

BOOK OF 2 SAMUEL  
DISCOURAGED PEOPLE  
2 SAMUEL 19:1-9

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**Introduction**

As we left last week we saw **the tragic end of Absalom's life!**

His end was **tragic because he was driven by his hatred against his father!** (He was blinded by his hatred against his father!)

His end was **tragic because he brought it on himself!**

His end was **tragic because he was so full of himself that he did not think clearly!** (He wasn't only **blinded by hatred**, but he was **blinded by pride!**)

But most of all his end was **tragic because he died in rebellion against the LORD and without the LORD in his life!** (We do not see him seeking the LORD at all in any of what he was doing!)

Not only did we see the tragic end of Absalom's life, but we see **the great sorrow that it brought David his father! Sorrow, no doubt, brought on by his love for his first born and by regret knowing that his own personal sin helped lead to these tragic consequences!**

What we see here is **David being driven by his emotions again and he's not been thinking clearly when he does that!** Last week's text in **Chapter 18** shows that very clearly...consider what we saw:

**18:2** — David was actually considering going out into battle himself when he clearly had a bull's-eye on him! Absalom and all of Israel that was behind him had one goal—To kill David! (**Chapter 17**)

The people with David knew he wasn't being very wise (**18:3**)! What was he thinking? Well, he wasn't thinking clearly, that's for sure! He was driven by emotions for his son! He reluctantly stayed behind. (**18:4**)

**18:5** — Also, we see that David basically tried to tie the hands of his captains and his people. Say what? I thought this was a war?

This wasn't fair to the captains and it wasn't fair to the people to expect them to fight in such a way as to not injure Absalom!

That's like some of the stupid **rules of engagement** put on our soldiers from the time of the Vietnam Conflict until present!

Joab and those with him **did what David SHOULD have directed them to do! Absalom was killed! Israel was defeated!** David and his men had won! The only problem was you wouldn't have known that they had won by David's actions!

Let's read our text for this evening and look at see that **David is still not thinking clearly! He's blinded by his emotions and he's hurting others in the process!** And Joab calls him out for it!

**Read 2 Samuel 19:1-7**

**DAVID'S ACTIONS DISCOURAGED HIS PEOPLE WHEN THEY ALL SHOULD HAVE BEEN CELEBRATING!**

Now understand that **if Absalom had been given the chance to kill his father David, he would have done so! He wouldn't have given it a second thought! There would have been no mourning on his part!**

**In fact, he most probably would have had a rip roaring victory party if he had killed dear old dad!** With respect to his own father, **Absalom was a murderer** already in his heart, he just didn't get the opportunity to carry it out! *1 John 3:15—"Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer..."*

**And make no mistake about it—Absalom hated his father!** He hated his father so much that he was pursuing him with his own very great army to kill him when he was killed instead!

This **should have been a time of celebration** for David's captains and their men! **They won the battle! The enemy was defeated! The kingdom was restored!** Right?!

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But instead, if someone had looked at those who fought for David at this point and didn't know what had happened, they probably would have thought that they lost the battle because David's actions brought discouragement here!

**Notice five fruits of a DISCOURAGED PEOPLE:**

**I. WE SEE THESE DISCOURAGED PEOPLE WERE A DEFEATED PEOPLE! (19:2)**

**Their victory was turned into mourning!**

You can sense the confusion on the part of David's followers.

*"Wait, we won didn't we? Or did we?"*

*Illustration: Think back to Numbers 13 and 14 when the children of Israel were supposed to go in and possess the Promised Land and they wanted to send in spies first. The spies came back with the majority (10 out of 12) saying that they couldn't do it! While Joshua and Caleb were saying that the LORD had already given them the victory all they needed to do was be obedient and go in and possess it! What should have been for Israel a great victory turned into discouragement and that discouragement led to disobedience and defeat!*

Now what we see here wasn't as bad as that, but **both of these instances go to show the power of discouragement!**

**II. WE SEE THESE DISCOURAGED PEOPLE WERE A DEMORALIZED PEOPLE! (19:3)**

These folks were so discouraged and demoralized that they snuck back into their city just like an army who had to retreat in battle would come back into town ashamed!

*Illustration: Remember how after the Vietnam War many of the Vietnam veterans came home discouraged and demoralized! That was because they not only were not allowed to finish a war, but many of the American people did not appreciate them and what they had done and a great number even disdained them!*

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*A Defeated People! A Demoralized People!*

**III. WE SEE THESE DISCOURAGED PEOPLE WERE A DISILLUSIONED PEOPLE! (19:5-6)**

Joab points out to David here that he had **shamed** those who put their lives on the line for him and all his other family!

(Other than Absalom!)

Joab points out here that **it appeared that David cared more for this rebellious son than he did for the people who were fighting with him and for him and for ALL his other family!**

Now was that true? No! But you can see how by David's actions they might draw that conclusion!

**IV. WE SEE THESE DISCOURAGED PEOPLE WERE A DEVALUED PEOPLE! (19:6)**

Joab told David that by his actions his people were feeling that David didn't care one iota about them!

Now was that true? No! But again, you can see how by David's actions they might perceive that to be the case!

Instead of thanking his men for their effort, David focused on the loss of his rebellious son who would have dropped him in his tracks had he been given half a chance!

This negligence caused David's men to be discouraged!

Joab pointed out that if David didn't quit his self-pity and do some encouraging, he was not going to like the results of what this discouraged people might do!

**V. WE SEE THESE DISCOURAGED PEOPLE WERE A DIVIDED PEOPLE! (19:9)**

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**Conclusion**

David needed to become an encourager—and quick!

Joab gave David some sound advice.

1. An encourager speaks encouraging words. (19:7)
2. An encourager shows appreciation to others. (19: 5)
3. An encourager shares hope. (19:8)

May we avoid the things in our lives that can bring discouragement to God's people and may we seek to become encouragers of God's people instead!