

Introduction

Absalom betrayed his father **so that he could have his throne and all that came with it!**

Its sad to say, but folks are still in the **betrayal** business in this dog eat dog world we live in! **Betrays** usually take place because of folks **living in the flesh and being controlled by their fleshly desires!** (Galatians 5:19-21)

It might take place because of **envy** or **jealousy!** (i.e. Somebody wants something we have—it might be **our spouse**, or **some possession we own** or **some position we hold** that they want or even **something else!**

It might take place because of **wrath** or **strife!** (i.e. Somebody gets mad at you for some reason and they want to see you hurt!)

It might take place because someone **hates** you for some reason! Maybe it has to do with your stance as a Christian! (i.e. Somebody gets an attitude against you because they just plain don't like you for some reason or they want to bring you down a few notches!)

Or it could be the result of **some other sin of the flesh!**

Sometimes **we may see these things coming** and can **plan** and **act** accordingly. But most of the time we are **blind-sided** by it when it happens and we wind up **reacting!**

I. SEE THE CONFUSION CAUSED BY A CRISIS. (15:13-17)

I think what we see here is David is **blind-sided** by this betrayal!

When things go wrong, they can go wrong in a hurry can't they?
But most folks don't have any kind of **plan for dealing with a crisis!**

We are not told that David **prayed** about what he should do here, we just see him **react in midst of this confusion caused by this crisis!**

His reaction was to “*get out of Dodge (or Jerusalem)*”!
There in **verse 14**, as soon as he heard what was happening from the messenger who delivered him the bad news, he said, “***Arise, and let us flee!***”

**As believers, we should know where to turn in a crisis situation!
When crisis comes, we should go immediately to the LORD!**

Proverbs 3:5-7 “Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. 7 Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.”

Isaiah 26:3-4 3 Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. 4 Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength:

Philippians 4:6-7 6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. 7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

If we **turn to our LORD, He can direct our steps in the way which we should go!**

I read a story about water and fog that has an application here: According to the Bureau of Standards in Washington, a dense fog covering seven city blocks to a depth of 100 feet is composed of less than one glass of water. That amount of water is divided into about 60 billion tiny droplets. Yet when those minute particles settle over a city or the countryside, they can almost blot out everything from your sight.

Many Believers today live their lives **in a dense fog of troubles**. They allow a cupful of troubles to cloud their vision and dampen their spirit.

Things such as anxiety, worry, inner turmoil can strangle our thoughts and lead us into defeat.

When our **focus is on our circumstances** rather than **on the Sovereign LORD who is over our circumstances!** (Psalm 37:1ff)

We get like Christ's disciples who on one occasion **fretted** over a storm even though the LORD Jesus Christ was in the ship with them in the storm! (*Matthew 8:23-27*)

On another occasion in *Mark 6:45-51*, he told them to get in the ship and go to the other side while he went into a mountain to pray. They did as they were told, but no doubt they began to have second thoughts when a contrary wind was hindering them from making it to the other side. But Jesus saw what was happening to them from where he was on the land and he just came calmly walking out to them on the sea and climbed up into their boat and the storm ceased! That which they fretted about was under his feet and under his control!

We need to remember Paul's admonition to the young preacher Timothy, *2 Timothy 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*

Listen, don't let a cupful of problems fog up your way when Sonshine is available to burn the fog away!

SEE THE CONFUSION CAUSED BY CRISIS...

II. UNDERSTAND THE TEMPTATIONS IN A CRISIS!

We are usually **tempted to take the easy way out of any crisis!**
The easy thing for David to do here was to **"cut and run."**

We are usually **tempted to go with our gut instinct in a crisis!**
I think that is what we are seeing in our text! David's gut instinct told him that he and those on his side didn't stand a chance against Absalom and those that were with him! (*Vs 14 – Arise, and let us flee, for we shall not else escape from Absalom...*)

Again, **we don't find David seeking the LORD here!**
Well, maybe he did, but the Scripture is just silent about it.

Maybe...but I believe that had he asked the LORD, Scripture would have told us he did so! That would have been too good of an example for us!

More often than not, when we choose to take the easy route, we'll wind up **doing something contrary to God's Word or Will** for us!

Whose kingdom was this? Primarily it was God's kingdom! It was His chosen people! And HE had chosen David to lead His people!

Could the LORD have gotten David beyond this crisis in a better way? Well, the answer to that question is, *"Yes, always!"* Although we don't know what the LORD might have had him do differently do we!

Do you think the LORD might show us **what would have happened in our crises had we just taken time to acknowledge Him in them and through them?**

SEE THE CONFUSION CAUSED BY CRISIS...UNDERSTAND THE TEMPTATIONS IN A CRISIS...

III. ALWAYS CHOOSE TO OBEY THE LORD THROUGH A CRISIS!

No matter the situation or how out of control the situation appears, we must remember that **God is in control!** Do you believe that?

We must rely on **God's wisdom and power** to get us through a crisis, **not on our own knowledge and strength!**

But listen, in order to **rely on God's wisdom and power, we must know God's Word!** That is how He communicates with us and gives us what we need in the midst of the storm!

Every problem is an opportunity to prove God's wisdom and power!
We continually encounter those opportunities all the time! They come to us disguised as insurmountable problems!

TRUST AND OBEY