

A Faulty Report—A Fickle Friend—A Fleeing Felon

2 Samuel 13:24-39

After Absalom murdered Amnon, the rest of David's son's flee for fear Absalom might also kill them.

A rumor reaches David that all his son's were slain. Without confirming the report David is devastated. He was probably blaming himself for allowing Absalom to talk him into allowing his sons to attend the sheep-shearing celebration.

Jonadab, Amnon's so-called friend, assures David that only Amnon was killed. David did not know that it was Jonadab who started the whole problem by advising Amnon how to seduce Tamar.

David is somewhat relieved to find out the rest of his sons were alive. When David's sons returned, Jonadab had a "I-told-you-so" attitude (13:35).

➡ Some **important lessons** we can learn from this episode.

I. The Faulty Report.

- A. Bad news travels fast and is often exaggerated.
- B. People are quick to believe the worst. Before jumping to conclusions, verify a report if it is true. Get the facts straight.

Recently one of our church members got a call from the police department, that her daughter was drunk and injured in a car accident. This mother panicked and became very distraught. However, after rechecking the accident report the police discovered that although the spelling of the victim's name was very similar, it turned out not to be the daughter of our church member. What a relief to this mother to hear her daughter was OK.

II. The Fickle Friend.

- A. Some "friends" are not really friends. Jonadab was supposed to be Amnon's friend (v. 3). Yet, he knew from the beginning that Absalom planned to murder Amnon (13:32). He could have

warned Amnon about Absalom's plot, but he didn't. Some kind of "friend."

- B. Psalms 41:9: *Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me.*

III. **The Fleeing Felon** (vs. 37-39)

- A. The problem with revenge is it doesn't really solve any problems and eventually turns around and hurts the perpetrator.
- B. Sin puts a person on the run. Three times we're told that Absalom fled (vs. 34, 37, 38). Absalom does the same thing that Adam and Jonah did— He runs and hides (cf. Prov. 28:1).
- C. Sin breaks fellowship. Absalom falls out of fellowship with his father. Absalom fled 80 miles northeast to Geshur, a refuge for criminals and outlaws.
- God commanded Israel to expel the Geshurites, but they failed to do so (Josh. 13:13 cf. Num. 33:55).
 - Geshur was the home of Absalom's Grandpa Talmai (3:3). Talmai was a heathen Canaanite King.
 - David married Talmai's daughter Maacah, who became Absalom's mother.
 - Absalom remained in Geshur for three years. The roots of rebellion grow deeper. Absalom was no doubt plotting how he could take the kingdom away from his father (2 Sam. 15).