

Remnant Life Church
November 7, 2021
“The Emptiness of Having it All”
II Samuel 13:28-38

- Is it possible to have it all and yet not really have anything?
 - I think immediately of all the “successful” people of history and in our culture who seemingly had everything yet their lives ended prematurely by their own hand
 - Historical figures – Hannibal, Nero, Cleopatra, Socrates
 - Gifted people like Hemingway and Van Gogh
 - Funny people who did not share in the laughter like Freddie Prinze and Robin Williams
 - Even royalty – Prince Alfred of Edinburgh (England)
 - And of course, Judas Iscariot in the Bible
 - They were in positions of power, wealth, influence, and 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 he was 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 life into a reality show
 - We think the shows on today are bad
 - Absalom’s home life would have made the Osborn’s and Kardashian’s look normal
 - Which we all know is virtually impossible!
 - Absalom’s father was married to 7 women that we know of
 - Those marriages produced 20 children
 - There is also every reason to believe that there would have been more children with other wives and concubines which was standard practice for the kings of that day. (2 Sam 5)
 - Solomon learned to marry women from his father, he did not invent that scenario
 - This meant that there was no way David could have spent any quality time with either his wives or his children

READ – 2 Samuel 13:28-38

- I. Absalom was born to Maachah (2 Sam. 3:3; 13:37)
 - a. His mother was the daughter of Talmi, King of Geshur
 - i. David would have married Maachah as part of a political strategy
 - ii. Geshur was in the land of Bashan
 1. Located east of the Jordan River and Sea of Galilee

- iii. Following the Exodus this area was divided and given to the half-tribe of Manasseh and a portion to the Levites (**Deut 3:13; Josh 21:27**)
 - iv. Because of the topography of the land it was a very fertile region and was the “breadbasket” of the area
 - 1. Wheat fields, oak trees for lumber, and livestock were in great abundance
 - v. This would have been an important area for David to have access to and marrying the king’s daughter was a way to ensure that
 - b. Absalom was born in Hebron as a result of this marriage of acquisition
 - i. While it was for political alliances it would have created great tension and competition between the wives and children
 - ii. Established a legacy for Solomon to become trapped in
 - c. Absalom grew up 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. But David’s family life was anything but peaceful
 - b. Amnon, David’s first-born, raped his half-sister Tamar who as Absalom’s sister (**2 Sam 13:1**)
 - c. Absalom avenged his sister’s honor
 - d. And so he flees to the land of Geshur after having Amnon killed in revenge (**2 Sam 13:28-29, 37**)
 - e. He hid in the land of his grandfather
- IV. David is aware of what took place but...
 - a. He does not punish Amnon for his attack of Tamar (**2 Sam 13:21**)
 - b. He does not pursue Absalom after he murders Amnon (**2 Sam 13:39**)
 - c. David then had to deal with a fundamental truth of our lives...
 - d. When you do not confront sin in your life, it will ALWAYS come back to hurt you
- V. Absalom’s sin finally came back to him, as did David’s, in the form of death
 - a. Even Absalom’s death was out of disobedience as David had given instructions not to harm him if captured (**2 Sam 18:5**)
 - b. David never dealt with the sin and wrongdoing 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 to 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 all of mankind
 7. Absalom’s life changed nothing – Jesus’ life changed everything
- Absalom had everything that the world would say translates to success
 - But he had nothing of lasting value because his heart was set on what he could do to advance himself in terms of power, wealth, and influence
 - 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?
 - What do your actions say about who you follow, copy, or emulate?
 - Being a follower of Jesus is something that is fading today
 - *Not a Fan* by Kyle Idleman. He makes the great point that there is a distinction between fans of Jesus and followers of Jesus. He writes, *Many of our churches in America have gone from being sanctuaries to becoming stadiums. And every week all the fans come to the stadium where they cheer for Jesus but have no interest in truly following him. A growing threat to the church today are fans who call themselves Christians but aren’t actually interested in following Christ. They want to be close enough to Jesus to get all the benefits, but not so close that it requires anything from them.*
 - To move from being a fan of Jesus to a follower means that you adopt and embrace the heart of a servant
 - Only through that transformation will others truly see Jesus in you
 - If it ever became illegal to be a Christian, would your life be evidence enough to convict you?