

LeMay Family Bible Study **For the purpose of furthering Biblical**

knowledge February 28th, 2022

Title: Who is condemning you? Who is judging you?

Text: Rom. 8:1., John 8:10., PSALM 51.

Ref: 2 Sam. 18:1-33, 19:1-15, Mark 5:34, 1 Peter 5:10.

Theme: Quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to anger.

Message: The stage is set and David has to give the order to kill his son, Absalom. "Go easy on him", he says. King David is about to make a decision that will forever alter his life and also shift the opinions of his subjects.

We see in 2nd Samuel: 18, that David has been backed into a corner and now has to give the okay to execute his son, who has formed an army against him. This was likely the most difficult thing that he'd had to do in his life and arguably, the most painful.

But if he doesn't take immediate action, he will lose the allegiance and respect of his subjects and they will be less than forgiving of him for his lack of leadership, during the crisis. David's image is in a shambles and his rule is hanging on by a thread. Because of his lack of control of the opposing threat of his son Absalom, his subjects have become disgruntled and dissatisfied with him.

After David gives the order to finish Absalom, he retreats into a posture of solitude and in despair. The King was

inconsolable. The scripture says: (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!”)

Chapter 19. - “The king is weeping and mourning for Absalom.” And for the whole army the victory that day was turned into mourning, because on that day the troops heard it said, “The king is grieving for his son.” The men stole into the city that day as men steal in who are ashamed when they flee from battle. The king covered his face and cried aloud, “O my son Absalom! O Absalom, my son, my son!”

Then Joab went into the house to the king and said, “Today you have humiliated all your men, who have just saved your life and the lives of your sons and daughters and the lives of your wives and concubines. You love those who hate you and hate those who love you. You have made it clear today that the commanders and their men mean nothing to you.

I see that you would be pleased if Absalom were alive today and all of us were dead. Now go out and encourage your men. I swear by the LORD that if you don’t go out, not a man will be left with you by nightfall. This will be worse for you than all the calamities that have come on you from your youth till now.”

Throughout the tribes of Israel, all the people were arguing among themselves, saying, “The king delivered us from the hand of our enemies; he is the one who rescued us from the hand of the Philistines. But now he has fled the country to escape from Absalom. Later, David goes and makes a speech to the people, calms them down and then returns to position and posture.

In Samuel’s narrative of the acts of David, he give’s us a close

look at the emotional state of the children of Israel, who so closely mirror people today. Particularly, Americans.

America starts and ends trends; for her own purposes and for her own agenda. She fostered bigotry and hatred as a means to maintain racism. She started the war on drugs as a means to further her agenda of exclusion and racism; and on and on.

We see the same behavior in Samuel's narrative this day that David has lost his son as before with the children of Israel. Murmuring, complaining accusing and jumping to conclusions about their leadership; their God.

David has just given a command to execute his own son; the son that who is his favorite and the one that he didn't correct. David is in a position that no parent would want to be in; and he has chosen the will and desires of his subjects to take precedent over his love for his son.

I wonder if the crowd, the subjects had any concept of what David was going through as they spoke evil of him. I wonder if the crowd had any emotions at all that were inclined to David's pain? It doesn't seem that they did. But rather that they were unified in their despise and displeasure of the King that they'd loved, adored and revered.

The children of Israel's conduct should come as no surprise though. These are the same people who gave Moses similar challenges. They complained about their new lifestyle. They spread rumors about Moses. They complained about there not being a God that they could see. Their decedents killed Jesus. They preferred a murder to be freed, rather than an innocent man, who'd helped them.

The similarities to the citizens of the United States of America and

the ancient children of Israel are sobering. They're behavior in various circumstances is almost predictable and a blue print for how not to behave when we're faced with life impacting events.

There are few things that really stand out to me in Samuels's illustration. One is the swiftness that the people shifted their opinions of their beloved leader, and also how quickly they concluded that David had turned away from his commitment to leading them.

We read in the message how Joab advises the King that if he doesn't return to his throne, that it will be worse for him than anything that he's ever experienced. WOW! Those sound like fighting words.

I mean, here David was in the middle of an emotional meltdown, with no Ibuprophen, no counselor to call, no woman to rest his head in her bosom for comfort, and the crowd wants his head. And they're acting as though they never knew him. I know the feeling. But in David's case, it was going to be an event that would shape the future of Israel as a nation. So David represses his feelings, sucks it up and pushes on.

Another thing that stands out to me is David's resiliency. I imagine that he'd learned how to deal with rejection and pain from people that he loved while he was living in caves, and being persecuted by his father in law, who'd incidentally anointed him to be King.

I wonder if the grief and embarrassment that he'd experienced helped him to bounce back, time after time. We hear some of his pleadings in Psalm 51. "Restore unto me the joy of my salvation." "Take not thy holy spirit, from me."

David knew how to get before the throne of God, even when he didn't feel like God was listening to him; he'd still push through to

get a prayer before God. I think these were some of the skills that David developed, while he was essentially an outlaw and a wanted man.

So now the very people who praised him before have ridiculed him, for grieving over his son. They judged him, and they'd deemed him as being disloyal and a traitor. They brought up everything he'd ever done, as they spoke of revolt against him.

The illustration reminds me of pictures of Malcolm X, standing in front of his living window armed and ready to defend his family against the very people whom he'd helped.

The rush to judgment by the people could have led to the fall of Israel and perhaps even interfered with the plan of God for David's seed to be used in the lineage of Jesus. Had David not responded correctly, all could have been lost. Had David listened to the people's ridicule and judgments against him, he may have given up and stayed in a place of despair also.

And had the people's unbridled anger towards the King not been toned down, it could have even resulted in David's death. Nullifying God's plan.

Questions:

- 1) Why did the children of Israel conclude that David had abandoned them?
- 2) How could the children of Israel show more understanding for David's dilemma?
- 3) When your intentions are misunderstood, what is your immediate response?
- 4) What is a way to ensure that someone understands your intention?

- 5) When someone misunderstands you, what do you do?
- 6) Could David have handled the impending coup, better? (2nd Samuel 19.11-14).
- 7) How useful is it to you to have someone intercede on your behalf, when you're misunderstood?
- 8) What could have resulted if the children of Israel's anger and resentment not had been defused?
- 9) What happens when your anger and emotions are not controlled?
- 10) What communication skill did David employ to persuade the children of Israel to stand down in their revolt? (2nd Samuel. 9:11-14).
- 11) What skills do you use to suppress your anger and emotions?
- 12) What is an example of jumping a conclusion?
- 13) How could drawing a conclusion prior to obtaining all the facts, be a problem?
- 14) How long do you generally take to respond with a conclusion?
- 15) When you make conclusions, do you weigh prior information against your conclusion, or do you dismiss the prior information?
- 16) When you are given clear information regarding your judgment conclusion being incorrect, what do you do?
- 17) Did the children of Israel weigh prior information about David, in their conclusions that he'd abandoned and betrayed them?
- 18) What do you think God's posture was as he watched the impending insurrection unfold?
- 19) Some people

haven't had the benefit of a sibling explain an issue that was

misunderstood by their parents. Have you had anyone who's gone and spoken on your behalf, to explain a misunderstanding that you were involved in?

20) If question 19 is yes, how did you feel after your advocate clarified your meaning? 21) How long does it take you to stop being mad?

22) How long did it take the children of Israel to back down from the pending insurrection? (2nd Samuel. 9:11-15).

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Continuation:

The rush to judgment:

The rush to judgment by the people could have lead to the fall of Israel and perhaps even interfered with the plan of God for David's seed to be used in the lineage of Jesus. Had David not responded correctly, all could have been lost. Had David listened to the peoples ridicule and judgments against him, he may have given up and stayed in a place of despair also.

⁹ Throughout the tribes of Israel, all the people were arguing among themselves, saying, “The king delivered us from the hand of our enemies; he is the one who rescued us from the hand of the Philistines. But now he has fled the country to escape from Absalom; ¹⁰ and Absalom, whom we anointed to rule over us, has died in battle. So why do you say nothing about bringing the king back?”

¹¹ King David sent this message to Zadok and Abiathar, the priests: “Ask the elders of Judah, ‘Why should you be the last to bring the king back to his palace, since what is being said throughout Israel has reached the king at his quarters?’ ¹² You are my relatives, my own flesh and blood. So why should you be the last to bring back the king?’ ¹³ And say to Amasa, ‘Are you not my own flesh and blood? May God deal with me, be it ever so severely, if you are not the commander of my army for life in place of Joab.’”

QUESTIONS:

- 1) What ultimate terrible thing would have happened, had the children of Israel prevented King David from maintaining his reign as King?
- 2) What does the arguing and murmuring among the children of Israel, remind you of?
- 3) Do you think that individually the children of Israel would have internal dialogue and self-talk that reinforces their motivation to continue in their actions?
- 4) What effect would the children's of Israel's self-talk have on their judgments about what King David was thinking?
- 5) What effect would the children's of Israel's self talk have had on their decision-making?
- 6) Do you think the children of Israel were hearing from

- the voice of God, during their arguing?
- 7) Do you think that the children of Israel were being closed minded to the voice of God, during their arguments? 8) Do you think that you listen to the voice of God during an argument?
- 9) Do you think that you listen to the voice of God in deciding what to do after an argument?
- 10) Do you think that God intervened in preventing David from being removed from the throne, amid the pending insurrection?
- 11) Will God prevent you from making the wrong decisions? 12) What does being narrow minded mean to you? 13) What is the effect of making snap judgments? 14) What is the effect of coming to a conclusion, immediately after being mad?
- 15) Do your conclusions happen more readily after being mad, or not?
- 16) Did the children of Israel conclude that David's inaction towards their losses seem right to you? 17) How could the children of Israel respond better to David's responses to their losses?

A soft Answer:

¹⁴He won over the hearts of the men of Judah so that they were all of one mind. They sent word to the king, "Return, you and all your men." ¹⁵Then the king returned and went as far as Jordan.

Now the men of Judah had come to Gilgal to go out and meet the king and bring him across the Jordan. ¹⁶ Shimei son of Gera, the Benjamite from Bahurim, hurried down with the men of Judah to meet King David. ¹⁷ With him were a thousand Benjamites, along with Ziba, the steward of Saul's household, and his fifteen sons and twenty servants. They rushed to the Jordan, where the king was. ¹⁸ They crossed at the ford to take the king's household over and to do whatever he wished.

QUESTIONS:

- 1) How was David able to persuade the children of Israel to discontinue their actions against him?
- 2) What is the recurring theme of David's ability to render an action from God?
- 3) What would have been a better response to Michael not understanding Deronda's text this morning?
- 4) What would have been a better response to Michael, when she interpreted that he didn't care about her request, this morning?
- 5) What is one way to ensure that information in text's don't get lost in translation?
- 6) Are text's an effective mode of communication? 7) Would King David have used a text to communicate to the children of Israel, to desist the coup?
- 8) What usually happens when Michael responds to Deronda, with a softly spoken answer?
- 9) What happens when Michael asks Deronda a question, and she doesn't respond?
- 10) Is non-verbal communication an adequate response?

- 11) Would non-verbal communication have been an adequate response for David to use, to stop the insurrection?
- 12) Do you think the children of Israel could have had embellished thoughts and imaginations about David's actions?
- 13) Where would these thoughts have originated?
- 14) How could the children of Israel have better managed the thoughts and preconceived notions about David's actions?
- 15) Do you believe that their thoughts and imaginations about David were valid?
- 16) Do you believe that an imagination is a spirit or just a thought?
- 17) Do you understand how an imagination can be used by God, or the devil to trigger a response in us?
- 18) What does the bible tell us about how to deal with thoughts and imaginations that distract us, from God's will?
- 20) What are some holistic methods to manage imaginations that exalt themselves above the knowledge of God and that would interfere with God's will for our family's?
- 21) Do you believe imaginations have ever been used by the devil to provoke you to anger?
- 22) Do you believe that David allowed the voice of God to guide him to remedy the insurrection?
- 23) Did David show patience in the narrative?
- 24) What does patience mean to you?
- 25) In Samuel's narrative of the acts of David, we can interpret that after the loss of the baby that he had with Bathsheba, that his lifestyle of murder and adultery changed. What do you think about why and how his lifestyle changed?

David Shows Compassion:

When Shimei son of Gera crossed the Jordan, he fell prostrate before the king ¹⁹ and said to him, “May my lord not hold me guilty. Do not remember how your servant did wrong on the day my lord the king left Jerusalem. May the king put it out of his mind. ²⁰ For I your servant know that I have sinned, but today I have come here as the first from the tribes of Joseph to come down and meet my lord the king.”

QUESTIONS:

- 1) What lesson does David demonstrate in this narrative that coincides with Jesus’s teaching?
- 2) What does David show us about his heart in this narrative?
- 3) What does it mean to you, to give of yourself when you don’t want to?
- 4) What concessions did David make to Shimei?
- 5) What does a small concession mean to you?
- 6) What does a great concession mean to you?

Bonus questions:

- 1) If Jeffery Toban can be restored to his throne, vocation, etc., should anyone else be allowed to be restored to their position, vocation, etc?
- 2) Should a person be judged on their past?
- 3) Do you use a person's past in your conclusions

about them?

- 4) What do you think about Dr. Hayward's message where he indicated that the circumstances in our lives often coincide with God's providence?
- 5) Do you believe that God used the circumstances in our lives to bring us together?