

## **Joab – Valuable Lessons for Life**

### **2 Samuel 20**

#### **Introduction:**

1. This past Sunday we looked briefly at a man by the name of Joab. In our text (2 Samuel 20) we saw Joab murder Amasa, the general of David's armies. The ironic part of this is that both men believed in the same cause and were serving under the same king.
2. Why did Joab do this? Was he justified in this murder? Who is this man, Joab? He is mentioned over 100 times in the Bible.
3. Joab was actually the nephew of King David. Joab's mother (Zeruiah) was the sister of David and had three sons – Abishai, Joab, and Asahel. All three boys were commanders in David's army.
4. Joab is a fascinating Bible character. I believe we can all learn some valuable lessons from his life. Who was this man, Joab?

#### **Joab was a mighty warrior.**

1. When David and his army went to Jerusalem in an attempt to capture that city (then called Jebus), David made a decree. He declared that whatever man smote the Jebusites first, David would make that man general of his army.
2. The Bible says that "*Joab went up first, and was chief.*" 1 Chronicles 11:3-9
3. Joab went on to experience some great military victories.
  - Over the Edomites – 1 Kings 11:15
  - Over the Syrians and Ammonites - 2 Samuel 10:6-14
4. There is no debating the fact that this man Joab was brave, courageous, an incredible warrior, and military mind. When it came to military strategy and courage, he was very gifted and talented.
5. But Joab had a couple of blind spots that would lead to his undoing.

#### **Joab was a bitter and vengeful man.**

1. We get a glimpse into Joab's blind spot when he is first mentioned in 2 Samuel 3.
2. King Saul had died. Abner had long been King Saul's highest military chief. After Saul's death, Abner made Saul's son the new king of Israel.
3. But the southern tribe of Judah had made David king. When civil war broke out, Abner was forced to kill Joab's brother, Asahel. He did not want to do it at all, but was forced to in an act of self-defense. 2 Samuel 2:19-23
4. Abner later gave his allegiance to David and was able to persuade all the elders of Israel to follow David. He was the key tool that God used to make David king over all Israel.
5. How did Joab respond to Abner? Let's read 2 Samuel 3:26-27.
  - Joab had been carrying extreme bitterness over an act of war that wasn't Abner's fault.

- As we will see later, the Scriptures clearly tell us that Abner was a more noble and righteous man than Joab, but Joab couldn't get past the spirit of bitterness and revenge. He put King David in a terrible spot by doing this, and it could have divided the kingdom again. 2 Samuel 3:28-39
6. In 2 Samuel 20 we see this spirit of bitterness again manifested in Joab. He murders a man by the name of Amasa. But why? Amasa had done wrong in following Absalom in his rebellion against David, but Amasa came back to David, and David forgave him.
    - Shimei was another example of David's forgiveness, but Abishai (and apparently Joab, his brother) desired to have him put to death. 2 Samuel 19:21-22
  7. David didn't write off Amasa forever, but forgave him, and was willing to allow him to be used again in the service of the king. 2 Samuel 20:4
  8. But Joab, on the other hand, was not so willing to forgive. He murdered Amasa in cold blood as soon as he got the chance. 2 Samuel 20:9-10
    - Did Amasa deserve to be murdered? The Bible clearly tells us that he did not. It was an act of bitterness, revenge, and spite.
  9. Joab was talented, gifted, and courageous, but he had a major problem that would contribute greatly to his downfall. He wouldn't let go of bitterness. He desired revenge.

### **Joab was a very self-willed man.**

1. Joab had another huge blind spot that would lead to his eventual downfall – a self-willed heart.
2. When Joab murdered Abner, he gave no thought of how his actions would affect king David and the nation of Israel. The nation had just come together and was in a fragile state, but Joab's issue with Abner was more important in his mind than the nation. He had a score to settle, and he would settle it no matter what.
3. Later on, when Absalom rebelled against David, before going to battle David specifically asked his generals to deal gently with Absalom for his sake. David wanted to try to restore the young man. But Joab thought he knew better. While Absalom was hanging in the oak tree, Joab thrust three arrows through the young man's heart. 2 Samuel 18:14
  - Joab then rebuked David for mourning for his son and basically threatened him into doing what he wanted him to do. 2 Samuel 19:1-8
4. When David forgave Amasa and gave him a military position, Joab didn't agree with his leader's decision. It was every bit in David's right as a leader to appoint Amasa to whatever job or position he wanted to. But Joab thought he knew better, so in self-will and defiance of King David, Joab murdered Amasa.
5. When David was old and was close to death, it was clear that Solomon was God's choice (1 Kings 2:15) - and David's choice - to be the next king. Again, Joab thought he knew better than God or David, and attempted to lead a rebellion against David and make his other son, Adonijah, the new king. 1 Kings 1:5-7

6. Joab won some great victories, but he had some major stumblingblocks – stubbornness and self-will. So many times, he operated under the satanic principle of rebellion against authority. It would cost him his very life.

### **Joab was man who died in disgrace.**

1. How did Joab's life eventually end? As we said, his final act was to lead a rebellion against David. Joab had been a thorn in his Uncle David's side for a long time. He had ruthlessly murdered innocent men and disrespected David over and over.
2. On David's death bed, he gave Solomon a charge. Part of that charge dealt with Joab. 1 Kings 2:5-6
  - David said, "*He shed the blood of war in peace.*" He killed out of spite and vengeance, not out of an act of military warfare.
3. Let's look at how this man's life ended. 1 Kings 2:28-34
4. Even when he knew death was imminent, he wasn't going to take orders from anybody. He would do it **his** way, even in death. Notice what Solomon (one of the wisest men in Scriptures) had to say about Joab. These are the final words and legacy he left:
  - "*And the LORD shall return his blood upon his own head, who fell upon two men more righteous and better than he, and slew them with the sword, my father David not knowing thereof, to wit, Abner the son of Ner, captain of the host of Israel, and Amasa the son of Jether, captain of the host of Judah. Their blood shall therefore return upon the head of Joab, and upon the head of his seed for ever: but upon David, and upon his seed, and upon his house, and upon his throne, shall there be peace for ever from the LORD.*" **1 Kings 2:32-33**

### **In Conclusion:**

1. Do you think Joab's life story has ever been repeated by other people? Probably a million times over.
2. What do you think the life of Joab teaches us? What can we learn? What did you get out of his life that you can apply to your life?
3. Allow the Holy Spirit to take this and apply it personally to your heart today.