

September 29, 2019
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
SON OF ANARCHY
Episode 1: Absalom Killed
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2 Samuel 18:1-10

David mustered the men who were with him and appointed over them commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds. ²David sent out his troops, a third under the command of Joab, a third under Joab's brother Abishai son of Zeruiah, and a third under Ittai the Gittite. The king told the troops, "I myself will surely march out with you." ³But the men said, "You must not go out; if we are forced to flee, they won't care about us. Even if half of us die, they won't care; but you are worth ten thousand of us. It would be better now for you to give us support from the city." ⁴The king answered, "I will do whatever seems best to you." So the king stood beside the gate while all his men marched out in units of hundreds and of thousands. ⁵The king commanded Joab, Abishai and Ittai, "Be gentle with the young man Absalom for my sake." And all the troops heard the king giving orders concerning Absalom to each of the commanders. ⁶David's army marched out of the city to fight Israel, and the battle took place in the forest of Ephraim. ⁷There Israel's troops were routed by David's men, and the casualties that day were great—twenty thousand men. ⁸The battle spread out over the whole countryside, and the forest swallowed up more men that day than the sword. ⁹Now Absalom happened to meet David's men. He was riding his mule, and as the mule went under the thick branches of a large oak, Absalom's hair got caught in the tree. He was left hanging in midair, while the mule he was riding kept on going. ¹⁰When one of the men saw what had happened, he told Joab, "I just saw Absalom hanging in an oak tree." ¹¹Joab said to the man who had told him this, "What! You saw him? Why didn't you strike him to the ground right there? Then I would have had to give you ten shekels of silver and a warrior's belt." ¹²But the man replied, "Even if a thousand shekels were weighed out into my hands, I would not lay a hand on the king's son. In our hearing the king commanded you and Abishai and Ittai, 'Protect the young man Absalom for my sake.' ¹³And if I had put my life in jeopardy—and nothing is hidden from the king—you would have kept your distance from me." ¹⁴Joab said, "I'm not going to wait like this for you." So he took three javelins in his hand and plunged them into Absalom's heart while Absalom was still alive in the oak tree. ¹⁵And ten of Joab's armor-bearers surrounded Absalom, struck him and killed him. ¹⁶Then Joab sounded the trumpet, and the troops stopped pursuing Israel, for Joab halted them. ¹⁷They took Absalom, threw him into a big pit in the forest and piled up a large heap of rocks over him. Meanwhile, all the Israelites fled to their homes. ¹⁸During his lifetime Absalom had taken a pillar and erected it in the King's Valley as a monument to himself, for he thought, "I have no son to carry on the memory of my name." He named the pillar after himself, and it is called Absalom's Monument to this day.

How did we get here?

- **A prophesied event due to disobedience** - 2 Samuel 12:10 *Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.*
 - Our actions for good or bad have generational consequences.
- **Children with no correction: 2 Samuel 18:1-10** *Now Adonijah, whose mother was Haggith, put himself forward and said, "I will be king." So he got chariots and horses ready, with fifty men to run ahead of him. ⁶(His father had never rebuked him by asking, "Why do you behave as you do?" He was also very handsome and was born next after Absalom.)*
 - A family without appropriate correction leads to anarchy.

Who was Absalom?

Absalom was one of the sons born to David in Hebron and described as a handsome man who had no rival in Israel when it comes to physical beauty

- **2 Samuel 14:25** *In all Israel there was not a man so highly praised for his handsome appearance as Absalom. From the top of his head to the sole of his foot there was no blemish in him.*
 - **Absalom** was a man obsessed with his physical appearance and the power that it could grant him.

What to do when family goes wrong?

1. **Course Correction: 2 Chronicles 7:14** *If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.*

2. **Pray: Psalm 3. A psalm of David. When he fled from his son Absalom.**

¹LORD, how many are my foes! How many rise up against me! ²Many are saying of me, "God will not deliver him."³But you, LORD, are a shield around me, my glory, the One who lifts my head high.⁴I call out to the LORD, and he answers me from his holy mountain. ⁵I lie down and sleep; I wake again, because the LORD sustains me.⁶I will not fear though tens of thousands assail me on every side.⁷Arise, LORD! Deliver me, my God! Strike all my enemies on the jaw; break the teeth of the wicked. ⁸From the LORD comes deliverance. May your blessing be on your people.

- **Learn how to pray:** The only way to learn how to pray is to pray.

Food For The Journey: Use these questions and challenges to go deeper in personal reflection or small group discussion.

1. Our actions within family dynamics can have generational consequences. How can we break these negative cycles in our families?
2. We live in a society that is shunning correction. For David's family this led to familial anarchy. What is the balance between freedom and correction in the family model?
3. Absalom's downfall was pride. How can pride ruin a family?
4. Course correction was one of the solutions given by Pastor Adam. What are some of the course corrections that might be most valuable to families/individuals?
5. We learn to pray by praying. Would you say that you have learned how to pray? What have you learned that you could share with the group?