

**BOOK OF 2 SAMUEL  
ABSALOM'S BETRAYAL  
2 SAMUEL 15:6-12**

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**Introduction**

Have you ever been betrayed unexpectedly by a family member or a friend? Betrayal can take on many forms! It might be as simple as having shared something with someone in confidence, only find that out that it gets blabbed in the worst possible way behind your back!

When we are betrayed, it can leave us with a bad taste and an uneasiness in our soul! It can also cause us to have trust issues from that point forward! (i.e. We can be less likely to trust others after our having been betrayed!)

When someone betrays us it can sometimes have devastating and far reaching consequences!

*e.g. There was a missionary in China who rode the bus everyday with the people. She was very friendly and open with her faith and dearly loved the Chinese. Trying to obey the oppressive Chinese law, she wouldn't pass out Bibles indiscriminately, but always give one to someone who asked her, usually after she got to know them a little bit. Someone befriended her on the bus and asked for a Bible. She gave them one and that person immediately went to the authorities and betrayed her. She and her family were deported from China...her ministry in China was over in a moment because of that betrayal!*

**I. ABSALOM BETRAYED HIS FATHER BY STEALING WHAT BELONGED TO HIS FATHER! (Vs 1-6)**

For our last two studies in this Chapter, we have seen how Absalom began this **PATH OF BETRAYAL** against his father, King David!

We've seen how Absalom **stole the hearts of the men of Israel** by first **CHANGING THEIR FOCUS through his tactics of DISTRACTION, DECEPTION AND DISCOURAGEMENT.**

This further led to him **CHALLENGING FOLK'S FAITH** in his father as King although King David had been a good king in the past and also possessed the promise of God's blessings in the future!

**II. ABSALOM BETRAYED HIS FATHER BY LYING TO HIS FATHER! (Vs 7-9)**

Absalom had this ingenious plan he was about to put into action! But in order to put it into action, it required that he go to Hebron!

So, Absalom told his father that he needed to go to Hebron and pay a religious vow he had made to the LORD! (Which was a bold-faced lie! Don't you just love it when folks pull the LORD in on their wickedness!)

We see here that he betrayed his father here under the guise of doing something for the LORD which he had no intention of doing! There had been no vow! This was all in Absalom's bold plan to snatch the kingdom away from his father!

Of course he had a good idea that his father would let him leave by concocting this story about this supposed vow that he had made to the LORD! And he was right! His father did let him go under the guise of paying this vow or fulfilling this vow that he had made to the LORD!

What kind of dad would David have been to insist that his son stay home and break his vow with the LORD? (Of course Absalom knew this and played this against his Dad!)

So we see Absalom actually used his father's faith against him here! Has anyone ever used your faith in the LORD to their advantage against you? That's pretty low isn't it!? It certainly doesn't please the LORD!

There is no doubt that Absalom had been schooled in the ways of the LORD. Dear old dad might have controlled his schooling, but he couldn't control his heart! His dad may have believed in all that honoring Jehovah stuff! But not HIM! He was **HIS OWN MAN!** He was going to **DO HIS OWN THING!**

He would show his dad **WHO WAS IN CONTROL OF HIS LIFE!**

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**NOT SOME JEHOVAH GOD, NOT HIS DAD, NOT ANYBODY ELSE, BUT HIM!** (What we see here is that Absalom had a heart problem—not the heart that beat in his chest, but the one that was deceitful and desperately wicked that God knew about!)

**III. ABSALOM BETRAYED HIS FATHER BY CONSPIRING AGAINST HIS FATHER! (Vs 10-12)**

Absalom had worked long and hard to win over the hearts of the men of Israel, and now we see here that he had some *spies (according to Vs 10)* sent throughout all the tribes of Israel to help him carry out the final stages of his betrayal!

*“spies” = “to walk along; to be a tale-bearer (i.e. slander); also to lead about.”*

Now we see in *verse 11* that he had 200 men that left with him to go to Hebron on his journey. It says that they were *“called”*. No doubt Absalom hand picked these 200 to go with him! That had to be fishy! If you are going to go fulfill a vow to the LORD, why the need for these 200 men? Absalom had in mind what he and his spies were doing but it says that these 200 men *“went in their simplicity, and they knew not any thing.”*

i.e. **These particular 200 men were not in on the conspiracy of what was going on!** Absalom could have chosen these for the purpose of keeping his father from ordering them what to do when the conspiracy came to fruition! But we are not told!

**Have you ever been an unwilling participant of someone else's betrayal only to find out too late that you had been hoodwinked!?**

There in *verse 12* we learn that *“the conspiracy was strong”*.  
*“conspiracy” = “an unlawful alliance.”*

The Scripture indicates here that those siding with Absalom were constantly increasing in number! Which consequently meant that the number that were loyal to David was constantly decreasing!

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**IV. ABSALOM BETRAYED HIS FATHER BY TURNING HIS PRIVATE COUNSELOR AGAINST HIS FATHER! (Vs 12)**

We see here that the Scripture says Absalom sent for Ahithophel who up to this time had been David's private counselor.

Remember how we have seen that David in the past had consulted with Ahithophel at various times. And his counsel had been good!

Look at what *2 Samuel 16:23* says about the counsel of Ahithophel! But now we see Ahithophel changing sides. This **wise and trusted counselor was found unfaithful** because he also thought of himself from this point forward and not of David. (Yet another BETRAYAL!)

We don't know if Ahithophel was **threatened** by Absalom or **bribed** by Absalom or **offered a position in the new government** by Absalom OR if **he just went with Absalom of his own accord!** You see, it doesn't really matter! This one who had been faithful to David in the past proved to fail in that faithfulness when it was most needed!

Has that ever happened to you? I'm talking about when someone who was previously a very loyal or faithful friend to you turned against you in betrayal when you needed their faithful friendship the most!

It is believed that David was speaking of Ahithophel when he penned the words of: *Psalm 55:12-14* *For it was not an enemy that reproached me; then I could have borne it: neither was it he that hated me that did magnify himself against me; then I would have hid myself from him: 13 But it was thou, a man mine equal, my guide, and mine acquaintance. 14 We took sweet counsel together, and walked unto the house of God in company.*

**V. ABSALOM'S PLAN OF BETRAYAL WAS BROUGHT TO FRUITION! (Vs 13)**

This messenger came and told David of what, no doubt, David had to have sensed but didn't want to admit was coming! David doesn't seem surprised here, but we will see that he reacts by going on the run!

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Absalom had been a successful **recruiter of men** or shall we say **stealer of men!** He had **stolen the hearts of the men of Israel!**

The hearts of the men of Israel were said to be *AFTER* Absalom!  
That word “*after*” means “*in pursuit of; moving behind; following*”

In other words, Absalom’s plan of betrayal, at least for the moment, had been successful. Now, what would David do in response?

**Conclusion**

Next week, LORD willing, we will see David’s response. Understand that what happens to us is not so nearly as important as our response to what happens to us!

Have you been in a similar position as we see David here? Have you been hurt by a betrayal? Only the LORD can help us heal from such a wound and get beyond it! Look to the LORD for his guidance and his grace and his giving you the ability to forgive the betrayer and not allow a root of bitterness to spring up in your soul!

*Hebrews 12:14-15 Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: 15 Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;*