

11—Joab’s View of David: A Misguided King

2 Samuel 14, 18-20

It can be easy to let our family relationships skew our perception of reality. Consider an example: I started coaching baseball right after high school. My first year of coaching, we had about ten kids on our baseball team. We were just an average team. One kid was especially lazy, slow, and overweight. He also had a real attitude problem and thought he was better than all of his teammates. One day, we were in a close game but were down by a run or two. In the middle of the game, the dad (who rarely showed up to practices or games) comes up to me between innings and



“Today you have disgraced all your servants who today have saved your life. . . in that you love your enemies and hate your friends. . . if Absalom had lived and all of us had died today, then it would have pleased you well.”

2 Samuel 19:5-6 (NKJV)



when really we are raising up a generation of kids who will feel entitled and always play the “victim” card when everything does not go their way.

Now, let’s be clear. Sometimes our kids may be treated unjustly, unfairly, and can be falsely accused. But, let’s also realize sometimes parents and grandparents and relatives can have a skewed view of reality because of their emotional connection to their family. This is why Jesus gets very specific about the fact we must be careful to love Jesus more than our own family (Matthew 10:34-38).

This brings us to another page in the life of David. David had a son, Absalom, who had caused all sorts of problems in Israel. Absalom had his rapist brother killed in an act of revenge (2 Samuel 13:28-33). He had to flee punishment by leaving the area but his over-indulgent father still hurt over the whole affair and allowed him to come home unpunished (13:37-38; 14:24-33). After Absalom’s return, he used both threats and flattery to gain influence in the kingdom (cp. 14:28-33; 15:1-6). Eventually, Absalom’s divisive ways led to a Civil War in the kingdom until he finally is murdered by Joab himself (18:14-15). Let’s see what we can learn from Joab’s more distant vantage point.

Discussion Questions:

begins complaining and cursing through the fence about where his kid is playing on the field and how his son needs to play more. He tells me if his son was pitching we would be winning, and not losing. He was trying hard to embarrass me (pretty easy at that point to figure out where his son got his attitude problem).

So, the next inning, to please the Dad (and to prove a point), I put his son in the game as a pitcher. He walks four straight hitters. He could not throw a strike. Of course, we knew this from practice. Yet, Dad had an over-estimation of his son’s talents.

This kind of stuff happens all the time. We often see the faults in other children but might fail to discipline our own. When our kids get in trouble at school we may be tempted to think it is the other kids’ fault or the teacher’s fault rather than putting the blame on our own kids. We think we are doing our kids a favor by being over-protective and taking their side

