

COURAGE
COURAGE TO OVERCOME A BROKEN HEART
From "Courageous" series by Wayne Murray

2 Samuel 18:29 The King Asked, "Is The Young Man Absalom Safe?" Ahimaaz Answered, "I Saw Great Confusion Just As Joab Was About To Send The King's Servant And Me, Your Servant, But I Don't Know What It Was."

2 Samuel 18:30 The King Said, "Stand Aside And Wait Here." So He Stepped Aside And Stood There.

2 Samuel 18:31 Then The Cushite Arrived And Said, "My Lord The King, Hear The Good News! The LORD Has Vindicated You Today By Delivering You From The Hand Of All Who Rose Up Against You."

2 Samuel 18:32 The King Asked The Cushite, "Is The Young Man Absalom Safe?" The Cushite Replied, "May The Enemies Of My Lord The King And All Who Rise Up To Harm You Be Like That Young Man."

2 Samuel 18:33 The King Was Shaken. He Went Up To The Room Over The Gateway And Wept. As He Went, He Said: "O My Son Absalom! My Son, My Son Absalom! If Only I Had Died Instead Of You—O Absalom, My Son, My Son!"

In Ancient Israel They Fought Battles Much How We Play Game Of Chess.

The Ancient Kings Would Sit On The Hills Overlooking The Battlefield.

They Could Watch The **Sweeping Movements** Of The Armies, The Charge Of **Cavalry**...And Long Line Of **Archers** Raining Down Arrows On Enemy.

There They Controlled Their Armies From Up On The Hill & The Reason Is That They Would Send A **Constant Line Of Messengers, Runners,** Back And Forth.

The King Could See The Lines Of Battle Were In Particular Bloody Tension They'd Select Different Kinds Of **Runners**.

One Runner Bring

- **Good News**
- Another Bring **Bad News!**

Oft Times Runners Were Constantly Going Back And Forth.

And That's How It Was That Day All Israel Was In A Civil War!

Absalom's Forces Were Fighting Against King David And All Israel Stood With Their Breath Held To See **Who'd Be King** In The End!

This Battle Was In Full Pitch When Suddenly A Runner's Coming!

They Brace To Hear Good News & Suddenly **Ahimaaz** Comes Panting, "Lord King David Live Forever!"

David Quickly Asks, "What's The News, Boy?"

Ahimaaz Tells Him

- The Battle Is Yours Today
- The Armies Are Sweeping Down Upon The Enemy
- Everyone Is In Celebration For The Victory!

But For The King, That Wasn't What He Was Wanting To Know:

- What About **Him**
- Is He Ok?
- Has Any Harm Come To Him?

I Want To Know About The Young Man **Absalom**?"

His Army Was Winning But It Wasn't Where The His Heart Was

"Where's My Boy? Tell About My Boy"

Ahimaaz Steps Aside For Here Comes Another Runner.

It's The **Cushite!** "Oh This Is **Good News** For The Cushite Brings Only Good News!"

Suddenly The Cushite Runs Before David And He Is

- Covered With Lather/Sweat.
- His Muscles Were Shining In The Noon Day Sun.

"Lord, King David Live Forever. I Bring You News From The Front Line!"

But Before He Even Begins The King Leans Forward And Says, **"Tell Me Cushite, What About The Young Man Absalom?"**

"Oh King David Live Forever. May It Be To All Your Enemies As It Is To That Young Man. I Saw An Oak Tree In The Valley Of Marna And I Saw A Man Hanging From His Hair & Out Of His Body Were Arrows In Every Direction...**Absalom Is Dead!**"

Bible Says David Walked Across The Gales Ripping His Clothes In Tradition

He Was

- Pulling At His Clothing
- All Jerusalem Heard Him Screaming

David Was Screaming, "Oh Absalom, My Son, My Son...Would To God I'd Died For You!"

Poor King David.

The Man After God's Own Heart...Now Finds His Own Heart Broken.

Why Does David Deserve The Grief He Was Feeling?

Why Do We Deserve Some Of The Grief We Are Feeling In Our Lives

- Over Our Kids
- Our Families
- Our Individual Lives Of Regrets?

Absalom

- **Grew Up In The Palace**
- Raised In Then The Finest Places.
- **Was A Handsome Young Man.**
- **Had A Perfect Physique**
- Had The Genetics Of A King!

They Say When He Drove His Chariot Thru The Streets Of Jerusalem His Body Shone Like The Noon-Day Sun That Fell Upon It.

He Had Everything Going For Him.

So Where Did It All Go Wrong?

What Made Absalom Stand In The Gate Of His Father's City & Say, "If Only I Were King I'd Do Things Differently."

Didn't **Absalom** Know How His Dad's Heart Ached And Broke?

Why Did David Deserve This Pain?

I Mean That Picture Of David Pacing Back & Forth Screaming, "**Oh Absalom, My Son, My Son: Would To God I'd Died For You!**"

**And I Say This Morning Without Any Disrespect Or Sacrilege,
"Yeah King David, Would To God You Had...A Long Time Ago!"**

1. Every Man/Woman In Their Lifetime Sets Priorities.

And You In Your

- Very Being
- Homes
- Marriage

Will Set Some Priorities That Will Be Inherited By Those In Your Home!

And Those Priorities Will Shape The End Results Of Their Life!

**I Believe The Faith Of A Father Is Lived Out In The Child...Because
God Still Visits Upon The Children The End Result Of A Parents Life.**

It's Great What Can Happen To Our Young Because Of Our Commitment!

But It Also Comes With Great Responsibility & Determination!

We're Responsible To Forge Into Their Lives Certain Attributes:

(1) A Heart For God!

You Can

- Say What You Want To Say
- Sing What You Want To Sing

But I Am Telling You That **Your Children Know Where Your Heart Really Is!**

They Know

- If You Have A Heart For God Or For Other Things.
- What's Important And What Just Gets Lip-Service.

(2) A Christ-Like Spirit And Love For Others!

When You Suggest To Your Kids That They Need To Love The Lord Jesus Christ And Then For Months And Years Let Them Hear Dripping From Your Tongue Criticisms And Hate About The

- Church
- Leaders
- Programs

Don't Be Surprised When They Hear The Message Loud And Clear And Stay Away From It For Years Or A Lifetime!

(3) A Great Faith!

Faith Is The **Only Thing**

- That Pleases God!
- That Led The People Of Israel Out Of Bondage.
- That Led Them To Victory In The Promised Land.

Faith And **Fear** Have Never Gone Hand In Hand...Opposites!

Isaiah 29.13 The Lord Says: "These People Come Near To Me With Their Mouth And Honor Me With Their Lips, But Their Hearts Are Far From Me. Their Worship Of Me Is Based On Merely Human Rules They Have Been Taught.

Some Of You Live Your Lives Like The Little Bird Who Flew Into A Cave At The Bottom Of The **Grand Canyon** When A Great Storm Blew Up.

Lightening Lacing Through The Canyon...Rains Swept Thru In Sheets.

So, He Flew Into A Cave There In The Bottom Of The Canyon, Shaking, Wet...Scared!

When An Older & Wiser Bird Said, "**Why Are You So Frightened?**"

The Bird Said, "Don't You See The Storm Out There?"

The Older Wiser Bird Said,

"Oh Yes, I See The Storm...But...Don't You Realize There Is Over 7 Miles Of Granite Above Your Head

And Don't You See The Hundreds Of Miles Of Granite On Both Sides Of You And Enough Granite Beneath You To Reach From Coast To Coast.

You're Safe , Little Bird.

There Never Has Been A Storm That Could Affect The Kind Of Rock That We Are Sheltered In!"

That's Why He Gives Us These Words In [Isaiah 41:10](#): Fear Not, For I Am With You; Do Not Be Dismayed, For I Am Your God! I Will Strengthen You And Help You; I Will Hold You Up With My Righteous Right Hand!

And Somehow I Want To Say To You Today Wherever You're Living, That If You Are In Christ, You Have An Entirely Different Perspective On Everything Going Or...Or You Should Have!

There Never Has Been A Storm That Could Affect The Kind Of Rock That We Are Sheltered In Through Jesus Christ!

Now Some Of You Have Kids Who Are Away From God...

- Brought Up In A Christian Home...But Chose A Path Of Their Own.

And Some Of Us Have Kids Watching Our Lives...

And They Are Seeing A Confusing Message.

They Hear Us Talk About God And His Church, They See Us Take Them To Church, They Know What We Say...But We Live Out Something Different At Home!

David Lost The Blessing Of God Because Of His Sin Being Lived Out Right Before His Children (Bathsheba).

We Can't

- Harbor Hatred In Our Hearts Towards Someone
- Talk About It At Dinner
- And Expect It Not To Affect Our Homes.

We Can't Talk About Loving Christ And His Church

And Then Tear It Apart Or Destroy Those Who Lead It.

We Can't Rob God Of His Tithes & Offerings And Then Somehow Expect His Blessing On Our Homes/Children

We Are Out Of The Umbrella Of Blessing & Protection.

Our Kids Know Who We Are: They See It Every Day! They Are **Very Smart!**

"Oh Absalom, My Son, My Son: Would To God I'd Died For You!"

And The Answer Comes Rolling Down Through The Ages To Us Today, **"Yeah King David, Would To God You Had...A Long Time Ago!"**

2. Every Man/Woman Has To Set An Example To Follow!

Absalom Was Born Of A Royal Household

When David Was In His Younger Years & Marrying Many Women

He Married A Princess From The Northern Kingdom To Bring Unity.

And Because Of This Marriage, Absalom Was Born Of Royal Blood

He Was Not Born Of The Israeli Blood Like His Siblings.

But You Find **Absalom** For The First 17 YRS **Grew Up In A Harem**, Surrounded By Women **Because** David The King Had No Time For Him!

He Was Busy Establishing His Kingdom...Making A Name...

Establishing Unity...Busy With His Work...Succeeding...

Busy In Good Work...But Missing The Central Work!

"Oh Absalom, My Son! Would To God I Could Give My Life For You!"

"Yeah, Would To God You Had...Years Ago When The Boy Was Young!"

3. Every Person Must Overcome Challenges In Their Life!

There's The Story Of Bathsheba...

King David Was Walking Out On The Porch Late In The Evening.

I Doubt It Was The First Night He Had Taken A Midnight Stroll.

He No Doubt Opened His Laptop And Spent Hours Late At Night Perusing The Internet Where He'd Been Many Times Before.

This Night, As Before, Peered Across The Courtyard At Neighbor's Wife Who Had Failed To Pull The Shower Curtains.. And Out On The Roof Top She Took Her Bath In The Hot Tub...Soaking Against M.L.

The Story Is Told Of How David Had Her Brought To Him

And We Know Absalom Was In His Late Teens.

When You Read The Story, One Thing That Story Doesn't Bring Out Is The **Impact On A Young Man Whose Eyes From The Harem Walls Are Watching** The Whole Scene....Knowing Exactly What Dad Is Doing!

And When Nathan The Prophet Says To David, "You're A Guilty Man"

Absalom Was There

- Hearing It
- Being Impacted By It.

When Bathsheba Is Brought Into The Palace,

- Already Pregnant
- Husband Killed
- 1st Baby Dies Because Of God's Judgment On David

As David's Laying Prostrate Begging God's Mercy & Forgiveness

There Is A Boy Named **Absalom** Out There Listening/Watching.

Absalom Nearly 20...Having Seen All Of That

Now David's Crying, "Oh Absalom, My Son, My Son.....Would To God I'd Died For You!"

And "Would To God" Some Of Us Would Die To The Selfish & Sinful Ways Of Lives Right Now...

So One Day You Don't Have To Be Found Crying Out In Regret Over A Lost Boy Or Girl!

Then Then There's The Next Page Of The Story:

4. Every Parent Must Pass Onto Their Children Integrity!

Absalom Had A Sister Named Tamar!

She Was An Attractive Girl In Her Teenage Years.

And David's Oldest Son, **AMNON**, Lusted For His ½ Sister, Tamar.

The Bible Says, "**He Desired Her With A Great Desire**"

I Mention That For It Comes Back Later In The Story.

His Desire Grew Each Day Until A Friend Gave Him A Plan: ^{li Sam 13.5} "Act Like You're Sick And The King Will Send Tamar To Serve You Soup. When She Comes W/Soup, She'll Be All Yours."

And In His Back Bedroom, Alone She Came To Serve Her Brother

And He Grabbed Her.

She Resisted...Pleaded With Amnon...

But He Was Much Stronger & He Forced Her...And He Raped Her.

Then V. 15 Tells Us Something Young People Never Understand.

I Can't Believe How Many Of Us Older Ones Never Understand It

You Remember That Amnon **Desired Her** With A Great Desire?

^{2 Samuel 13:15} "**When He Was Finished With Her, He Hated Her With A Hate...That Was Greater Than The Love With Which He Loved Her.**"

And That's An Interesting Thing @ Desires Which Are Sinfully Met:

We Want Something So Bad

But When It Takes Sin To Get It

Suddenly

- **Love Turns To Hate**
- **Lust Turns To Disgust!**

We Can't Face The Guilt & Bear Up & Say, "I Am The One! I Sinned! I've Fallen" So As A Result...Whoever We're Involved With...

We Like To Project The Guilt On Them!

I Wish You Understood That One Day Anybody You're Engaged In Sin With ...Will Become Your **WORST ENEMY** Sooner Or Later!

You'll Feel **Shame** Every Time You're Around Them Because We Tend To **Hate** Those Who Play A Part In Tearing Us Down Spiritually!

Amnon **Hated Her**...Though She Begged Him To Stay!

Now Here's The Interesting Part Of The Story: [The Bible Says](#): When David Heard This: He Got Angry...But Did Nothing!

Moms/Dads...Our Families Need Us To Do More Than Stand For Something

They Need Us To

- **Carry Out Something**
- **Example It!**

They Need For You To Do More Than **Believe In The Bible**

They Need You To Live It Out...Every Day!

Absalom Finally Took Her Into His Home...

And I See Those 2 Young People Sitting At Dinner At Night Saying, "**Why Doesn't He Do Something?**"

All That

- Preaching
- All That Big Talk About Living For God
- All That Stuff About Us Being Godly

But **No Action!**

There Was A Festering Of Resentment As Absalom Cared For Her!

Until One Day He Did What His Father Should Have Done!

The Problem Isn't That Mom & Dad Made Him Go To Church

The Problem Is **They Didn't Live At Home What They Lived At Church!**

"Oh Absalom, My Son, My Son.....Would To God I'd Died For You!"

Yeah King David, Would To God You Had Died...Back When It Counted!

Absalom Held A Feast For All His Brothers & Invited David To Come Too.

But David Was Too Busy, "Sorry, I Have Affairs Of The Kingdom"

At The Feast Absalom Had His Servants Kill Amnon In Revenge.

Everyone Ran For Their Lives!

2 Servants Ran To The House Of David, "Oh Lord We Bring You Bad News. **Absalom Killed All Your Sons!**"

Had He Killed Them All? No

But David Believed Them!

You See, He Wasn't Living Close Enough To His Own Son To Know Him Well Enough To Know What To Believe About Him.

And It's A Terrible Thing When Parents **Believe The Worst** About Their Young Simply Because They Don't Know Them!

Absalom Fled And For Three Years David Just Let Him Go!

Listen, Don't Let Walls Build Up Between

- You & Your Kids
- You And Anyone Else!

Tear Them Down As Quickly As Possible!

We Only Have 70 YRS And Those Nights Apart Never Return!

Listen Son/Daughter: Don't Live Your Life In Rebellion To Point It Builds Walls In Your Life!

Tear Them Down Or They Will Ruin You!

The Saddest Thing As A Pastor Is To Stand By The Casket Of A Loved One With Tears Streaming Down & Have Them Wish For Some Day Past!

Absalom's Gone 3 Years And A Woman Came To David From Tekoa.

She Told How One Of Her Sons Killed His Brother & Now According To Law Must Die.

She Begged With The King To Show Mercy,

"I Know He's Been Evil...But He's All I Got."

So David Spared The Boy And Then She Turned To David & Said: "Now You Have A Son That Did This & You Won't Let Him Come Home"

Why Is It We Are Easier On Others Than We Are On Our Own?

Why Do We Choose To Believe The Worst Rather Than The Best?

"Oh Absalom, My Son, My Son...Would To God I'd Died For You!"

Yeah King David, Would To God You Had Died Back Then...

When It Mattered To A Little Boy Desperately Wanting Your Love!

And Finally...

5. Every Person Must Give And Receive Grace!

That Brings Us To The Last Scene Where:

David Called Absalom Home!

But If You Read Your Bible, He Never Spoke To Him For 2 Years!

Imagine The Silence!

Soon Absalom's Found In Open Rebellion, Publicly Saying, "If Only I Was King, I'd Sure Do Things Differently"

Civil War Breaks Out Resulting In Scene Described At The Beginning.

Up Until Now I Have Primarily Been Addressing The Parents!

But I Want To End Today Saying, **Mom's & Dad's Aren't The Only Ones Accountable To God!**

Absalom Was Found

- In Open Rebellion
- Defying His Father.

Some Of You Sons & Daughters, Maybe Near Absalom's Age, And You Are Here Today

But You Are Living In Open Rebellion This Morning Against The Desires/Prayers Of Your Mothers/Fathers.

I Say Open Rebellion Because As Subtle As You May Think You Are, It's Obvious To Most Everyone **You Are Not The Son Or Daughter Of Faith** Your Parents Meant You To Be When They Stood Before A Church And Dedicated You To The Lord.

How You Break Their Hearts.....And You'll Never Understand Until You Experience The Love For Your Own Children One Day!

Parents, Are You Living Your Life For You...Or Is The Thrust Of Your Life About Passing On Your Faith To Your Kids?

How You Answer That Question Says A Great Deal About What You Believe And What You Give Your Life To.

It Says A Lot About Who You Are Deep Inside.

Jesus Said: "Do Not Worry, Saying, 'What Shall We Eat?' Or 'What Shall We Drink?' Or 'What Shall We Wear?' For Your Heavenly Father Knows What You Need. But Seek 1st The Things Of God And He Will Meet Your Every Need!"

Does Your Life Show You Really Believe Those Words?

Closing:

The Salmon Nearly Leaped On To Their Hooks!

That Was A Far Cry From The Day Before When The Anglers Couldn't Even Seem To Catch Sea Weed.

Disappointed But Not Discouraged, They Climbed Aboard Their Small Seaplane And Skimmed Over Alaskan Mountains To A Secluded Bay Where Fish Were Sure To Bite.

They Parked The Aircraft & Waded Upstream, Where Waters Teamed With Salmon.

Later That Day, When They Returned To Their Camp, They Were Surprised To Find The Seaplane High & Dry...Tides Fluctuated 25 Feet In That Bay And The pontoons Rested On A Bed Of Rock.

Since They Couldn't Fly Out Till Morning, They Settled In For The Night And Enjoyed Their Catch For Dinner

Then Slept Soundly In Plane.

In The Morning The Seaplane Was Adrift So They Promptly Cranked The Engine And Started To Take Off.

Too Late, However, They Discovered One Of The pontoons Had Punctured Was Filled With Water.

The Extra Weight Threw The Plane Into A Circular Pattern.

Within Moments The Seaplane Careened Into The Sea & Capsized.

Dr. Littleford Determined Everyone Was Alive, Including His 12-Yr Old Son, Mark.

He Suggested They Pray, Which They Quickly Did.

No Safety Equipment Could Be Found On Board:

- No Life Vests
- No Flares
- Nothing!

The Plane Gurgled A Bit, Then Submerged Into The Icy Morning Sea.

Fortunately, They All Had Waders, Which They Inflated.

The Frigid Alaskan Water Chilled Their Breath.

They All Began To Swim For Shore, But The Rip-Tide Countered Their Every Stroke.

The 2 Men Alongside Phil & Mark Were Both Strong Swimmers & They Made Shore!

But As They Looked Back Dr. Littlefords Son Mark Was Not A Strong Swimmer And He Was Being Carried Out To Sea.

As Any Father Would Do, Dr. Littleford Swam After Him.

As The Two Men On Shore Watched, They Last Saw Dr. Littleford And His Son, Mark, As A Disappearing Dot On The Horizon, Swept Arm-In-Arm Out To Sea.

The Coast Guard Said They'd Last No More Than An Hour In The Icy Water.

Hypothermia Would Chill The Body...Simply Fall Asleep!

Mark, W/Smaller Body Mass, Would Fall Asleep 1st In His Fathers Arms.

Dr. Littleford Could Have Made The Shoreline, Too

But That Would Have Meant Abandoning His Son.

Their Bodies Were Never Found!

What Father Wouldn't Be Willing To Die For His Son?

Even King David Cried Out, "**Absalom, My Son, My Son, Would To God I Had Died For You!**"

And The Question This Morning Ladies & Gentlemen Is, "If We Are Willing To Go So Far As To DIE For Our Children,

Why Is It That We Often Don't Seem Willing To LIVE For Them?

I Wonder How Many Of You Would Be Bold Enough To Say,

"There Are Some Things I Need To Pray About This Morning!"

Would You Lift Your Hands All Across This Room?

I Believe There's Some Moms & Dads Who Need To Simply Come And Stand Before The Lord This Morning **And Confess And Pray**

And Spend Some Time Before God In A Time Of Prayer.

I Also Believe There's A Son Or Daughter, Who, If You Were Honest This Morning Would Say,

"There Are Some Things I Need To Pray About Too."

I Wonder How Many Of Us Just Need To Come And Pray Today?

Not Too Proud...Not Unwilling To Seek Forgiveness...

Maybe It's About Something God Is Dealing With You On

- Possibly Your Own Fears...Maybe Over A Commitment He Is Asking You To Make
- Maybe It Is Over A Lost Son Or Daughter Or Spouse:

How Long Has It Really Been Since You Have Shed Some Tears Over Their Souls? Have You Given Up?

You May Need To Come With A Son Or Daughter...

You May Just Need To Pray Together Today.

What A Marvelous Thing When Moms/Dads Are Transparent Before Their Kids!

You May Need To Come With Your Husband Ma'am...Or Better Yet Sir, Why Don't You Lead The Way...

And Be The Man Of Your Home For The Sake Of Your Family.

- **Teenager...**Would You Dare Step Out This Morning And Lead The Way...

I Really Believe There's A Son/Daughter Here Today & You're Headed Down A Dangerous Path...Just Like Absalom...You've Already Begun To Sow The Seeds Of Rebellion Against Mom & Dad.

But Today You Want To Come Back...To A Life Of Love & Harmony...

And Find Forgiveness: Mom/Dad/God