

O MY SON

2 SAMUEL 18

Text: 2 Samuel 18:33

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And the king was much moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept: and as he went, thus he said, O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! would God I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!

Introduction:

As we observe Fathers Day today we will look this morning at a father who was a real failure in the life of his children. Someone once said, we should learn from the mistakes of others, and learn our lessons as inexpensively as we possibly can.

Notice with me as we consider "A Father's Failure"

1. THE REALM OF DAVID'S FAILURE

A. Not as a warrior (1 Sam 17:32,45)

1 Samuel 17:32

And David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine.

1 Samuel 17:45

Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied.

B. Not as a King (2 Sam 18:15, 19:9-11)

2 Samuel 18:15

And ten young men that bare Joab's armour compassed about and smote Absalom, and slew him.

2 Samuel 19:9-11

And all the people were at strife throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, The king saved us out of the hand of our enemies, and he delivered us out of the hand of the Philistines; and now he is fled out of the land for Absalom. [10] And Absalom, whom we anointed over us, is dead in battle. Now therefore why speak ye not a word of bringing the king back?

[11] And king David sent to Zadok and to Abiathar the priests, saying, Speak unto the elders of Judah, saying, Why are ye the last to bring the king back to his house? seeing the speech of all Israel is come to the king, even to his house.

C. David failed as a father

2. THE REASON FOR DAVID'S FAILURE

A. He shifted his parental responsibility.

1. He was too busy being king to see Amnon's problem.

2 Samuel 13:1-14

And it came to pass after this, that Absalom the son of David had a fair sister, whose name was Tamar; and Amnon the son of David loved her. [2] And Amnon was so vexed, that he fell sick for his sister Tamar; for she was a virgin; and Amnon thought it hard for him to do any thing to her. [3] But Amnon had a friend, whose name was Jonadab, the son of Shimeah David's brother: and Jonadab was a very subtil man. [4] And he said unto him, Why art thou, being the king's son, lean from day to day? wilt thou not tell me? And Amnon said unto him, I love Tamar, my brother Absalom's sister. [5] And Jonadab said unto him, Lay thee down on thy bed, and make thyself sick: and when thy father cometh to see thee, say unto him, I pray thee, let my

sister Tamar come, and give me meat, and dress the meat in my sight, that I may see it, and eat it at her hand.

[6] So Amnon lay down, and made himself sick: and when the king was come to see him, Amnon said unto the king, I pray thee, let Tamar my sister come, and make me a couple of cakes in my sight, that I may eat at her hand. [7] Then David sent home to Tamar, saying, Go now to thy brother Amnon's house, and dress him meat. [8] So Tamar went to her brother Amnon's house; and he was laid down. And she took flour, and kneaded it, and made cakes in his sight, and did bake the cakes. [9] And she took a pan, and poured them out before him; but he refused to eat. And Amnon said, Have out all men from me. And they went out every man from him. [10] And Amnon said unto Tamar, Bring the meat into the chamber, that I may eat of thine hand. And Tamar took the cakes which she had made, and brought them into the chamber to Amnon her brother. [11] And when she had brought them unto him to eat, he took hold of her, and said unto her, Come lie with me, my sister. [12] And she answered him, Nay, my brother, do not force me; for no such thing ought to be done in Israel: do not thou this folly. [13] And I, whither shall I cause my shame to go? and as for thee, thou shalt be as one of the fools in Israel. Now therefore, I pray thee, speak unto the king; for he will not withhold me from thee. [14] Howbeit he would not hearken unto her voice: but, being stronger than she, forced her, and lay with her.

2. He failed to punish Amnon

2 Samuel 13:21

But when king David heard of all these things, he was very wroth.

3. He failed to see Absalom's hatred and make peace between his sons.

2 Samuel 13:24-25

And Absalom came to the king, and said, Behold now, thy servant hath sheepshearers; let the king, I beseech thee, and his servants go with thy servant. [25] And the king said to Absalom, Nay, my son, let us not all now go, lest we be chargeable unto thee. And he pressed him: howbeit he would not go, but blessed him.

4. David failed to forgive his son completely.

2 Samuel 14:24

And the king said, Let him turn to his own house, and let him not see my face. So Absalom returned to his own house, and saw not the king's face.

2 Samuel 14:28

So Absalom dwelt two full years in Jerusalem, and saw not the king's face.

B. He failed to pass his own faith on to his son.

C. He misled his son by his actions

Note:

Absalom was about 16 when David had his affair with Bathsheba! Actually Absalom carried out judgment 47 years later.

2 Samuel 12:11

Thus saith the Lord, Behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house, and I will take thy wives before thine eyes, and give them unto thy neighbour, and he shall lie with thy wives in the sight of this sun.

2 Samuel 16:22

So they spread Absalom a tent upon the top of the house; and Absalom went in unto his father's concubines in the sight of all Israel.

3. THE RESULTS OF DAVID'S FAILURE

A. Had to leave his throne to spare the city.

2 Samuel 15:6

And on this manner did Absalom to all Israel that came to the king for judgment: so Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel.

2 Samuel 15:14

And David said unto all his servants that were with him at Jerusalem, Arise, and let us flee; for we shall not else escape from Absalom: make speed to depart, lest he overtake us suddenly, and bring evil upon us, and smite the city with the edge of the sword.

B. He bore shame and rebuke from his enemies.

2 Samuel 16:5-11

And when king David came to Bahurim, behold, thence came out a man of the family of the house of Saul, whose name was Shimei, the son of Gera: he came forth, and cursed still as he came. [6] And he cast stones at David, and at all the servants of king David: and all the people and all the mighty men were on his right hand and on his left. [7] And thus said Shimei when he cursed, Come out, come out, thou bloody man, and thou man of Belial: [8] The Lord hath returned upon thee all the blood of the house of Saul, in whose stead thou hast reigned; and the Lord hath delivered the kingdom into the hand of Absalom thy son: and, behold, thou art taken in thy mischief, because thou art a bloody man.

[9] Then said Abishai the son of Zeruiah unto the king, Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? let me go over, I pray thee, and take off his head. [10] And the king said, What have I to do with you, ye sons of Zeruiah? so let him curse, because the Lord hath said unto him, Curse David. Who shall then say, Wherefore

hast thou done so? [11] And David said to Abishai, and to all his servants, Behold, my son, which came forth of my bowels, seeketh my life: how much more now may this Benjamite do it? let him alone, and let him curse; for the Lord hath bidden him.

Someone once said, “No one buys a little passing pleasure in evil at so dear a price, or keeps it for so short a time as a good man”

C. Most of all David lost his son

A man can take a lot of defeat if his son succeeds. Our children’s failures are our failures. Our children’s successes are our successes.

D. The hopelessness of David’s cry echo’s the fact that there will be no second chances.

2 Samuel 18:33

And the king was much moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept: and as he went, thus he said, O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! would God I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!

Close:

Is there anything in life worth losing your children from Jesus and His work? David lost Absalom between the age of 16 & 23.

Will you promise God today to stand by your children and continue to love them no matter what?

Will you first give yourself to the Lord Jesus Christ, so that through Him you can be the parent God wants you to be?