

Running with the Big Dogs

Coming Home

Introduction to II Samuel 18-21

The 1978 movie, *Coming Home*, portrays the bitter-sweet experience of veterans who finally returned home from Vietnam, only to encounter disillusionment over the new reality that their return brought to them. Similarly, in this week’s study, King David, exiled by his traitorous son, Absalom, was finally able to return home; but, when he did, he found that his new reality had its share of problems as well. Of course, the first step to allow David to come home was for the roadblocks to be removed. The biggest of these was his son, Absalom, and his troops, who were in pursuit of David. With Joab in charge, David’s troops went after Absalom, although David instructed them to deal gently with him when they found him. However, when Joab found him,

he pierced Absalom’s heart with three spears, killing him. This left David so grief stricken that Joab had to rebuke him for shaming the people like this. With this roadblock removed, there were then some relationships that needed to be restored—first with Israel, who had followed Absalom, then with the elders of Judah, with Shimei, who had cursed David, and with Mephibosheth who reportedly had applauded David’s demise. Humbly, David received the invitation from his nation to return as king, refused to put Shimei to death, and restored half of Mephibosheth’s inheritance to him. He then allowed Barzillai to replace himself, so he could go back home. Finally, as David resumed his position, the new reality



When you run with God and follow His lead, you will have success in life.

presented itself. First, Sheba led another revolt of Israel, but was apprehended and the revolt was suppressed. Then, an old covenant violation by Saul of the Gibeonites surfaced, and was dealt with by allowing them to put seven of Saul’s sons to death. The story closes with another Philistine battle, with David beginning to show his age. Just like the movie, coming home was a bittersweet experience for David, too .

The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- Worship—You were planned for God’s pleasure
- Fellowship—You were formed for God’s family
- Discipleship—You were created to become like Christ
- Ministry—You were shaped for serving God
- Evangelism—You were made for a mission

Study/Discussion Questions for II Samuel 18-21

(For answers to questions attend an ABF or go to www.celebrationnet.com/resources/leader resources)

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| <p>1. Looking at 18:1-18, what was David’s strategy (v2), his instruction (v5), and the outcome (v6-8, 16-17)? How was Absalom caught (v8), and what were the 2 reactions (v10-13, 14-15)?</p> | |
| <p>2. In 18:19-33 who wanted to report Absalom’s death (v19), and how did Joab respond (v20-23)? Describe David’s attitude as he waited (v24-27), and how he responded to the news (v28-33).</p> | |
| <p>3. Read 19:1-8. How did David’s grief affect Israel (v1-4), who rebuked him for it (v5), and why was he right (v5-6)? What was his charge to David (v7), and David’s response (v8)? Apply.</p> | |

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II Samuel 18-21 Study Questions (cont)

4. Using 19:8-15 what dilemma faced Israel (v9-10) and Judah (v11), and how did David deal with this (v11-12)? What did David do to Joab (v13), and why (18:14)? What was the effect of replacing Joab with Amasa (v14-15)?

5. According to 19:16-30 who else needed to be restored (v16, 24), what was their approach (v17-20, 25-28), and David's response (v21-23, 29-30)? Why was this a wise approach?

6. From 19:31-39 what did David want from Barzillai (v33), and why do you think he did (v32)? How did Barzillai compromise (v34-39), and how did David respond (v38-39)? Why does this show humility on David's part?

7. In 19:40-20:2 why was Israel upset with Judah (v41), how did Judah respond (v42), and how did Israel reply (v43)? What resulted (20:1-2), and why (v43)? What can we learn from this?

8. Based on 20:3-25 what 2 problems were presented to David (v3, 4-5), and how did he deal with each (v3, 6)? What was the final outcome of Amasa (v7-12), and of Sheba's revolt (v13-22)?

9. Using 21:1-14 what issue did David face (v1), what was its cause (v1), and David's approach (v1)? How did David deal with this (v2-9), who did it affect (v10), and how did David respond (v11-14)? List the good things David did in 1-14.

10. Looking at 21:15-22 how did David's age begin to show (v15), and how did his troops respond (v16-17, 18-22)? Why was this a good thing, considering David's age?

11. Summarize the approach we must have to removing roadblocks, the attitude we must have to restore relationships, and the actions we must take to deal with reality when we "come home".

Scripture to Remember

*"The Lord has freed you this day from the hand of all those who rose up against you."
2 Samuel 18:31*

Celebration Fellowship

*Reaching—
Restoring—Raising Up*

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Life Group Questions

(Using questions based on today's message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)

1. On a scale of 1-10, with 10 being the most, how judgmental are you? How merciful are you? Can you rank high in both areas at the same time?
2. Talk about what you think is the difference between judging the right way and being judgmental.
3. Discuss why it is important to not be hasty if you are to judge people and things the right way.
4. Share which of the safeguards against being judgmental (judging methods, or means, or using only the Word of God) you most often fail to observe. Why?
5. Talk about why it is foolish to judge. What "pile" of yours tends to sabotage you the most in your close relationships?
6. Specifically consider what we must do to stop our patterns of being judgmental.