

Is the Young Man Absalom Safe? 2 Samuel 18

Introduction:

1. King David had a very troubled son by the name of Absalom. He was a very angry and rebellious young man. He had learned to hide his anger, but it was still there. He had learned outwardly to use his charm and good looks to deceive and use people.
2. Here in our text, Absalom had usurped his father's throne, and now he is out for David's life!
3. Absalom gathered his troops together and was preparing to attack David and his men, while David prepared his men for battle (vs. 1-2). Before the battle, David had one request (vs. 5). Here we see the unconditional love of a father.
4. Civil war broke out (vs. 6-8) and, despite David's wishes, Joab killed Absalom and then sent word to David, who was hiding in the city. David received word that his men won the war, but David had only one thing on his mind. vs. 29, 32
5. David cried out, "*Is the young man Absalom safe?*" This young man was not safe. His life ended in utter humiliation and destruction. He was not safe, and there are definite reasons why. Let's look at those reasons this morning, and learn from his mistakes.

First, Absalom was not safe because he had nowhere to turn for help.

1. Do you remember, Absalom had long, flowing hair (14:26)? It seems that his hair proved to be a detriment in battle. Notice verses 9-10.
 - Can't you just picture this? The guy is hanging there, in that tree, and can't get down. You talk about having a bull's-eye on you!
2. Absalom was suspended between heaven and earth. Nobody in heaven could help him, because he had alienated himself from the God who loved him. Nobody on earth was there to help him in that moment. They had all fled and scattered.
 - There he is, suspended between heaven and earth, without any help from either.
3. So many people are in this same condition today, spiritually.
 - They can't stay on the earth forever, because the wages of sin is death. Nobody on the earth can take care of their sin problem and help them to overcome eventual death.
 - Yet, they have refused God's love and God's Son, Jesus Christ. Christ died for their sin, but they won't accept Christ and receive Him into their hearts and lives.
4. Their souls are one heartbeat away from hell. Their souls are suspended between heaven and earth, hovering over hell. Satan would love to do to them what Joab did to Absalom – thrust them through with his fiery darts, and send them to the place he is going.

- I remember when this was me, but praise God for the day I received and trusted Christ as my Savior. He snatched me up, set my feet on solid ground, and seated me in heavenly places in Christ!
5. You are not like Absalom today. You can turn to Christ today for help, and He will give you eternal life. He will give you victory over sin and death!

Second, Absalom was not safe because he trusted in his outward beauty.

1. You know what Absalom was most proud of? His hair! It was a big scene when he would cut it once a year. 14:25-26
2. Absalom was a young man full of pride, and thought his beauty made him a cut above everybody else. But, his outward beauty that he took pride in led to his ultimate destruction.
3. I believe there will be many shocked people standing before the Lord on Judgment Day who thought that, because of some outward, beautiful deed or action, they would surely be granted entrance into heaven. Matthew 7:22-23
4. Many people will stand before the Lord and tell Him all the beautiful things they did on earth, but those that enter heaven will be those who stand before God and tell Him everything **Christ** did for them!
5. Many people think that Satan is only interested in killing, child abuse, devil worship, etc. This is not true. Satan loves it when people give charitably, go to church, get baptized, perform religious rituals, and then trust in these outwardly beautiful things for their salvation. He tells people, “You’re alright. Look at all you’ve done.”
6. But, those who trust in their outward beautiful acts will be like Absalom – facing eventual destruction.

Third, Absalom was not safe because he rejected his father’s unfailing love.

1. What love David had for Absalom. After all that Absalom had done, notice what David tells his generals. He said, “Deal gently with him for my sake.” vs. 5
2. After David found out that Absalom was dead, notice how David reacts (vs. 33). David wept and cried out for his son.
3. Did you know our Savior, Jesus Christ wept over lost and dying souls (Luke 19:41)? God never delights in a lost soul dying and spending eternity with Satan in the lake of fire. It breaks His heart. God desires for every person to be safe in Christ. 2 Peter 3:9
4. David cried out, “*Would God had I died for thee...*”
5. I’ve got great news today. Jesus hung on the cross, dying for our sins, and then cried out, “*It is finished.*” David wished that he **could** have died for Absalom so that Absalom could live, but Jesus **did** die for you so that you could live eternally. John 3:16; Romans 5:8
 - What unfailing love God has shown to you and me.
6. David cried out, “*Is the young man Absalom safe?*” Today, this is God’s concern for you. Are you safe in Christ? Are you dead in your sins, or alive in Christ?

7. The very heartbeat of God is to see people saved and brought into a right relationship with Him. This is why Jesus came to earth. 1 Timothy 1:15
8. The question is, "Are you safe?" If you were to die right now, do you know that you would wake up in heaven? If you reject the Father's unfailing love, you will not be safe, but lost for eternity.
9. Let's learn these lessons from Absalom. Turn to Christ, receive Him today.