

October 27, 2019
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
SON OF ANARCHY
Episode 5: Conspiracy Theory.
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2 Samuel 15:1-14

15 In the course of time, **Absalom provided himself with a chariot and horses and with fifty men to run ahead of him.** ² He would get up early and stand by the side of the road leading to the city gate. Whenever anyone came with a complaint to be placed before the king for a decision, Absalom would call out to him, “What town are you from?” He would answer, “Your servant is from one of the tribes of Israel.” ³ Then Absalom would say to him, **“Look, your claims are valid and proper, but there is no representative of the king to hear you.”** ⁴ And Absalom would add, **“If only I were appointed judge in the land!** Then everyone who has a complaint or case could come to me and I would see that they receive justice.” ⁵ Also, whenever anyone approached him to bow down before him, **Absalom would reach out his hand, take hold of him and kiss him.** ⁶ **Absalom behaved in this way toward all the Israelites who came to the king asking for justice, and so he stole the hearts of the people of Israel.** ⁷ At the end of four years, Absalom said to the king, “Let me go to Hebron and fulfill a vow I made to the LORD. ⁸ While your servant was living at Geshur in Aram, I made this vow: ‘If the LORD takes me back to Jerusalem, I will worship the LORD in Hebron.’” ⁹ The king said to him, “Go in peace.” So he went to Hebron. ¹⁰ Then Absalom sent secret messengers throughout the tribes of Israel to say, “As soon as you hear the sound of the trumpets, then say, ‘**Absalom is king in Hebron.**’” ¹¹ Two hundred men from Jerusalem had accompanied Absalom. They had been invited as guests and went quite innocently, knowing nothing about the matter. ¹² While Absalom was offering sacrifices, he also sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David’s counselor, to come from Giloh, his hometown. And so the conspiracy gained strength, and Absalom’s following kept on increasing. ¹³ A messenger came and told David, **“The hearts of the people of Israel are with Absalom.”** ¹⁴ Then David said to all his officials who were with him in Jerusalem, “Come! We must flee, or none of us will escape from Absalom. We must leave immediately, or he will move quickly to overtake us and bring ruin on us and put the city to the sword.”

The spirit of Absalom is one of power, pride, manipulation, deceit and judgment.

Whose heart are you after? David was a man after God’s own heart. Absalom was content with the hearts of men.

- *Acts 13:22 After removing Saul, he made David their king. God testified concerning him: ‘I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.’*

A tangible difference between father and son:

- David was content being a shepherd boy while Absalom was discontent being the king’s son.
- David never conspired to gather people to himself, Absalom was always trying to win over the hearts of powerful people.
- David trusted God for his ascension, Absalom sought to forge his own path.
- David would never touch the Lord’s anointed while Absalom was willing to kill his own anointed father.

The Spirit of Absalom is the spirit of judgment: Vs. 3-4 “If only I were appointed judge in the land!”

- **Roman 2:1-2** You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things. ²Now we know that God’s judgment against those who do such things is based on truth.
- **Absalom was an unjust judge: Vs.3** Then Absalom would say to him, “Look, your claims are valid and proper, but there is no representative of the king to hear you.”

The Spirit of Absalom is the spirit of manipulation:

- **Manipulation is the opposite of faith. If faith brings us to salvation then manipulation leads us toward death.**
 - **Faith is trusting God for results.**
 - **Ephesians 2:8-9** For by grace you have been saved through **faith**.
 - **Romans 16:18** For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people.

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

1. Absalom was a man after man’s own heart. How can focusing on the approval of others get us off course?
2. Manipulation is the opposite of faith. Why can it be so damaging to our relationships with others and God?
3. Absalom did not trust God for his ascension. Can you relate to that struggle?
4. Absalom wanted to be a judge? Why do we so enjoy the seat of judgment and how can it get us into trouble?
5. Have you ever battled the temptation to deceive others for your personal gain? How did that go for you?