

## WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

Nov. 13

### MONDAY

Joab asked the man why he hadn't simply killed Absalom. Surely he would have been a reward! The man replied that no reward - no matter how huge - would have prompted him to ignore David's plea not to deal harshly with his son. I would have had to lie about it, saying either that I didn't hear David or that I didn't know it was Absalom. And David had a way of uncovering truth, was his explanation.

#### **READ: II Samuel 18:11-13**

This man exemplifies integrity. He testifies that doing what his king commanded was his only intent and that even the thought of reward could not distract him from that duty. The thought of reward is often what distracts us from doing what God has commanded. This world of ours offers so-called rewards of fortune, acceptance, happiness, and security, but the man or woman of God says no. A thousand times no! As for me and my house we will serve the Lord. I will walk in His way. The world behind me, the cross before me, I have decided to follow Jesus!

### TUESDAY

Joab told the man that he didn't have time to listen to his lecture. He grabbed some spears, hurried to where Absalom was hanging, and stabbed him. Joab's personal guard closed in and finished off Absalom, killing him.

#### **READ: II Samuel 18:14-15**

Joab was wrong to kill Absalom. Doubtless he could have explained that it was for national security and that it was the wise thing to do and so on. But it was wrong. He directly and deliberately went against David's orders. And God's. The line of authority God has given us on earth always leads back to God himself. When we obey a state law, we are obeying God. The speed limit is 55? Okay, Lord, I'll do 55.

### WEDNESDAY

After killing Absalom, Joab sounded the trumpet for the army to cease the attack. They took Absalom's body and put it in a hole and covered it with stones. The army not only stopped fighting, but actually dissolved, every man going to his own home. The author of the book adds an appropriate footnote about the place which Absalom had prepared a pillar (or monument) for his own death.

#### **READ: II Samuel 18:16-18**

It's not a suitable burial place for a king's son. But it is for a rebel usurper! The stones heaped upon his body remind all that, according to the Law of Moses, he should have been stoned as a rebellious son. (Deut.21:21) Jews who visit this site today often pick up a stone and heave it onto the pile of rocks, pronouncing a curse on Absalom and all rebellious children. As rebels against God Himself, our own destinies should have led to such an end or worse. But God has lifted us from the pit and placed us in the heavenlies as heirs and joint-heirs of all He has!

### THURSDAY

Zadok's son Ahimaz wanted to go and tell David what happened to Absalom but Joab forbid him to do so. Instead, he sent Cushai. Ahimaz learned of this and asked if he could run after Cushai. After some hesitation, Joab said okay and Ahimaz took off. In the end, he made a race of it, outran Cushai, and overtook him.

#### **READ: II Samuel 18:19-23**

Ahimaz is determined to be the bearer of good news! He's determined to be the one to say to David, "The Lord has done a great thing!" God would have us show that same kind of determination to proclaim the Good News which has come to us. The Good News which someone first declared unto us. The Good News which introduced us to the Savior. The Good News which people we meet today desperately need to hear. People around you and me.

### FRIDAY

David is anxiously waiting by the city gate for news of the battle. A watchman on the wall sees a man running towards the city. David concludes that if he were running with others, it might be a sign of a panicky retreat, but the fact that there is only one man running means that he brings news of the battle - hopefully good news. Later, the watchman identifies him from his running form to be Ahimaz. Shortly after that, he sees a second runner - Cushai - following some distance behind Ahimaz.

#### **READ: II Samuel 18:24-27**

David recognized the signs that the messenger was bringing good news. Should it not be obvious in our lives - that we are Good News bearers? Yes! Yes! The bearer of Good News has first heard that news himself! And since that Good News changes lives, he's been changed by it! And a changed life... well, it's recognizable! The messenger's life speaks louder than the message. There are people watching you today, dear messenger of the Good News.

### SATURDAY

Arriving at the city gates, Ahimaz assures the King David that all is well and that his army has won the battle. David quickly asked about Absalom's safety, and Ahimaz told him that he didn't know anything about that. David ordered Ahimaz to stand there beside him as they waited for the second runner, Cushai, to arrive.

#### **READ: II Samuel 18:28-30**

Ahimaz begins his message to the king by blessing the Lord for His deliverance. What a great way to share news with people! "I got a new job," becomes "The Lord has placed me in a new job." "We moved Mom into an assisted living center," becomes "The Lord has arranged it so that we could put Mom in an assisted living center." The news is always better when we remind ourselves and others that it's the Lord's doing.