

2 Samuel 19:1-8 **Joab rebuked David for his actions – David heeded his advise**

¹ And Joab was told, "Behold, the king is weeping and mourning for Absalom." ² So the victory that day was turned into mourning for all the people. For the people heard it said that day, "The king is grieved for his son." ³ And the people stole back into the city that day, as people who are ashamed steal away when they flee in battle.

⁴ But the king covered his face, and the king cried out with a loud voice, "O my son Absalom! O Absalom, my son, my son!"

⁵ Then Joab came into the house to the king, and said, "Today you have disgraced all your servants who today have saved your life, the lives of your sons and daughters, the lives of your wives and the lives of your concubines, ⁶ in that you love your enemies and hate your friends. For you have declared today that you regard neither princes nor servants; for today I perceive that if Absalom had lived and all of us had died today, then it would have pleased you well. ⁷ Now therefore, arise, go out and speak comfort to your servants. For I swear by the Lord, if you do not go out, not one will stay with you this night. And that will be worse for you than all the evil that has befallen you from your youth until now."

⁸ Then the king arose and sat in the gate. And they told all the people, saying, "There is the king, sitting in the gate." So all the people came before the king. For everyone of Israel had fled to his tent.
NKJV

Facts Revealed:

David's response when he heard of the defeat of the opposing forces and death of Absalom

- ✧ Then the king was deeply moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept. And as he went, he said thus: "O my son Absalom — my son, my son Absalom — if only I had died in your place! O Absalom my son, my son!" [2 Samuel 18:33]
- ✧ The defeat of the opposing forces cost the lives of 20,000 men of Israel as the servants of David defeated the army of Israel who were following Absalom in rebellion against David. [2 Samuel 18:6-8]
- ✧ David's grief was focused entirely on Absalom with no thought of the slain in the battle.
- ✧ This fact struck a sour note in the minds of David's loyal friends who had risked their lives to protect David and his household.

Impact on the people who had fought so valiantly for their king [2 Samuel 19:1-4]

- ✧ And Joab was told, "Behold, the king is weeping and mourning for Absalom." So the victory that day was turned into mourning for all the people. For the people heard it said that day, "The king is grieved for his son." [2 Samuel 19:1-2]
- ✧ Realization that their great victory over the rebels was overshadowed by the king's grief over the loss of his rebellious son disheartened the people and made them ashamed.
- ✧ But the king covered his face, and the king cried out with a loud voice, "O my son Absalom! O Absalom, my son, my son!" [2 Samuel 19:4]

Joab's counsel to David [2 Samuel 19:5-7]

- ✧ Joab the commander of David's forces, confronted David for his pitiful behavior toward the people who were so loyal to him.

- ✧ Joab told David that David's behavior was a disgrace to all those who had risked their lives to save David and his household from certain death at the hands of Absalom and his army of rebels.
- ✧ David's behavior told his supporters that he had no interest in those who fought for him.
- ✧ That behavior would result in the withdrawal of all support for the king and he would have no one left by morning if he did not act quickly to correct the bad impression.

David accepted Joab's counsel and went out to the people [\[2 Samuel 19:8\]](#)

- ✧ Then the king arose and sat in the gate. And they told all the people, saying, "There is the king, sitting in the gate." So all the people came before the king.
- ✧ Everyone had fled to his tent in disgrace. [\[2 Samuel 19:3, 5 & 8\]](#)