



PART 3: ABSALOM—THE SON AND HAIR

INTRODUCTION – NATHAN’S PROPHECY HITS HOME

2 Samuel 12:10-11

DINE IN –A NEW KING ON THE BLOCK?

2 SAMUEL 15

Take Out #1 – Silence is not always golden

Peacemaking is not avoiding conflict; it is a persistent process of non-violent, relational engagement that seeks healing and restoration, often in the midst of difficult circumstances. Unaddressed wounds and unspoken hurts are often a breeding ground for pain and bitterness. Are you ready to have the tough conversations?

Romans 12:18

Take Out #2 – Grace under Fire

Absalom’s betrayal and conspiracy drives David into the wilderness both literally and metaphorically – and yet he still models for us someone who responds to a difficult circumstance in a posture of grace and authenticity (a man after God’s own heart!).

- a. He is active in blessing and caring for others **2 Sam 15:19-20; John 19:25-27**
- b. He is faith-filled **2 Sam 15:25; Luke 23:46**
- c. He is submitted to God’s leadership **2 Sam 15:25-26; Mark 14:35-36**
- d. He is honest with his grief **2 Sam 15:30; John 11:35**
- e. He is prayerful **2 Sam 15:31; Luke 22:44**

Consider how you are cultivating these behaviours in your life today – recognizing that they will help to prepare and shape your response to suffering and crisis at some point in the future.

CONCLUSION – WHEN A SONG SAYS IT BEST...

Psalm 3

Q & Eh? Text 647.330.2789 or email ask@themeetinghouse.ca

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS

Warming Up...

1. David clearly found music to be an important part of expressing his emotional and spiritual condition. On a scale of 1-10 (1 being hardly at all and 10 being quite a lot), how important would you say music (listening/playing/singing) is to your own emotional and spiritual life?
2. Just for Fun! - If you were a Queen or King for just one day, and money was not an obstacle, what creative idea, program or initiative would you like to enact to improve the quality of life for those living in your community?

Look to the Book...

3. Read over the account of David’s journey into the wilderness in **2 Samuel 15:13-37** then review **Take Out #2**, working through each behaviour and the scripture references provided. a) For each point, make special note of the example of Jesus in stress or suffering. (Note: You may need to read some additional verses for context.) b) As you work through each point - try to provide some personal examples of how you are trying to practice this behaviour in your own life, or how you are seeing this behaviour modeled in the life of someone you know. c) In what ways can practicing these behaviours prepare us emotionally and spiritually for difficult circumstances?
4. Read through **Psalm 3**, a song that David wrote when he was escaping from his son Absalom. What verse stands out to you the most? a) How does our knowledge of the identities of David’s enemies from **2 Samuel 15**, heighten the pain and tragedy of this song? b) Can you identify with David’s experience of being surrounded by exceptionally difficult circumstances? c) Invite a few people in the group to share how they have experienced God sustaining them in the midst of these types of trials and challenges.

So What?...

5. Read Psalm 3 once more and invite the group to offer simple prayers of thanks and praise to a God who loves us and in Jesus sustains, delivers, shields and blesses us.

The Meeting House | Sunday, Aug 8/15, 2010 | Paul Morris

Notes are available online at themeetinghouse.ca/teaching