gen. 3:15 Lu. 10:18 Ro. 16:20 I John 3:8
 4. He seeks willing subjects. Luke 19:10 Mt. 11:28ff John 7:37ff
 5. Will you invite Jesus to reign over your life? Luke 19:14 John 1:12-13
- F. Some believers have wandered from Christ. Rev. 2:4ff

IV. Concluding applications.

Discussion questions

1. How much sorrow over the death of a loved one is appropriate?
What is wrong with mourning too much?
2. How can we overcome the grief over an unbelieving relative who dies?
3. What did Joab do well in his relationship with David?
What did he do badly?
4. When is it right to rebuke a friend?
5. How did you respond the last time someone rebuked you?
6. Why does David appoint Amasa as commander of his army?
Do you think this was a wise decision?
7. How do the bickering tribes of Israel resemble the church?
8. How are we like Israel who turned for a time from serving David?
9. How does David's life, as reflected in this passage, point us to Christ?