

November 3, 2019
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
SON OF ANARCHY
Episode 6: Running To A Standstill.
Pastor Adam Stadtmiller

2 Samuel 15:13-16,23-26,30-31,37

¹³A messenger came and told David, “The hearts of the people of Israel are with Absalom.”

¹⁴Then 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.”

¹⁶The king set out, with his entire household following him; but he left ten concubines to take care of the palace.

²³The whole countryside wept aloud as all the people passed by. The king also crossed the Kidron Valley, and all the people moved on toward the wilderness. ²⁴Zadok was there, too, and all the Levites who were with him were carrying the ark of the covenant of God. They set down the ark of God, and Abiathar offered sacrifices until all the people had finished leaving the city.

²⁵Then the king said to Zadok, “Take the ark of God back into the city. If I find favor in the LORD’s eyes, he will bring me back and let me see it and his dwelling place again. ²⁶But if he says, ‘I am not pleased with you,’ then I am ready; let him do to me whatever seems good to him.”

³⁰But David continued up the Mount of Olives, weeping as he went; his head was covered and he was barefoot. All the people with him covered their heads too and were weeping as they went up. ³¹Now David had been told, “Ahithophel is among the conspirators with Absalom.” So David prayed, “LORD, turn Ahithophel’s counsel into foolishness.”

³⁷So Hushai, David’s confidant, arrived at Jerusalem as Absalom was entering the city.

1. David knew when to leave a fight and was a master of strategic retreat.

Vs. 14b *“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.”*

○ **David was a master of strategic retreat.**

- **1 Samuel 21:1** *David went to Nob, to Ahimelek the priest. Ahimelek trembled when he met him, and asked, “Why are you alone? Why is no one with you?”*
- **1 Samuel 23:14** *And David stayed in strongholds in the wilderness, and remained in the mountains in the Wilderness of Ziph.*

Where do you retreat when things get tough?

Psalms 32:7 *You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance.*

Psalms 91:4 *He will cover you with his feathers, and under His wings you will find refuge; His **faithfulness** will be your shield and rampart.*

2. Trust the Lord for your salvation.

- *v.25-26 Then the king said to Zadok, "Take the ark of God back into the city. If I find favor in the LORD's eyes, he will bring me back and let me see it and his dwelling place again. ²⁶But if he says, 'I am not pleased with you,' then I am ready; let him do to me whatever seems good to him."*
 - Returning the ark to Jerusalem might have been the most dramatic act of faith in David's entire life.
 - David throws himself upon the mercy of God even though he knows he is guilty.
 - "Let Him do to me whatever seems good to Him"

3. David walked in contrition after repentance.

- **Vs. 30** *But David continued up the Mount of Olives, weeping as he went; his head was covered and he was barefoot.*
 - **David maintained a contrite spirit after repentance.**
 - **Psalm 51:7** *My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.*
 - Contrition is not guilt, it is humility.

Food for the journey: Use these questions for personal reflection or to go deeper in one of our community groups.

1. David always retreated to a place of strength. The temptation is to often retreat into an unhealthy place. Describe healthy areas of retreat vs. unhealthy.
2. What does the scripture mean when it says *His faithfulness will be your shield*. **Psalm 91:4** *He will cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you will find refuge; His **faithfulness** will be your shield and rampart.*
3. David threw himself on the mercy of God and did not even trust in the ark for salvation. Why was this such a dramatic act of faith?
4. David walked in contrition and not guilt. What are the tangible differences of both?
5. What has been your biggest takeaway in this entire sermon series?