

# Seeds of Bitterness Grow into Ugly Things

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Pastor Mark Turner

2 Samuel 15:1-33

Oak Community Church (PCA)

## Seeds of Bitterness Grow Up

- David's sin w/ Bathsheba & resulting murder of Uriah still affecting family
- Yet another difficult chapter of trouble...
- Absalom's response to David's having him return to Jerusalem but no fellowship<sup>14:24</sup>
- Absalom has not been shown to be interested in God

## Absalom's Appearance

- Absalom was a good looking guy w/ great hair<sup>25-26</sup>
- Then Absalom gets a chariot w/ 50 men to run before him... really?
- Absalom is building up his image...

## Absalom's Backroom Politics

- Absalom intercepts people looking for justice and offers a better deal...
- Carefully walks the line of avoiding treason<sup>4</sup>
- Absalom glad hands the people<sup>5</sup>... so that he stole the hearts of the people!

## Absalom's Charade

- Absalom lies to David re: Hebron & vow, not timely<sup>Dt12:3;21</sup>
- David doesn't push back like before<sup>13:26</sup>
- David's last words to Absalom: 'go in peace' - ironic
- Absalom is clearly planning a rebellion<sup>10</sup>
- Absalom takes 200 men from Jerusalem who are in the dark<sup>11</sup>
- Absalom takes Ahithophel - David's advisor
- Ahithophel was Bathsheba's grandfather (Eliam her father<sup>11:23</sup>, his son<sup>23:34</sup>)
- Likely Ahithophel was taking revenge for David's hurt to family & lack of justice

## David's Reaction

- David realizes Absalom has taken the hearts of the men of Israel<sup>13</sup>
- Why did David flee? 1) house included many vulnerable children; 2) wanted to protect the holy city Jerusalem; 3) David seems to remember where his security lay<sup>Psalms3</sup>; 4) David was well familiar with warfare in the wilderness

## God's Graces even when things look bad:

- God gave encouragement through Ittai the Gittite<sup>19</sup>
- Similar to faithfulness of Ruth<sup>1:16-17</sup> - encouragement to David
- David is not in panic<sup>32-27</sup>, he is still planting spies as needed
- David is trusting God to still show mercy, but being wise in the meantime

## So What?

- We all can relate to David - we have failures that result in tough situations
- But David clearly trusts God<sup>Psalms3</sup> for a His perfect result
- David doesn't forget God's Faithfulness...
- Let us remember God's Word is True<sup>In17:17</sup>; God's *hesed* is sure<sup>Ps118:2;100:5</sup>; God's mercy is new every morning<sup>Lam3;22-23</sup>