Lesson 82 – The Rebellion of Absalom Part II

Based on 2 Samuel 15:30 – 2 Samuel 17.

In our last lesson, Absalom and staged a coup d'etat to steal the kingdom from his father David. David chose to spare the city and its residents the bloodshed and destructions should he stay. The future was dark with terror and foreboding.

1) What did David leaving Jerusalem look like?
   2 Samuel 15:30 And David went up by the ascent of mount Olivet, and wept as he went up, and had his head _____, and he went _____: and all the people that was with him covered every man his head, and they went up, weeping as they went up.
2) What added insult to injury?
   2 Samuel 15:31 And one told David, saying, _____ is among the conspirators with Absalom. And David said, O LORD, I pray thee, turn the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness.

Ahithophel was one of the chief counselors of David, a man in high repute for wisdom, whose opinion was thought to be as safe and wise as that of an oracle.

3) What did David do at the top of the Mount of Olives?
   2 Samuel 15:32 And it came to pass, that when David was come to the top of the mount, where he _____ God…

Upon reaching the top of the mount, the king bowed in prayer, casting upon God the burden of his soul and humbly supplicating divine mercy. His prayer seemed to be at once answered.

4) What happened?
   2 Samuel 15:32-33 …behold, _____ the Archite came to meet him with his coat rent, and earth upon his head: Unto whom David said, If thou passest on with me, then thou shalt be a _____ unto me:
   2 Samuel 15:34-35 But if thou return to the city, and say unto Absalom, I will be thy _____, O king; as I have been thy father's servant hitherto, so will I now also be thy servant: then mayest thou for me _____ the counsel of Ahithophel. And hast thou not there with thee Zadok and Abiathar the priests? therefore it shall be, that what thing soever thou shalt hear out of the king's house, thou shalt tell it to Zadok and Abiathar the priests.
   2 Samuel 15:36-37 Behold, they have there with them their two sons, Ahimaaz Zadok's son, and Jonathan Abiathar's son; and by them ye shall send unto me every thing that ye can _____. So Hushai David's friend came into the city, and Absalom came into Jerusalem.
5) Was everything good now?
   2 Samuel 16:5-6 And when king David came to Bahurim, behold, thence came out a man of the family of the house of Saul, whose name was _____, the son of Gera: he came forth, and cursed still as he came. And he cast _____ 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.
   2 Samuel 16:7-8 And thus said Shimei when he cursed, Come out, come out, thou bloody man, and thou man of _____: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 _____, because thou art a bloody man.

In David's prosperity Shimei had not shown by word or act that he was not a loyal subject. But in the affliction of the king this Benjamite revealed his true character. He had honored David upon his throne, but he cursed him in his humiliation. Base and selfish, he looked upon others as of the same character as himself, and, inspired by Satan, he wreaked his hatred upon him whom God had chastened. The spirit that leads man to triumph over, to revile or distress, one who is in affliction is the spirit of Satan.

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Shimei's accusations against David were utterly false, a baseless and malignant slander. David had not been guilty of wrong toward Saul or his house. When Saul was wholly in his power, and he could have slain him, he merely cut the skirt of his robe, and he reproached himself for showing even this disrespect for the Lord's anointed.

6) What did Abishai think of Shimei's disrespect?
2 Samuel 16:9 Then said Abishai the son of Zeruiah unto the king, Why should this dead dog _____ my lord the king? let me go over, I pray thee, and take off his head.

David's nephew, Abishai, one of the bravest of his captains, could not listen patiently to Shimei's insulting words.

7) Did David agree?
2 Samuel 16:11-12 And David said to Abishai, and to all his servants, Behold, my son, which came forth of my bowels, seeketh my life: how much _____ now may this Benjamite do it? let him alone, and let him curse; for the LORD hath bidden him. It may be that the LORD will look on mine affliction, and that the LORD will requite me _____ for his cursing this day.

Conscience was uttering bitter and humiliating truths to David. While his faithful subjects wondered at his sudden reverse of fortune, it was no mystery to the king. He had often had forebodings of an hour like this. He had wondered that God had so long borne with his sins and had delayed the merited retribution. And now in his hurried and sorrowful flight, his feet bare, his royal robes changed for sackcloth, the lamentations of his followers awaking the echoes of the hills, he thought of his loved capital, of the place which had been the scene of his sin, and as he remembered the goodness and long-suffering of God, he was not altogether without hope. He felt that the Lord would still deal with him in mercy.

Many a wrongdoer has excused his own sin by pointing to David's fall, but how few there are who manifest David's penitence and humility. How few would bear reproof and retribution with the patience and fortitude that he manifested.

Must the results of years of consecrated toil, the work of genius and devotion and statesmanship, pass into the hands of his reckless and traitorous son, who regarded not the honor of God nor the prosperity of Israel? How natural it would have seemed for David to murmur against God in this great affliction!

8) What same Spirit was with Micah as David?
Micah 7:7-8 Therefore I will look unto the LORD; I will _____ for the God of my salvation: my God will hear me. Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the LORD shall be a _____ unto me.

the Lord did not forsake David. This chapter in his experience, when, under cruelest wrong and insult, he shows himself to be humble, unselfish, generous, and submissive, is one of the noblest in his whole experience. Never was the ruler of Israel more truly great in the sight of heaven than at this hour of his deepest outward humiliation.

Had God permitted David to go on unrebuked in sin, and while transgressing the divine precepts, to remain in peace and prosperity upon his throne, the skeptic and infidel might have had some excuse for citing the history of David as a reproach to the religion of the Bible. But in the experience through which He caused David to pass, the Lord shows that He cannot tolerate or excuse sin. And David's history enables us to see also the great ends which God has in view in His dealings with sin.

9) How does the LORD feel about our sin?
Psalms 89:31-33 If they break my statutes, and keep not my commandments; Then will I visit their transgression with the _____, and their iniquity with stripes. Nevertheless my lovingkindness will I not utterly take from him, nor suffer my faithfulness to _____.

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Absalom was now surrounded by a large force, but it was mostly composed of men untrained for war. As yet they had not been brought into conflict. Ahithophel well knew that David's situation was far from hopeless. A large part of the nation was still true to him; he was surrounded by tried warriors, who were faithful to their king, and his army was commanded by able and experienced generals. Ahithophel knew that after the first burst of enthusiasm in favor of the new king, a reaction would come. Should the rebellion fail, Absalom might be able to secure a reconciliation with his father; then Ahithophel, as his chief counselor, would be held most guilty for the rebellion; upon him the heaviest punishment would fall.

10) What did Ahithophel suggest in order to secure his safety?
2 Samuel 16:21-22 And Ahithophel said unto Absalom, Go in unto thy father's _____, which he hath left to keep the house; and all Israel shall hear that thou art abhorred of thy father: then shall the hands of all that are with thee be _____. 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.

To prevent Absalom from retracing his steps, Ahithophel counseled him to an act that in the eyes of the whole nation would make reconciliation impossible. With hellish cunning this wily and unprincipled statesman urged Absalom to add the crime of incest to that of rebellion. In the sight of all Israel, he was to take to himself his father's concubines.

11) What was fulfilled?
2 Samuel 12:11-12 Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house, and I will take thy _____ before thine eyes, and give them unto thy neighbour, and he shall lie with thy wives in the sight of this sun. For thou didst it _____: but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun.

Not that God prompted these acts of wickedness, but because of David's sin He did not exercise His power to prevent them.

12) What does God say of evil men?
Psalms 2:4 He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in _____.
Proverbs 1:30-32 Therefore shall they eat of the _____ of their own way, and be filled with their own devices. For the turning away of the _____ shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them.

Ahithophel did not possess the fear of the LORD, or he could hardly have based the success of treason upon the crime of incest. Men of corrupt hearts plot wickedness, as if there were no overruling Providence to cross their designs.

13) What did Ahithophel come up with next?
2 Samuel 17:1-3 Moreover Ahithophel said unto Absalom, Let me now choose out twelve thousand men, and I will arise and _____ after David this night: And I will come upon him while he is weary and weak handed, and will make him afraid: and all the people that are with him shall flee; and I will smite the _____ only: And I will bring back all the people unto thee: the man whom thou seekest is as if all returned: so all the people shall be in _____.

14) Who interposed?
2 Samuel 17:14 … For the LORD had appointed to _____ the good counsel of Ahithophel, to the intent that the LORD might bring evil upon Absalom.

This plan was approved by the king's counselors. Had it been followed, David would surely have been slain, unless the Lord had directly interposed to save him. But a wisdom higher than that of the renowned Ahithophel was directing events.

15) What did Absalom do?
2 Samuel 17:5-7 Then said Absalom, Call now _____ the Archite also, and let us hear likewise what he saith. And when Hushai was come to Absalom, Absalom spake unto him, saying, Ahithophel hath spoken after this manner: shall we do after his saying? if not; speak thou. And Hushai said unto Absalom, The counsel that Ahithophel hath given is _____ _____ at this time.

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Hushai had not been called to the council, and he would not intrude himself unasked, lest suspicion should be drawn upon him as a spy; but after the assembly had dispersed, Absalom, who had a high regard for the judgment of his father's counselor, submitted to him the plan of Ahithophel. Hushai saw that if the proposed plan were followed, David would be lost.

16) What did he suggest to help David?
2 Samuel 17:11-12 Therefore I counsel that _____ Israel be generally gathered unto thee, from Dan even to Beersheba, as the sand that is by the sea for multitude; and that thou go to battle in thine own person. So shall we come upon him in some place where he shall be found, and we will light upon him as the dew falleth on the ground: and of him and of all the men that are with him there shall not be left so much as _____.

17) What was the decision?
2 Samuel 17:14 And Absalom and all the men of Israel said, The counsel of Hushai the Archite is _____ than the counsel of Ahithophel…

18) Was everyone deceived?
2 Samuel 17:23 And when Ahithophel saw that his counsel was not _____, he saddled his ass, and arose, and gat him home to his house, to his city, and put his household in order, and hanged himself, and _____, and was buried in the sepulchre of his father.

Such was the result of the wisdom of one, who, with all his high endowments, did not make God his counselor. Satan allures men with flattering promises, but in the end, it will be found by every soul, that the ***"wages of sin is death." Romans 6:23.***

There was one who was not deceived, one who clearly foresaw the result of this fatal mistake of Absalom's. Ahithophel knew that the cause of the rebels was lost. And he knew that whatever might be the fate of the prince, there was no hope for the counselor who had instigated his greatest crimes. Ahithophel had encouraged Absalom in rebellion; he had counseled him to the most abominable wickedness, to the dishonor of his father; he had advised the slaying of David and had planned its accomplishment; he had cut off the last possibility of his own reconciliation with the king; and now another was preferred before him.

19) What did Hushai tell David?
2 Samuel 17:15-16 Then said Hushai unto Zadok and to Abiathar the priests, Thus and thus did Ahithophel counsel Absalom and the elders of Israel; and thus and thus have I counselled. Now therefore send quickly, and tell David, saying, _____ not this night in the plains of the wilderness, but _____ pass over; lest the king be swallowed up, and all the people that are with him.

Hushai, not certain that his counsel would be followed by the fickle king, lost no time in warning David to escape beyond Jordan without delay.

20) Did David listen?
2 Samuel 17:22 By the morning light there lacked not one of them that was not gone _____ Jordan.

Hushai's counsel had achieved its object, gaining for David opportunity for escape; but the rash and impetuous prince could not be long restrained, and he soon set out in pursuit of his father.

21) Did Absalom give up?
2 Samuel 17:24-25 … And Absalom passed over Jordan, he and all the men of Israel with him. And Absalom made Amasa captain of the host instead of Joab…

David and his men would face off with Absalom and his men…

Can you see that God will see that His will gets accomplished? **Would you like to have the faith of David?**

When is it time to humbly seek the LORD for guidance?

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