

Remnant Life Church
November 16, 2014
“When Having it All Just Isn’t Enough”
(II Samuel 13-15)

- Is it possible to have it all and not have anything?
 - I think immediately of all the “successful” people of history and in our culture who have come to the place in their lives of killing themselves
 - Historical figures – Hannibal, Nero, Cleopatra, Socrates
 - Gifted people like Hemingway and Van Gogh
 - Funny people who did not share in the laughter like Freddie Prinz and, just recently, Robin Williams
 - Even royalty – Prince Alfred of Edinburgh (England)
 - Of course Judas Iscariot in the Bible
 - They were in positions of power, wealth, influence, fame but it wasn’t enough – it certainly did not bring happiness let alone peace
 - Absalom would have appeared to have it all
 - The third son of King David meaning in line for the throne
 - Grew up surrounded by wealth and privilege
 - But he grew up in a very dysfunctional home
 - The TV programs of today would have certainly made his home into a reality show
 - His father was married to 7 women that we know of
 - Those marriages produced 20 children – 19/1
 - There is also every reason to believe that there would have been more children with other wives and concubines. (2 Sam 5)
 - Solomon was taught that behavior he did not invent it
 - This meant that there was no way David could have spent any quality time with them all
- I. Absalom was born to Maachah (2 Sam. 3:3)
 - a. His mother was the daughter of Talmai, King of Geshur
 - b. Born in Hebron as a result of a marriage of acquisition
 - i. Political alliances
 - ii. Created great tension and competition
 - iii. Established a legacy for Solomon to become trapped in
 - c. Born during the early turbulent years of David’s reign over Judah
- II. Absalom had great physical attributes
 - a. He was the most handsome man in the land (2 Sam 14:25)
 - b. Special note is made of his hair – 2 lbs - (2 Sam 14:26)
 - c. He was a great diplomat (2 Sam 15:1-6)

- d. A charismatic man who drew people to himself (2 Sam 15:12-13)
- III. His name means “Father of Peace”
 - a. David’s family life was anything but peaceful
 - b. Amnon, David’s first-born, rapes his half-sister Tamar -Absalom’s sister (2 Sam 13:1)
 - c. Absalom avenges his sister’s honor
 - d. He runs to his grandfather’s land in Geshur after having Amnon killed in revenge (2 Sam 13:28-29, 37)
- IV. David is aware of what took place but...
 - a. He does not punish Amnon (2 Sam 13:21)
 - b. He does not pursue Absalom (2 Sam 13:39)
 - c. Lesson #1 - When we do not confront sin, it will ALWAYS come back to hurt us
- V. Absalom’s sin finally came back to him as did David’s in the form of death
 - a. Even his death was out of disobedience as David had given instructions not to harm him if captured (2 Sam 18:5)
 - b. David never did deal with the things of his family to their great detriment

Compare the man with everything on the outside to the man with everything on the inside:

1. Absalom was born into royalty in a palace – Jesus was born in a cave
 2. Absalom was the most handsome man in the land – Jesus was plain
 3. Absalom dishonored his father and his family – Jesus honored His mother even at the very end
 4. Absalom only lived to advance himself – Jesus lived to advance His Father’s kingdom
 5. Absalom created chaos and caused injury everywhere he went – Jesus preached of love and healed people throughout His ministry
 6. Absalom died running in fear trying desperately to preserve his life – Jesus died willingly sacrificing His life for ones that did not even exist yet
 7. Absalom’s life changed nothing – Jesus’ life changed everything
- The term “Christian” means follower of Christ or, literally, “Little Christ”
 - To follow someone means to emulate them, copy them, be like them.
 - How much are you like Jesus this morning? Would others know that you have a personal relationship with Jesus even if you never said you did?
 - If it ever became illegal to be a Christian, would your life be evidence enough to convict you?