

# A Leader in Good Times

## What We Are Learning In This Series:

1. We learn a lot about someone by watching how they respond in really bad or in really good times.
2. Life is all about good times and bad times. As Christians, we need to be able to handle both of them properly.

## Time is Passing Quickly

<sup>8:1</sup> "In the course of time..." . . . <sup>10:1</sup> "In the course of time..." - 2 Samuel 8:1; 10:1

- From 2 Samuel chapters 7 to 11, thirteen years pass!  
(David is 37 years of age in chapter 7 and 50 in chapter 11.)
- Only a few stories are told from this time period. We have a tendency to write much more in difficult times than in good times!
- This chapter is probably unknown to most Christians, but it is a key to the next chapter which tells us of David's sin.

## David's Intent

- David tries to show kindness to a king's family.  
(Remember his kindness to Mephibosheth in the last chapter?)  
"In the course of time, the king of the Ammonites died, and his son Hanun succeeded him as king. David thought, "I will show kindness to Hanun son of Nahash, just as his father showed kindness to me." So David sent a delegation to express his sympathy to Hanun concerning his father." - 2 Samuel 10:1,2
- The gesture of kindness is misinterpreted and the young king, Hanun, takes bad advice from his advisors.
- The King, Hanun, humiliates the delegation of Israelite men by shaving off half of their beards and cutting off half of their robes.
  - The Beards? - Leviticus 19:27  
"Do not cut the hair at the sides of your head or clip off the edges of your beard."
  - The Robes?  
"Make tassels on the four corners of the cloak you wear." - Deuteronomy 22:12

## David's Response

- He is kind to the men who have been humiliated.  
"When David was told about this, he sent messengers to meet the men, for they were greatly humiliated. The king said, 'Stay at Jericho till your beards have grown, and then come back.'" - 2 Samuel 10:5
- David reacts in anger to those who committed this act.  
"When the Ammonites realized that they had become a stench in David's nostrils..." - 2 Samuel 10:6

- David sends his general, Joab, and the entire army to respond to the Ammonites' rebellion.
- David trusts his men and the training they had received.
  - Joab is perceptive.  
"Joab saw that there were battle lines in front of him and behind him; so he selected some of the best troops in Israel and deployed them against the Arameans." - 2 Samuel 10:9
  - Joab is wise and strategic.
  - Joab is courageous.
  - Joab is secure in his relationship with God.  
"Be strong and let us fight bravely for our people and the cities of our God. The LORD will do what is good in His sight." - 2 Samuel 10:12
- Joab has observed all of these traits in David and he has learned the lessons well.

## The Battle

- The Israelite army defeats the Ammonites and Joab goes home.  
"When the Ammonites saw that the Arameans were fleeing, they fled before Abishai and went inside the city. So Joab returned from fighting the Ammonites and came to Jerusalem." - 2 Samuel 10:14
- When the enemies regroup and hire more troops, David gets involved personally and the rebellion was put down.
- Two Outcomes:
  - The people of the east become subject to David again!
  - The Aramaeans learn a big lesson.  
"So the Arameans were afraid to help the Ammonites anymore." - 2 Samuel 10:19

## What Do We Learn From All of This?

1. Even when we show kindness it can be misunderstood.
2. People will often try to mock or belittle your faith.
3. People watch what we do more than they listen to what we say.  
Based on your actions, are you training the people around you in a positive way? Are you trusting them to lead?
4. David and his men trusted God — that He would do the right thing — and they would accomplish His will and plan.
5. This chapter reminds us that at any time, life can change drastically.

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