

## Monday (Read 2 Samuel 18: 1- 18)

After Absalom was on the throne for a few days, he gathers an army to kill King David. Father Tadros Malaty explains How David is a symbol of Christ, while Absalom is a symbol of the Devil:

*“By organizing his army, David represents the Lord Christ, who sets His men as spiritual soldiers to wrestle till the end to destroy evil and the devil ... to destroy the sin, but not the sinners; the corruption, but not those deceived by corruption”*

In verse 5, we see how much love David has for his child that while Absalom wants to harm him, David asks that they deal gently with Absalom. Again this represents Christ, that while we are sinners He loves us and deals with us gently.

Absalom goes to battle riding on a mule and gets his long, thick hair caught in branches on a tree and is killed by Joab. Absalom had no sons to carry his name.

## Tuesday (Read 2 Samuel 18: 18-32)

Joab expected that the king, so fond of his son Absalom, would not receive the news of victory with joy, because of the death of his son. Therefore he did not want Ahimaaz the son of Zadok the priest, to take the news to the king; but sent a Cushite slave instead. Ahimaaz ran by way of the plain; namely the Jordan valley, to Mahnaim, and outran the Cushite, who took an easier but a longer way.

Ahimaaz gave David the good news, but did not add a single word concerning Absalom. David realized from the report of the Cushite that his son died; He was deeply moved, and wept bitterly.



Name:

Year:

“When Absalom was cruelly attacking his father David, the speed of his mule caused him to collide with a thick oak tree, and the branches wound round his neck so that he was suspended high in the air. This was a prefiguration of the Lord’s betrayer. Just as Judas ended his life in the knot of a noose, so also David’s persecutor breathed his last through the pressure on his throat”

**Cassiodorus**

The Good News

Edition # 18

“FORGIVE  
THOSE WHO  
HURT YOU;  
THEN GOD  
WILL  
FORGIVE YOU”  
- JESUS

## Wednesday (Read 2 Samuel 19: 1-22)

David mourns and grieves for his son Absalom, showing us that we should love our enemies. St Augustine says "David mourned Absalom’s eternal punishment rather than his bodily death”.

Joab considers David’s mourning for his rebellious son as an insult to the people who risked their lives to fight in battle. As we read from verse 5, Joab advises him to comfort the people. Father Tadros Malaty explains “this was intended to demonstrate that it is difficult for a man to rid himself of personal emotions, even as far as the greatest prophets and saints are concerned”.

While Abishai considered it the right time to put Shemei to death, because he cursed the Lord’s anointed; David, on the other hand, counted it a time for joy and for dealing with everyone with love and forgiveness.

How amazing is David’s personality ! With every success, he does not seek authority and when he gets it, he does not abuse it; but transfer it to love and care. He forgives Shemei- do you forgive those who hurt you in any way?



**Thursday (Read 2 Samuel 19: 24-43)**

Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan, came from his house in Benjamin to Jerusalem to meet king David; He had not cared about looking presentable; to find the door open before him !

David rebuked Mephibosheth for not going with him; yet gave him the chance to defend himself; and when he realised that he was mistreated by Ziba, he forgave him.



Christ-like?

In this week's chapters, we see so many examples of how David really was Christ-like in many of his actions. What about You? If people saw and heard what you did would they be able to see Christ in you?

**Friday (Read 2 Samuel 20: 1-10)**

And the tribulations for David just keep coming.... "And every man of Israel deserted David and followed Sheba". The sword was never to depart from David's kingdom as a divine chastisement for killing Uriah.

The king commanded Amasa (David's nephew, and Joab's cousin), to gather together the men of Judah within three days as David intended to strike Sheba, before losing the whole kingdom.

David disregarded Joab, and appointed Amasa. Because Amasa delayed longer than the set time which David had appointed him, David commanded Abishai the brother of Joab, to pursue Sheba in which he did with his brother Joab and his men.

Joab then kills Amasa, due to jealousy. Here we see the drastic effects of what jealousy can do to ones self. Joab kills someone who was his relative. Amasa came to kiss him, to show him love but Joab was too involved in this wrong motive. We should take care not to envy others no matter what! As they say- "Jealousy is a curse".

**Saturday (Read 2 Samuel 17: 11-26)**

The prudent inhabitants of the city realized the danger they were facing; Then a wise woman cried out to Joab asking that the army do not harm the inhabitants.

By her wisdom, she could convince her people to cut off the head of Sheba the son of Bishri, and threw it out to Joab, who then blew a trumpet, and withdrew from the city.

So God allowed for chastising David by that temptation, although He also created the way out.... Here we see God's faithfulness to King David and how He delivers David from all hardships and tribulations. This is a good lesson for us- to trust in Him no matter what fiery furnace we go through- He will always be with His children, especially those who diligently seek Him!!

