Lesson 83 – The Rebellion of Absalom Part III

Based on 2 Samuel 18 – 19.

In our last lesson, Absalom Had assumed the role of King and was now chasing down his father to kill him

1) What did this look like?
   2 Samuel 18:1-2 And David numbered the people that were with him, and set captains of thousands and captains of hundreds over them. And David sent forth a _____ part of the people under the hand of Joab, and a third part under the hand of Abishai the son of Zeruiah, Joab's brother, and a third part under the hand of Ittai the Gittite. And the king said unto the people, I will surely go forth with you _____ also.

David and his forces fell back to Mahanaim, which had been the royal seat of Ishbosheth. This was a strongly fortified city, surrounded by a mountainous district favorable for retreat in case of war. The country was well-provisioned, and the people were friendly to the cause of David. Here many adherents joined him, while wealthy tribesmen brought abundant gifts of provision, and other needed supplies.

From the walls of the city the long lines of the rebel army were in full view. The usurper was accompanied by a vast host, in comparison with which David's force seemed but a handful. But as the king looked upon the opposing forces, the thought uppermost in his mind was not of the crown and the kingdom, nor of his own life, that depended upon the wage of battle.

2) What did the Generals tell David?
   2 Samuel 18:2-3 … But the people answered, Thou shalt not go forth: for if we flee away, they will not care for us; neither if half of us die, will they care for us: but now thou art worth _____ _____ of us: therefore now it is better that thou succour us out of the city.
3) What did David tell his Generals?
   2 Samuel 18:5 And the king commanded Joab and Abishai and Ittai, saying, Deal _____ for my sake with the young man, even with Absalom. And all the people heard when the king gave all the captains charge concerning Absalom.

The king's solicitude, seeming to declare that Absalom was dearer to him than his kingdom, dearer even than the subjects faithful to his throne, only increased the indignation of the soldiers against the unnatural son.

4) Where did the battle happen?
   2 Samuel 18:6 So the people went out into the field against Israel: and the battle was in the wood of _____;
5) What kind of place was that?
   2 Samuel 18:8 For the battle was there scattered over the face of all the country: and the wood _____ more people that day than the sword devoured.

The place of battle was a wood near the Jordan, in which the great numbers of Absalom's army were only a disadvantage to him. Among the thickets and marshes of the forest these undisciplined troops became confused and unmanageable.

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6) How many were lost in the battle?
2 Samuel 18:7 Where the people of Israel were slain before the servants of David, and there was there a great slaughter that day of _____ _____ men.

7) What happened when Absalom turned to flee?
2 Samuel 18:9 And Absalom met the servants of David. And Absalom rode upon a _____, and the mule went under the thick boughs of a great oak, and his head caught hold of the oak, and he was taken up between the _____ and the earth; and the mule that was under him went away.
2 Samuel 18:10 And a certain man saw it, and told Joab, and said, Behold, I saw Absalom _____ in an oak.

In this condition he was found by a soldier, who, for fear of displeasing the king, spared Absalom, but reported to Joab what he had seen.

8) Was Joab pleased with the report?
2 Samuel 18:11 And Joab said unto the man that told him, And, behold, thou sawest him, and why didst thou not _____ him there to the ground? and I would have given thee ten shekels of silver, and a girdle.

9) What did the soldier reply to him?
2 Samuel 18:12 And the man said unto Joab, Though I should _____ a thousand shekels of silver in mine hand, yet would I not put forth mine hand _____ the king's son: for in our hearing the king charged thee and Abishai and Ittai, saying, Beware that none touch the young man Absalom.

10) Did Joab follow the King's orders?
2 Samuel 18:14-15 Then said Joab, I may not tarry thus with thee. And he took three darts in his hand, and _____ them through the heart of Absalom, while he was yet alive in the midst of the oak. And ten young men that bare Joab's armour compassed about and _____ Absalom, and slew him.

Joab was restrained by no scruples. He had befriended Absalom, having twice secured his reconciliation with David, and the trust had been shamelessly betrayed. But for the advantages gained by Absalom through Joab's intercession, this rebellion, with all its horrors, could never have occurred.

11) How did things end for Absalom?
2 Samuel 18:17 And they took Absalom, and cast him into a great pit in the wood, and laid a very great heap of _____ upon him: and all Israel fled every one to his tent.

Thus perished the instigators of rebellion in Israel. Ahithophel had died by his own hand. The princely Absalom, whose glorious beauty had been the pride of Israel, had been cut down in the vigor of his youth, his dead body thrust into a pit, and covered with a heap of stones, in token of everlasting reproach. During his lifetime Absalom had reared for himself a costly monument in the king's dale, but the only memorial which marked his grave was that heap of stones in the wilderness.

12) With Absalom dead, did the war continue?
2 Samuel 18:16 And Joab blew the trumpet, and the people _____ from pursuing after Israel: for Joab held back the people.

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13) How was David to receive the news?

2 Samuel 18:19-20 Then said Ahimaaz the son of Zadok, Let me now run, and bear the king _____, how that the LORD hath avenged him of his enemies. And Joab said unto him, Thou shalt _____ bear tidings this day, but thou shalt bear tidings another day: but this day thou shalt bear no tidings, because the king's son is dead.

(Ahimaaz was the son of Zadok the High Priest)

2 Samuel 18:21 Then said Joab to _____, Go tell the king what thou hast seen. And Cushi bowed himself unto Joab, and ran.

2 Samuel 18:22-23 Then said Ahimaaz the son of Zadok yet again to Joab, But howsoever, let me, I pray thee, also run _____ Cushi. And Joab said, Wherefore wilt thou run, my son, seeing that thou hast no tidings ready? But howsoever, said he, let me run. And he said unto him, Run. Then Ahimaaz ran by the way of the plain, and _____ Cushi.

14) What happened?

2 Samuel 18:24-25 And David sat between the two gates: and the watchman went up to the roof over the gate unto the wall, and lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold a man running _____. And the watchman cried, and told the king. And the king said, If he be alone, there is tidings in his _____. And he came apace, and drew near.

2 Samuel 18:26-27 And the watchman saw _____ man running: and the watchman called unto the porter, and said, Behold another man running alone. And the king said, He also bringeth tidings. And the watchman said, Me thinketh the running of the foremost is like the running of Ahimaaz the son of Zadok. And the king said, He is a good man, and cometh with _____ tidings.

15) What did Ahimaaz tell him?

2 Samuel 18:28-29 And Ahimaaz called, and said unto the king, All is well. And he fell down to the earth upon his face before the king, and said, Blessed be the LORD thy God, which hath _____ up the men that lifted up their hand against my lord the king. And the king said, Is the young man Absalom safe? And Ahimaaz answered, When Joab sent the king's servant, and me thy servant, I saw a great tumult, but I _____ _____ what it was.

16) What did Cushi tell him?

2 Samuel 18:31-32 And, behold, Cushi came; and Cushi said, Tidings, my lord the king: for the LORD hath _____ thee this day of all them that rose up against thee. And the king said unto Cushi, Is the young man Absalom safe? And Cushi answered, The enemies of my lord the king, and all that rise against thee to do thee hurt, be as that young man _____.

17) How did David take the news of his victory over the insurrection?

2 Samuel 18:33 And the king was much moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and _____: 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!

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The victorious army, returning from the field, approached the city, their shouts of triumph awaking the echoes of the hills. But as they entered the city gate the shout died away, their banners drooped in their hands, and with downcast gaze they advanced more like those who had suffered defeat than like conquerors. For the king was not waiting to bid them welcome.

18) Why?

2 Samuel 19:3-4 And the victory that day was turned into _____ unto all the people: for the people heard say that day how the king was grieved for his son. And the people gat them by stealth that day into the city, as people being ashamed _____ _____ when they flee in battle. But the king covered his face, and the king cried with a loud voice, O my son Absalom, O Absalom, my son, my son!

19) What did Joab boldly do?

2 Samuel 19:5-6 And Joab came into the house to the king, and said, Thou hast _____ this day the faces of all thy servants, which this day have saved thy life, and the lives of thy sons and of thy daughters, and the lives of thy wives, and the lives of thy concubines; In that thou lovest thine _____, and hatest thy _____. For thou hast declared this day, that thou regardest neither princes nor servants: for this day I perceive, that if Absalom had lived, and all we had died this day, then it had _____ thee well.

2 Samuel 19:7 Now therefore arise, go forth, and speak _____ unto thy servants: for I swear by the LORD, if thou go not forth, there will not tarry one with thee this night: and that will be _____ unto thee than all the evil that befell thee from thy youth until now.

Joab was filled with indignation. God had given them reason for triumph and gladness; the greatest rebellion that had ever been known in Israel had been crushed; and yet this great victory was turned to mourning for him whose crime had cost the blood of thousands of brave men.

20) Did David agree?

2 Samuel 19:8 Then the king arose, and sat in the _____. And they told unto all the people, saying, Behold, the king doth sit in the gate. And all the people came _____ the king: for Israel had fled every man to his tent.

Harsh and even cruel as was the reproof to the heart-stricken king, David did not resent it. Seeing that his general was right, he went down to the gate, and with words of courage and commendation greeted his brave soldiers as they marched past him.

Similarly, Our Father in Heaven greets us as the victory over the battle caused by the sin of Adam. He witnessed the crucifixion of his Son on our behalf. David's grief over losing his son is a type of God's ministry toward us. Not that Jesus sinned, but became sin on our behalf and restored us as a nation (God's people)

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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