

Theme: David displays the character of a true leader, and is a great pointer to Jesus, the True King.

I. Intro - Hoodwinked

- A. Tells story from many different people's perspectives
- B. The full story appears after you look at it from all sides
- C. Same is true in this sad story of Absalom's rebellion
- D. We have looked at Absalom the rebel and seen the ingredients that produce the powerful, deadly concoction of rebellion
- E. Today - how David responds, and the principles of true leadership (and a true disciple!)

II. The True King

- A. A true leader is submitted to God and His will
Then the king said to Zadok, "Take the ark of God back into the city. If I find favor in the LORD's eyes, he will bring me back and let me see it and his dwelling place again. ²⁶ But if he says, 'I am not pleased with you,' then I am ready; let him do to me whatever seems good to him." 2 Samuel 15:25–26
 - 1. Son's of Eli and Saul tried to manipulate God, but David knows God will not be manipulated.
 - 2. David is submitted to God and His will - no matter the cost.
 - 3. David is more concerned to be in a right relationship with God than to maintain his power and position.
 - 4. A true leader is submitted to God and is more concerned to be in right relationship with God than to gain or maintain power and position.

- B. A true leader acts wisely, decisively, and righteously
The king also said to Zadok the priest, "Aren't you a seer? Go back to the city in peace, with your son Ahimaaz and Jonathan son of Abiathar. You and Abiathar take your two sons with you. 28 I will wait at the fords in the desert until word comes from you to inform me." 2 Samuel 15:27–28
 - 1. Submission to God does not mean inactivity!
 - 2. David had wisely and decisively fled Jerusalem, taking his most trusted leaders and fighters
 - 3. David sends the priests and ark back - but also asks them to give him intel to help him make decisions
 - 4. He also prays for God to foil the wisdom of Ahithophel
Now David had been told, "Ahithophel is among the conspirators with Absalom." So David prayed, "O Lord, turn Ahithophel's counsel into foolishness." 2 Samuel 15:31
 - 5. He also sends Hushai the Arkite back to gather info and help in any way he can (2 Samuel 15:32-36)
 - 6. This character trait was why David never rebelled against Saul as Absalom had done to him. David refused to do evil so that good might result but rather trusted God to Sovereignly bring him to the throne in His own time and way.
 - 7. A true leader is decisive but always restricts their actions so that they are righteous, refusing to do evil to gain or maintain power and position.
- C. A true leader does not respond in kind to the sinful actions of others

1. Shimei cursed David as he fled from Absalom (2 Samuel 16:5-12)
 - a. Shimei spoke very sinfully towards David
 - b. Abishai called Shimei a dead dog and wanted to strike him dead
 - c. David refused to respond with sin for sin, but rather trusted Yahweh to deliver him
2. As David returns to take his throne, Shimei begs forgiveness (2 Samuel 19:18-23)
 - a. David is now in power again - how will he act?
 - b. Abishai again wants Shimei to be killed
 - c. David again refuses. He will not take revenge against Shimei now that he is in power.
3. David even wept for Absalom the traitor and rebel (2 Samuel 18:33)
4. A true leader does not respond in kind to the sinful actions of others but acts righteously, trusting God to do what is best.

D. A true leader is concerned more for others than himself or herself

The king said to Ittai the Gittite, "Why should you come along with us? Go back and stay with King Absalom. You are a foreigner, an exile from your homeland. ²⁰You came only yesterday. And today shall I make you wander about with us, when I do not know where I am going? Go back, and take your countrymen. May kindness and faithfulness be with you." 2 Samuel 15:19–20

1. David needed all the help he could get!

2. But he is concerned for Ittai and his people, who are very vulnerable
3. This is also why David had left Jerusalem - to prevent many people from being killed.
4. Jesus stressed this point many times
 Jesus said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. ²⁶ But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. Luke 22:25–26
 - a. True leadership is servanthood, not lording it over others
 - b. The supreme example of this is Jesus Himself, the God-Man Who came and served us, even to the point of death!
5. A true leader puts the needs of others above their own needs.

E. David, the True King, and Absalom the Pretender

1. In all these ways David was showing himself to be a true leader
 - a. The true leader is submitted to God and His will
 - b. A true leader acts wisely and decisively but righteously
 - c. A true leader does not respond in kind to the sinful actions of others
 - d. A true leader is concerned more for others than himself or herself
2. Consider how Absalom is the opposite of all of this

- a. Absalom was a rebel, preferring his own will to the plan of God
- b. Absalom acted decisively but unrighteously, for he was ruled by his lust for power and would not accept any limits to his actions
- c. Absalom allowed the sins of others to simmer in his heart unresolved until they boiled over in rebellion
- d. Absalom was only concerned for himself and his legacy and was willing to sacrifice others to achieve his own ends.

III. The True King - Jesus!

- A. In his behavior as the true, godly King David is a pointer to Jesus, the One True King

But David continued up the Mount of Olives, weeping as he went; his head was covered and he was barefoot. All the people with him covered their heads too and were weeping as they went up. ³¹ Now David had been told, "Ahithophel is among the conspirators with Absalom." So David prayed, "O Lord, turn Ahithophel's counsel into foolishness." 2 Sa 15:30–31

- 1. Both were betrayed by those close to them
- 2. Both saw the attempt to kill them and remove them from the throne and plan of God
- 3. Both went to the Mount of Olives
- 4. Both prayed to God for deliverance on the Mount
- 5. All appeared lost for both until God miraculously intervened to save and deliver them and their followers
- 6. Both were rejected by people in their own house while a great number of foreigners followed them

- 7. Both extended mercy to even those who had rebelled against them
- 8. The traitors Ahithophel and Judas did not believe they would find mercy and so hanged themselves after betraying their King.

- B. David's greatest legacy - the Lord Jesus Christ!

- 1. Absalom had rebelled to secure a legacy for himself and lost any legacy in the process
- 2. David trusted God and was given the greatest legacy of all: Messiah would come from his family!
- 3. A true leader finds his legacy not in his own power and position, but rather in being a pointer to Jesus the True King.

IV. Applying the Word

- A. Do I submit to God in my daily attitudes and actions?
 - 1. At its core, the story of David and Absalom is the story of submission to God vs. Rebellion
 - 2. Absalom acted out of rebellious motives and desires
 - a. The sin of others
 - b. Pride
 - c. Lust for Power
 - d. Desire for Legacy
 - 3. David acted out of a heart submitted to God
 - a. He acted decisively but not unrighteously
 - b. He did not let the sin of others cause him to sin

c. He was concerned more for others than himself

4. Does God's Word govern my actions so that I will not act unrighteously to attain my desired ends?
5. Do I lower myself to respond in kind to others?
6. Do I take revenge on others for sin against me?
7. Do my actions show that I am more concerned about the good of others, or that I simply want what I desire?
8. Is my deepest concern that I walk rightly before God, or is my primary concern to get what I think will bring me satisfaction and joy?

B. Looking to the True King

1. Jesus is the ultimate example of submission!
2. The key to submission is fixing your eyes on Him!
3. He is also the payment for our rebellion
4. When you fail look to Him; He forgives and restores

C. Water Baptism: The Act of Obedient Faith

1. Two young men are being water baptized
2. This is primarily God's pledge to us, to take us as His own
3. But it is also their pledge in response: to live in obedient submission to God'

Water Baptism

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Teaching keywords: biblical characters; leadership; humility and pride; character; correction; obedience; typology

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it. 1 Thess 5:23–24

So the king set out, with all the people following him, and they halted at a place some distance away. ¹⁸ All his men marched past him, along with all the Kerethites and Pelethites; and all the six hundred Gittites who had accompanied him from Gath marched before the king. ¹⁹ The king said to Ittai the Gittite, "Why should you come along with us? Go back and stay with King Absalom. You are a foreigner, an exile from your homeland. ²⁰ You came only yesterday. And today shall I make you wander about with us, when I do not know where I am going? Go back, and take your countrymen. May kindness and faithfulness be with you." ²¹ But Ittai replied to the king, "As surely as the LORD lives, and as my lord the king lives, wherever my lord the king may be, whether it means life or death, there will your servant be." ²² David said to Ittai, "Go ahead, march on." So Ittai the Gittite marched on with all his men and the families that were with him. ²³ The whole countryside wept aloud as all the people passed by. The king also crossed the Kidron Valley, and all the people moved on toward the desert. ²⁴ Zadok was there, too, and all the Levites who were with him were carrying the ark of the covenant of God. They set down the ark of God, and Abiathar offered sacrifices until all the people had finished leaving the city. ²⁵ Then the king said to Zadok, "Take the ark of God back into the city. If I find favor in the LORD's eyes, he will bring me back and let me see it and his dwelling place again. ²⁶ But if he says, 'I am not pleased with you,' then I am ready; let him do to me whatever seems good to him." ²⁷ The king also said to Zadok the priest, "Aren't you a seer? Go back to the city in peace, with your son Ahimaaz and Jonathan son of Abiathar. You and

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2 Samuel 15-20 (2 Samuel 15:19-30)

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Abiathar take your two sons with you. ²⁸ I will wait at the fords in the desert until word comes from you to inform me.” ²⁹ So Zadok and Abiathar took the ark of God back to Jerusalem and stayed there. ³⁰ But David continued up the Mount of Olives, weeping as he went; his head was covered and he was barefoot. All the people with him covered their heads too and were weeping as they went up. 2 Samuel 15:17–30