



Heroes & Villains Series, No. 28: Joab, II Samuel 2 ~ I Kings 2

Mike Halpin ~ June 16, 2019

Intro & Review: Loving pets that could be otherwise....

Joab, King David's nephew and military commander is like a family pet who's a faithful guard dog and companion, but who suddenly kills the neighbor's pet, then happily returns home.

His story runs concurrent with King David's, around 1,000 BC, as Israel thrives under David's leadership and expands to an area more than twice as large as under King Saul.

Main point— Our imitation of Christlike faithfulness isn't measured so much when God's will aligns w/ our own, but when it doesn't. In those areas and times when we see ourselves reverting to Joab-like behavior, purpose to cry out to God to save us from ourselves.

I. Joab's Remarkable Faithfulness—

Joab is a remarkably capable warrior and leader and for much of David's reign as king he relies on his nephew Joab to help fight his battles and lead his army, 2 Samuel 8:16.

- A. 2 Samuel 10:6–14 Joab *valiantly leads* Israel against Ammonites
- B. 2 Samuel 12:26–28 *For David's honor*, Joab besieges the Ammonite city, Rabbah.
- C. 2 Samuel 14:1–24 After David's son Absalom kills his brother Amnon for raping Tamar, Absalom's sister, Joab *acts as mediator* to restore Absalom to David.
- D. 2 Samuel 19:1–8 After Absalom's revolt and death in the battle with David's army, Joab *saves David from further loss*.
- E. 2 Samuel 24:2–3 Joab attempts to *dissuade David* from taking a national census, an idea he knows will prove harmful.

Which of the areas of faithfulness in Joab's life do I see in my own? *Courage, commitment to another's honor, peacemaker, friend, other?* _____

II. Joab's Remarkable Betrayals—

- A. 2 Samuel 3:22–30, 39 Joab *murders* Abner after David made peace with him and invited him to join David's side.

- B. 2 Samuel 11:14–25 Joab helps David *murder* Uriah after David's affair with Bathsheba.

- C. 2 Samuel 18:6–15 Joab *disobeys* David's direct command and slays Absalom.

- D. 2 Samuel 20:4–13 Joab *murders* his cousin Amasa to remain Israel's military leader.

- E. 1 Kings 1:7; 2:5–6, 28–34. *In defiance* of David's plans for Solomon to succeed him as King, Joab attempts to install Solomon's brother Adonijah as King.

- F. 1Kings 2:28–34 Joab dies as he lived, by the sword.

III. Joab Lives—

Other than the extreme nature of his contradictory qualities Joab might look a lot like you and me; Romans 7— acting contrary to the new nature we have in Christ.

We need to recognize by faith that our old, Saul and Joab-like life ended w/ Jesus at the cross and confess and forsake the Joab-like sins of commission and omission.

Which of the areas of faithlessness in Joab's life do I see in my own? *Hatred, a spirit of anger/murder, disobedience to authority, seeking my own advancement, others?* _____

Lord, I see the sin of _____ in my life again. I confess it as falling short of your good will. I ask you to save me from a Joab-like life of inconsistency so that I can honor Jesus, the King of Kings, in all my ways. Amen.

Romans 12:1–2 *I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*