

E2E- Part 78

2 Samuel 14:21 – 15:12

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1. Joab, David's military general, selects a wise woman to present a fabricated legal case before David, manipulating his emotions about his exiled son, Absalom.
2. David brings Absalom home but refuses to see him or have a relationship with him.
3. Absalom is highly praised for his good looks and his extravagant hair.
4. Absalom's reaction to being rejected by his father and Joab reveals his arrogance and egotism. He insists on being accepted by David or, alternatively, being killed.
5. Absalom manipulates his way back into palace life, but he remains far from satisfied. He exploits his position and inflates his public image.
6. By providing judgment in the courts, Absalom causes people to feel like he cares for them, but it was all part of a wicked ploy.
7. Absalom cleverly asks David for permission to go to Hebron, claiming he needs to fulfill a vow he made to the Lord. After four years, Absalom is prepared to launch his rebellion and usurp David's throne.
8. The strategy Absalom employs is impeccable, attributed to his cleverness and David's passivity.
9. Scripture warns us not to focus on outward appearances so we are not fooled by posers. God isn't impressed with the things we are impressed with.

GREEK & HEBREW WORDS

Gabahn, (gaw-bah´); to be haughty:- be high(-er), be proud, pride(-ful)

Hôshî`ā, 'save'

TODAY'S WORSHIP

He Shall Reign Forevermore
Offering
All Sufficient Merit
There is One Gospel

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Compare David's obvious zeal in attitude, words and actions in his early years with what we see in this passage. What differences do you see? What might explain his passive behavior with Absalom? Then, compare your own attitude, words and actions. Have you grown in your zeal for knowing the Word, standing for truth, sharing the Gospel and showing love? If yes, what has contributed to your spiritual growth? If not, what do you think has caused you to become more passive and less spiritually engaged?

What are some differences between Absalom's reunion with his father (2 Samuel 14:32, 33), and the prodigal son's reunion with his Father (Luke 15:17-21)?

Absalom was extremely handsome, which undoubtedly contributed to his ability to charm. Our culture is obsessed with outward appearances. Read the following verses and discuss practical ways to reinforce the value of godly character over physical appearance within your family or sphere of influence: 1 Samuel 16:7, Matthew 23:27, John 7:24

Absalom shows himself to be arrogant, egotistical, demanding and manipulative. When he sets Joab's field on fire, Joab relents to his request to meet and ultimately approaches David on behalf of Absalom. Have you ever attempted to avoid a confrontation or role within a dispute? What did you learn and how has God used the event in your life?

Our hearts are described as "incurable" (Jeremiah 17:9, 10). The sermon reminded us that sometimes we even fool ourselves to justify poor choices. How do you guard against making decisions that look good on the surface, but have a wrong underlying motivation?