



Life of

DAVID

The Making of a King

The Birth of an Uprising

2 Samuel 15

Lesson 19

Background Information

Although David and his son were reconciled, seeds of bitterness had been sown in the heart of Absalom. David's delay in coming to terms with his son allowed the seeds time to be nurtured and watered into full-fledged conspiracy and rebellion against the throne of his father. Slowly over a period of time Absalom conspired a plan to *steal the hearts of the people* and usurp his father's throne sending his father like a fugitive, back into exile. By his deception, Absalom gained the sympathy and support of Israel. His weapon of choice, was using the emotions of the people against the king.

Rebellion doesn't happen overnight. Little by little those tiny seeds of unforgiveness take root and develop into a heart of bitterness that consumes every area of your life. The only way to remove the bitterness is to kill the root.

During his exile David cried out to God. During times of trial and sorrow we often find out who we really are. During this time of great soul-searching David penned Psalms 3, 4, 39, 41, 55, 61-63 and 143 which gives us a glimpse into David's troubled heart as he cried out to God. Known as the exile poems they stand as a rich treasure left for us to glean from.

Treasures of the Heart

Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled.

Hebrews 12:14-15



What does it say?

The first step is getting the lay of the land. **Carefully observe the text** looking to see where you might dig to find hidden treasure. **Mark your text** looking for repeated words, contrasts or similarities. Look for answers to, Who? What? When? Where? Why or How?

2 Samuel 15:1-12

1 After this it happened that Absalom provided himself with chariots and horses, and fifty men to run before him. **2** Now Absalom would rise early and stand beside the way to the gate. So it was, whenever anyone who had a lawsuit came to the king for a decision, that Absalom would call to him and say, "What city are you from?" And he would say, "Your servant is from such and such a tribe of Israel." **3** Then Absalom would say to him, "Look, your case is good and right; but there is no deputy of the king to hear you." **4** Moreover Absalom would say, "Oh, that I were made judge in the land, and everyone who has any suit or cause would come to me; then I would give him justice." **5** And so it was, whenever anyone came near to bow down to him, that he would put out his hand and take him and kiss him. **6** In this manner Absalom acted toward all Israel who came to the king for judgment. So Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel.

7 Now it came to pass after forty years that Absalom said to the king, "Please, let me go to Hebron and pay the vow which I made to the Lord. **8** For your servant took a vow while I dwelt at Geshur in Syria, saying, 'If the Lord indeed brings me back to Jerusalem, then I will serve the Lord.'"

9 And the king said to him, "Go in peace." So he arose and went to Hebron.

10 Then Absalom sent spies throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, "As soon as you hear the sound of the trumpet, then you shall say, 'Absalom reigns in Hebron!'" **11** And with Absalom went two hundred men invited from Jerusalem, and they went along innocently and did not know anything. **12** Then Absalom sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David's counselor, from his city — from Giloh — while he offered sacrifices. And the conspiracy grew strong, for the people with Absalom continually increased in number.

2 Samuel 15:13-18

13 Now a messenger came to David, saying, "The hearts of the men of Israel are with Absalom."

14 So David said to all his servants who were with him at Jerusalem, "Arise, and let us flee, or we shall not escape from Absalom. Make haste to depart, lest he overtake us suddenly and bring disaster upon us, and strike the city with the edge of the sword."

15 And the king's servants said to the king, "We are your servants, ready to do whatever my lord the king commands." **16** Then the king went out with all his household after him. But the king left ten women, concubines, to keep the house. **17** And the king went out with all the people after him, and stopped at the outskirts. **18** Then all his servants passed before him; and all the Cherethites, all the Pelethites, and all the Gittites, six hundred men who had followed him from Gath, passed before the king.

2 Samuel 15:19-29

19 Then the king said to Ittai the Gittite, "Why are you also going with us? Return and remain with the king. For you are a foreigner and also an exile from your own place. **20** In fact, you came only yesterday. Should I make you wander up and down with us today, since I go I know not where? Return, and take your brethren back. Mercy and truth be with you."

21 But Ittai answered the king and said, "As the Lord lives, and as my lord the king lives, surely in whatever place my lord the king shall be, whether in death or life, even there also your servant will be."

22 So David said to Ittai, "Go, and cross over." Then Ittai the Gittite and all his men and all the little ones who were with him crossed over. **23** And all the country wept with a loud voice, and all the people crossed over. The king himself also crossed over the Brook Kidron, and all the people crossed over toward the way of the wilderness.

24 There was Zadok also, and all the Levites with him, bearing the ark of the covenant of God. And they set down the ark of God, and Abiathar went up until all the people had finished crossing over from the city. **25** Then the king said to Zadok, "Carry the ark of God back into the city. If I find favor in the eyes of the Lord, He will bring me back and show me both it and His dwelling place. **26** But if He says thus: 'I have no delight in you,' here I am, let Him do to me as seems good to Him." **27** The king also said to Zadok the priest, "Are you not a seer? Return to the city in peace, and your two sons with you, Ahimaaz your son, and Jonathan the son of Abiathar. **28** See, I will wait in the plains of the wilderness until word comes from you to inform me." **29** Therefore Zadok and Abiathar carried the ark of God back to Jerusalem. And they remained there.



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What does it mean?

What **lesson** can I draw from my observations? **Ask yourself, “What was the intended meaning of the original author?”** Is there a command to obey, or a warning to heed? An example to follow or avoid? **State each lesson in a simple sentence that you could share with someone else.** (aim for 10 words or less).

2 Samuel 15:1-12 _____



2 Samuel 15:13-18 _____

2 Samuel 15:19-29 _____

2 Samuel 15:30-37 _____



How can I apply it?

Ask yourself, “What course of action do I need to take to apply each lesson?” How should it change me? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? (aim for 10 words or less)

2 Samuel 15:1-12 _____

2 Samuel 15:13-18 _____

2 Samuel 15:19-29 _____

2 Samuel 15:30-37 _____

Challenge: Use cross-references to find correlating scripture that backs up a main point of the chapter. Summarize your findings in your own words.



Understanding the Heart . . .

See if you can discover the **heart attitude** of those in the story. What emotions are they dealing with? What is God teaching them? How do they respond? How should they respond?

The Heart of David:

The Heart of the people:

The Heart of God:

What words or phrases are repeated? Repeated words help us discover the main point.



Getting The Point

See if you can boil down the meaning of **each section** into one or two words. This helps you fully understand what the author is trying to convey. (It's fun to alliterate if you want to try) Did you catch the vision?

2 Samuel 15:1-12 _____

2 Samuel 15:13-18 _____

2 Samuel 15:19-29 _____

2 Samuel 15:30-37 _____

Title State the main **point** of the passage in the form of a title.

Flex Your Muscles Can you discover an N.T. example of this O.T. truth?

Radiating His Truth . . .

The strokes of the Father's rod appeared to come from the hate of man, but David looked into the very heart and knew that the cup that they held to his lips have been mixed by heaven and was not the punishment of a Judge but the chastisement of a Father. — F B Meyer

