

Conflict, Conflict, and More Conflict

2 Samuel 18:1-19:8

Preparation for Military Conflict

18:1-5

- Preparing to battle for the throne, David organizes his army under three leaders.
- David instructs everyone to deal gently with Absalom, the usurper of the throne.

The Military Conflict

18:6-13

- The battle is fought on the rugged and wooded terrain of the forest of Ephraim.
- David’s men are successful, and the harsh terrain is more successful.
- Absalom is caught in the trees and left suspended and vulnerable.
- Joab experiences an inner conflict. He must choose between his own desire and his king’s command.

Absalom’s Final Conflict and Burial

18:14-19

- In defiance of the king’s order, Joab and ten armor bearers attack and kill Absalom.
- Absalom’s death was the just judgement of God because Absalom regularly chose cursed behavior.
- Absalom is dishonorably buried under a heap of stones.

When conflicted, choose to _____ the providential rule of God.

The King’s Conflict and Affliction

18:19-19:4

- Two runners compete to deliver the victory message to the king.
- David’s inner conflict is exposed. Is he a king awaiting news of the battle or a father awaiting news of his son?
- David’s excessive grief turns the country’s victory into mourning and their honor into shame.

When conflicted, make God’s plans the _____ priority.

When conflicted, choose the disciplined responses of both expressing the emotion and _____ your attention toward God.

Joab’s Helpful Conflict with the King

19:5-8

- Joab rebukes the king for demonstrating contempt and ingratitude toward his faithful people.
- In humility, David responds to Joab’s counsel, disciplines his emotions, and takes his place as king before the people.

Jesus, the perfect King, demonstrates the perfect responses to internal conflicts.

*In the wilderness, Jesus trusted Himself to the providential rule of God.
Jesus prioritized God’s will and the role chosen for Him by God over the will of family and friends.
In Gethsemane, He expressed sorrowful emotions in a disciplined way and turned to God in prayer.*

David – The King of God’s Choosing – 2 Samuel 18:1-19:8

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2 SAMUEL 12:11-12 Thus says the LORD, ‘Behold, I will raise up evil against you out of your own house. And I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun. For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel and before the sun.’”

2 SAMUEL 12:24-25 Then David comforted his wife, Bathsheba, and went in to her and lay with her, and she bore a son, and he called his name Solomon. And the LORD loved him and sent a message by Nathan the prophet. So he called his name Jedidiah, because of the LORD.

2 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 ordained to defeat the good counsel of Ahithophel, so that the LORD might bring harm upon Absalom.

PSALM 40:4 Blessed is the man who makes the LORD his trust, who does not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after a lie!

PROVERBS 29:11 A fool gives full vent to his spirit, but a wise man quietly holds it back.