

1-29-17
ABSALOM A PORTRAIT OF A REPROBATE
CHARACTERISTICS THAT MADE HIM A REPROBATE

We have been shared a small mini series of messages on "The Portrait of a Reprobate". I picked what I think to be three of the greatest reprobates in the Bible. Last week we talked about Cain and Judas. Today we are going to be talking about Absalom. Absalom, in my mind, takes the cake as being the one of the most despicable reprobates in the Bible. A son turned bad. I cannot even comprehend how he would have gone as bad as he did.

So this morning we will study some characteristics of his rebellious reprobate nature.

I. HE WAS FILLED WITH PRIDE FROM THE START

The Bible says that he was unusually handsome.

II Samuel 14:25 But in all Israel there was none to be so much praised as Absalom for his beauty: from the sole of his foot even to the crown of his head there was no blemish in him.

II Samuel 14:26 And when he polled his head, (for it was at every year's end that he polled it: because the hair was heavy on him, therefore he polled it:) he weighed the hair of his head at two hundred shekels after the king's weight.

200 shekels which was about 5 lbs.. The Scripture makes note of this beautiful hair as an outstanding characteristic of his beauty. It reminds me of this verse:

Ezekiel 28:17 Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness:

The root of all sin is pride.

Pride is called the condemnation of the devil!

Satan became proud of his beauty and wisdom and this led to all the destruction and rebellion and death and everything that is evil and wicked in this world.

One of the best things we can do for our children is teach them humility.

Listen to what the Bible says produces humility in Children:

Lamentations 3:27 It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth.

Lamentations 3:28 He sitteth alone and keepeth silence, because he hath borne it upon him.

Lamentations 3:29 He putteth his mouth in the dust; if so be there may be hope.

Lamentations 3:30 He giveth his cheek to him that smiteth him: he is filled full with reproach.

Lamentations 3:31 For the Lord will not cast off for ever:

Lamentations 3:32 But though he cause grief, yet will he have compassion according to the multitude of his mercies.

Lamentations 3:33 For he doth not afflict willingly nor grieve the children of men.

David was the least favored of his brothers and this produced in him character and humility.

When you read this passage this goes against everything the modern world would teach concerning child training.

I suspect Absalom being the grandson of the King of Geshur probably thought highly of himself. Not only was his Father a king, but his grandfather was a king, and he looked the part of nobility. He came from the lineage of nobility on his mother's side and on his father's side.

II Samuel 14:25 But in all Israel there was none to be so much praised as Absalom for his beauty: from the sole of his foot even to the crown of his head there was no blemish in him.

II. HE HAD A ROOT OF BITTERNESS IN HIS HEART

The Bible teaches that Amnon, Absalom's brother, forced himself on his sister Tamar. Not only did he disgrace her but after that he rejected her.

II Samuel 13:15 Then Amnon hated her exceedingly; so that the hatred wherewith he hated her was greater than the love wherewith he had loved her. And Amnon said unto her, Arise, be gone.

II Samuel 13:19 And Tamar put ashes on her head, and rent her garment of divers colours that was on her, and laid her hand on her head, and went on crying.

II Samuel 13:20 And Absalom her brother said unto her, Hath Amnon thy brother been with thee? but hold now thy peace, my sister: he is thy brother; regard not this thing. So Tamar remained desolate in her brother Absalom's house.

II Samuel 13:21 But when king David heard of all these things, he was very wroth.

II Samuel 13:22 And Absalom spake unto his brother Amnon neither good nor bad: for Absalom hated Amnon, because he had forced his sister Tamar.

Absalom hated Amnon: Bitterness does horrible things to a persons heart.

He hated Amnon probably not only because he violated his sister but maybe even because he was his older brother and was in line to inherit the throne.

We read that he hated Amnon, and hate is a precursor to murder..

III. HE PLANNED AND PREMEDITATED TO DO EVIL AND MURDER HIS BROTHER

II Samuel 13:23 And it came to pass after two full years, that Absalom had sheepshearers in Baal-hazor, which is beside Ephraim: and Absalom invited all the king's sons.

II Samuel 13:24 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.

II Samuel 13:25 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.

II Samuel 13:26 Then said Absalom, If not, I pray thee, let my brother Amnon go with us. And the king said unto him, Why should he go with thee?

II Samuel 13:27 But Absalom pressed him, that he let Amnon and all the king's sons go with him.

II Samuel 13:28 Now Absalom had commanded his servants, saying, Mark ye now when Amnon's heart is merry with wine, and when I say unto you, Smite Amnon; then kill him, fear not: have not I commanded you? be courageous, and be valiant.

II Samuel 13:29 And the servants of Absalom did unto Amnon as Absalom had commanded. Then all the king's sons arose, and every man gat him up upon his mule, and fled.

Note: II Samuel 13:23 And it came to pass after two full years,

The worst sin is that sin that is premeditated and planned. It is just like premeditated murder. There are different degrees of murder.

1st degree murder is the worse premeditated and planned.

2nd degree murder has malice but it is not planned, it is willful, but not planned.

Voluntary Manslaughter 3rd degree also called a crime of passion, committed under emotional duress.

Involuntary Manslaughter is you causing a death through your own neglect but not planned or wanted like drunk driving.

This, in my mind, would be worse than 1st degree. Think about it, Absalom took two years to plan this. He pretended like he had no hard feelings against Amnon, yet he hated him. He not only hated him, he planned to kill him when he had the opportunity. He waited until everyone forgot about the issue.

This is why there is no salvation for Satan.

There was no excuse for what he did, he knew what he was doing. He premeditated what he was going to do. He planned it, he thought it through.

When someone does as Absalom has done, in my mind they put themselves in the position of being a reprobate.

There are certain sins that have worse repercussions than others.

We are all sinners, but as Christians we do not wake up in the morning and plan to commit some sins that day. Usually we trip up, we slip, we didn't mean to, and feel terrible about what we did. This falls under this category:

I John 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

I John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

I John 1:10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

This falls under the category of we are all sinners, and none of us are perfect. But if we are saved none of us want to be sinners or imperfect. We strive to be perfect.

But the Bible says:

Hebrews 10:26 For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,

Hebrews 10:27 But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.

Hebrews 10:28 He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses:

Hebrews 10:29 Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

The Bible warns us that when we just, in our self will and willful sin say, "I am going to do this and I don't care what anyone thinks, God, man, my parents, we are on dangerous ground.

IV. HE WAS ARROGANT AND UNREPENTANT OF WHAT HE DID.

II Samuel 13:37 But Absalom fled, and went to Talmi, the son of Ammihud, king of Geshur. And David mourned for his son every day.

II Samuel 13:38 So Absalom fled, and went to Geshur, and was there three years.

II Samuel 13:39 And the soul of king David longed to go forth unto Absalom: for he was comforted concerning Amnon, seeing he was dead.

Joab convinces the King to bring Absalom back..

II Samuel 14:21 And the king said unto Joab, Behold now, I have done this thing: go therefore, bring the young man Absalom again.

II Samuel 14:22 And Joab fell to the ground on his face, and bowed himself, and thanked the king: and Joab said, To day thy servant knoweth that I have found grace in thy sight, my lord, O king, in that the king hath fulfilled the request of his servant.

II Samuel 14:23 So Joab arose and went to Geshur, and brought Absalom to Jerusalem.

II 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.

II Samuel 14:28 So Absalom dwelt two full years in Jerusalem, and saw not the king's face.

II Samuel 14:29 Therefore Absalom sent for Joab, to have sent him to the king; but he would not come to him: and when he sent again the second time, he would not come.

II Samuel 14:30 Therefore he said unto his servants, See, Joab's field is near mine, and he hath barley there; go and set it on fire. And Absalom's servants set the field on fire.

II Samuel 14:31 Then Joab arose, and came to Absalom unto his house, and said unto him, Wherefore have thy servants set my field on fire?

II Samuel 14:32 And Absalom answered Joab, Behold, I sent unto thee, saying, Come hither, that I may send thee to the king, to say, Wherefore am I come from Geshur? it had been good for me to have been there still: now therefore let me see the king's face; and if there be any iniquity in me, let him kill me.

II Samuel 14:33 So Joab came to the king, and told him: and when he had called for Absalom, he came to the king, and bowed himself on his face to the ground before the king: and the king kissed Absalom.

Now note the timetable of all this.

After Amnon raped his sister there was a

2 year lapse before he killed him.

3 Years he was in Geshur.

2 Years in Jerusalem. So a total of 7 years go by and Absalom has not changed he has not learned, he has not repented.

After this he was able to see his father..

Note what he said after 7 years to think about what he did in murdering his brother.. he says, "...if there be iniquity in me, let him (My Father) kill me.."

How arrogant. There was iniquity in him. He killed his brother and if he had a chance he would have killed his father also.

It reminds me of Cain, when he said my punishment is more than I can bear. God let him live and he is complaining.

Lamentations 3:39 Wherefore doth a living man complain, a man for the punishment of his sins?

Think about it. Jeremiah says, the wages of sin is death and you're alive, why are you complaining when things go wrong? You're alive and you deserve to die for what you have done.

What arrogance, to say if there be iniquity in me let me die. Did he think he did not deserve to die? In his mind he thought he was executing justice against his brother. No, he was a murderer at heart and he really wanted to kill his father at the same time he killed his brother. It was the grace of God that spared David.

V. HE BETRAYS HIS FATHER AND STEALS THE LOYALTY OF THE PEOPLE.

In time, his evil heart totally reveals itself.

II Samuel 15:1 And it came to pass after this, that Absalom prepared him chariots and horses, and fifty men to run before him.

II Samuel 15:2 And Absalom rose up early, and stood beside the way of the gate: and it was so, that when any man that had a controversy came to the king for judgment, then Absalom called unto him, and said, Of what city art thou? And he said, Thy servant is of one of the tribes of Israel.

II Samuel 15:3 And Absalom said unto him, See, thy matters are good and right; but there is no man deputed of the king to hear thee.

II Samuel 15:4 Absalom said moreover, Oh that I were made judge in the land, that every man which hath any suit or cause might come unto me, and I would do him justice!

II Samuel 15:5 And it was so, that when any man came nigh to him to do him obeisance, he put forth his hand, and took him, and kissed him.

II 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.

II Samuel 15:7 And it came to pass after forty years, that Absalom said unto the king, I pray thee, let me go and pay my vow, which I have vowed unto the LORD, in Hebron.

II Samuel 15:8 For thy servant vowed a vow while I abode at Geshur in Syria, saying, If the LORD shall bring me again indeed to Jerusalem, then I will serve the LORD.

II Samuel 15:9 And the king said unto him, Go in peace. So he arose, and went to Hebron.

He still is planning, and conniving, and plotting, to do more evil.

Evil men do evil.

I Samuel 24:13 As saith the proverb of the ancients, Wickedness proceedeth from the wicked:

VI. HE USURPS THE THRONE AND AUTHORITY OF HIS FATHER.

II Samuel 15:12 And Absalom sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David's counsellor, from his city, even from Giloh, while he offered sacrifices. And the conspiracy was strong; for the people increased continually with Absalom. And there came a messenger to David, saying, The hearts of the men of Israel are after Absalom.

II 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.

II Samuel 15:15 And the king's servants said unto the king, Behold, thy servants are ready to do whatsoever my lord the king shall appoint.

II Samuel 15:16 And the king went forth, and all his household after him. And the king left ten women, which were concubines, to keep the house.

II Samuel 15:17 And the king went forth, and all the people after him, and tarried in a place that was far off.

II Samuel 15:18 And all his servants passed on beside him; and all the Cherethites, and all the Pelethites, and all the Gittites, six hundred men which came after him from Gath, passed on before the king.

Rather than fight his own son, David chooses to flee from the city. He leaves the city defenseless.

Then as people seek him out to follow him, he sends some key people back to inform him about what is going on.

David sends Zadok the priest back to the city with the arc of God..

David sends Hushi his counselor and friend back to Jerusalem to counteract the counsel of Ahithophel.

Shimei the Benjamite comes out to cast stones at David and curse him.

Abishai volunteered to cut off his head but David, as humble and gracious as he was, said no.

II Samuel 16:11 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.

II Samuel 16:12 It may be that the LORD will look on mine affliction, and that the LORD will requite me good for his cursing this day.

II Samuel 15:30 And David went up by the ascent of mount Olivet, and wept as he went up, and had his head covered, and he went barefoot: and all the people that was with him covered every man his head, and they went up, weeping as they went up.

II Samuel 15:31 And one told David, saying, Ahithophel is among the conspirators with Absalom. And David said, O LORD, I pray thee, turn the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness.

II Samuel 15:32 And it came to pass, that when David was come to the top of the mount, where he worshipped God, behold, Hushai the Archite came to meet him with his coat rent, and earth upon his head:

It is possible that this was the occasion of the writing of Psalm 41

Psalms 41:9 Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me.

It was at this same spot that Jesus was betrayed by Judas with a Kiss..

David's life was a picture of this future event, and Absalom and Ahithophel were pictures of our Lord's betrayal.

VI. ABSALOM REJECTED THE LOVE OF HIS FATHER AND HIS KINDNESS.

Ahithophel counseled to allow him to go out and kill David for him.

II Samuel 17:1 Moreover Ahithophel said unto Absalom, Let me now choose out twelve thousand men, and I will arise and pursue after David this night:

II Samuel 17:2 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 king only:

II Samuel 17:3 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 peace.

Hushai Countered His Good Counsel.

II Samuel 17:7 And Hushai said unto Absalom, The counsel that Ahithophel hath given is not good at this time.

II Samuel 17:8 For, said Hushai, thou knowest thy father and his men, that they be mighty men, and they be chafed in their minds, as a bear robbed of her whelps in the field: and thy father is a man of war, and will not lodge with the people.

II Samuel 17:9 Behold, he is hid now in some pit, or in some other place: and it will come to pass, when some of them be overthrown at the first, that whosoever heareth it will say, There is a slaughter among the people that follow Absalom.

II Samuel 17:10 And he also that is valiant, whose heart is as the heart of a lion, shall utterly melt: for all Israel knoweth that thy father is a mighty man, and they which be with him are valiant men.

II Samuel 17:11 Therefore I counsel that all Israel be generally gathered unto thee, from Dan even to Beer-sheba, as the sand that is by the sea for multitude; and that thou go to battle in thine own person.

II Samuel 17:12 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 one.

II Samuel 17:13 Moreover, if he be gotten into a city, then shall all Israel bring ropes to that city, and we will draw it into the river, until there be not one small stone found there.

II Samuel 17:14 And Absalom and all the men of Israel said, The counsel of Hushai the Archite is better than the counsel of Ahithophel. For the LORD had appointed to defeat the good counsel of Ahithophel, to the intent that the LORD might bring evil upon Absalom.

This counsel of Hushai gave David more time to flee away from Absalom and his men.

You would think that Hushai's counsel to Absalom was worse for David, but it was not, because it gave David time to get his army in position to defend themselves. They chose the wooded area of Ephraim.

Note as David prepares his men to fight he says:

II Samuel 18:5 And the king commanded Joab and Abishai and Ittai, saying, Deal gently 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.

Deal Gently with Absalom??

This is amazing how David had such a love for Absalom even though he was a traitor and a rebel and murderer.

This is an example of natural parental love.

Our children never stop being our children even when they are gone astray!

This is a natural love that every parent has for their child, yet often that love is not reciprocated.

Even in the animal kingdom, how many parents give their lives for their offspring, yet how many of the offspring give their lives for the parents. Very unnatural and rare.

VII. ABSALOM'S PRIDE DESTROYS HIM

II Samuel 18:6 So the people went out into the field against Israel: and the battle was in the wood of Ephraim;

II 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 twenty thousand men.

II Samuel 18:8 For the battle was there scattered over the face of all the country: and the wood devoured more people that day than the sword devoured.

II Samuel 18:9 And Absalom met the servants of David. And Absalom rode upon a mule, 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 heaven and the earth; and the mule that was under him went away.

II Samuel 18:10 And a certain man saw it, and told Joab, and said, Behold, I saw Absalom hanged in an oak.

II Samuel 18:11 And Joab said unto the man that told him, And, behold, thou sawest him, and why didst thou not smite him there to the ground? And I would have given thee ten shekels of silver, and a girdle.

II Samuel 18:12 And the man said unto Joab, Though I should receive a thousand shekels of silver in mine hand, yet would I not put forth mine hand against 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.

II Samuel 18:13 Otherwise I should have wrought falsehood against mine own life: for there is no matter hid from the king, and thou thyself wouldest have set thyself against me.

II Samuel 18:14 Then said Joab, I may not tarry thus with thee. And he took three darts in his hand, and thrust them through the heart of Absalom, while he was yet alive in the midst of the oak.

II Samuel 18:15 And ten young men that bare Joab's armour compassed about and smote Absalom, and slew him.

II Samuel 18:16 And Joab blew the trumpet, and the people returned from pursuing after Israel: for Joab held back the people.

That beautiful head of hair that was Absalom's pride and joy was his downfall.

He was caught by the hair in a tree. That 200 shekels weight of hair that set his appearance apart from all others killed him.

VIII. ABSALOM ALMOST DESTROYED HIS FATHER THROUGH GRIEF.

II Samuel 18:24 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 alone.

II Samuel 18:25 And the watchman cried, and told the king. And the king said, If he be alone, there is tidings in his mouth. And he came apace, and drew near.

II Samuel 18:28 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 delivered up the men that lifted up their hand against my lord the king.

II Samuel 18:29 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 knew not what it was.

II Samuel 18:31 And, behold, Cushie came; and Cushie said, Tidings, my lord the king: for the LORD hath avenged thee this day of all them that rose up against thee.

II Samuel 18:32 And the king said unto Cushie, Is the young man Absalom safe? And Cushie answered, The enemies of my lord the king, and all that rise against thee to do thee hurt, be as that young man is.

II 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!

II Samuel 19:1 And it was told Joab, Behold, the king weepeth and mourneth for Absalom.

II Samuel 19:2 And the victory that day was turned into mourning unto all the people: for the people heard say that day how the king was grieved for his son.

II Samuel 19:3 And the people gat them by stealth that day into the city, as people being ashamed steal away when they flee in battle.

II Samuel 19:4 But the king covered his face, and the king cried with a loud voice, O my son Absalom, O Absalom, my son, my son!

II Samuel 19:5 And Joab came into the house to the king, and said, Thou hast shamed 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;

II Samuel 19:6 In that thou lovest thine enemies, and hatest thy friends. 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 pleased thee well.

II Samuel 19:7 Now therefore arise, go forth, and speak comfortably 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 worse unto thee than all the evil that befell thee from thy youth until now.

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

II Samuel 19:9 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.

II Samuel 19:10 And Absalom, whom we anointed over us, is dead in battle. Now therefore why speak ye not a word of bringing the king back?

This was probably the worst trial David ever faced.

There is nothing worse than when one of your children become a reprobate and turns against you.

Notice what David said.

WOULD GOD I HAD DIED FOR YOU.

Conclusion Application:

When I think of the trials David faced with his children, I tremble to think of trials we may face in this life. The Bible says of David that he was a man after God's heart. He was loved of the Lord. Yet his sins were visited upon him in the form of heartache with his children.

Amnon committed rape and incest with his sister.

Absalom murdered his brother and sought to murder his father.

Later we read Adonijah sought to usurp the throne.

This trial with reprobate Absalom was probably the greatest heartache and trial that David ever faced in his life.

When he cried ABSALOM ABSALOM WOULD GOD I HAD DIED FOR THEE.

It affected the whole nation. Joab killed Absalom against the wishes of the king. He was the one that brought him back and he was the one to be his executioner. Then when David is heart broken over his son, Joab slaps him in the face so to speak and says.

II Samuel 19:5 And Joab came into the house to the king, and said, Thou hast shamed 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;

II Samuel 19:6 In that thou lovest thine enemies, and hatest thy friends. 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 pleased thee well.

II Samuel 19:7 Now therefore arise, go forth, and speak comfortably 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 worse unto thee than all the evil that befell thee from thy youth until now.

Truth is, Joab was right the people were murmuring. There was trouble brewing because the people viewed David's love for his son as a weakness. Joab looked at it like black and white, the kid was no good and deserved what he got.

This is easy to say, when a son or daughter has gone bad it seems so simple to us whose child it is not. Let them rot, let them die, they deserve it, they got what was coming to them. But for that mom or dad whose son or daughter they are, there is a continual hole in their heart for their wayward son or daughter.

Like the father of the prodigal son, he was praying and waiting and hoping for that son to get right. But for the older brother he said, "Why are you giving him another chance? He wasted your goods and disgraced the family."

Oh the love a parent has for their child, even when they are a reprobate. Even when they are a prodigal. There is a love that goes beyond the love that the child has for their parent. Absalom would have killed his father, where as David would have been willing to die for his son.

It reminds me of the kind of love Christ had for mankind. Think of it. While they were crucifying the Lord of glory He cried out:

FATHER FORGIVE THEM THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO!

No greater love is there than a willingness to lay down your life for someone else. But imagine, David said, "Would God I had died for you my son my son!" Everyone thought David was crazy. So it is when many a parent goes out of their way for a child that is not quite where they should be, people think they are crazy. It is easy to give advice when it is not your own son or daughter.

This account in the life of David gives a glimpse into the heart of many a parent who is dealing with a reprobate son or daughter. But reality sets in and Joab's advice wakes him up and he gets on his feet and gets his business in order. David realized the truth of this verse..

PRO 14:10 The heart knoweth his own bitterness; and a stranger doth not intermeddle with his joy.

My advice to those who are experiencing heartache with a son or daughter:

Only a parent knows the bitterness of heart they experience when a child goes wayward, and only a parent knows the joy of seeing their children excel and do well. If you are a parent don't expect anyone else to understand. Wash away the tears get back on your feet and, sad to say, lest others make matters worse, get on with your life lest a worse thing befall you.

No one could understand the sorrow and bitterness of heart that David felt when his son perished. How easily we can give people advice about their reprobate children. It is easy to do when they are not your children.

And these sad words echo at the end of this sad account in the life of Absalom:

ABSALOM ABSALOM MY SON WOULD GOD I HAD DIED FOR YOU MY SON!