

Not Him, The Other Guy

Joab

(1 Samuel 3)

- Introduction:
1. Who was David's close companion?
 2. Most people would answer, "Jonathan," and that would be right, but I'm not talking about him, I'm talking about the other guy – Joab.
 3. David is mentioned 951 times in the Bible, second only to Jesus.
 2. Without a doubt, he is one of the most well-known characters, but right there beside him was a man named, Joab.

I. Background to Joab

- A. Joab was a nephew of David, along with Abishai, and Asahel (1 Chronicles 2:15-16).
- B. David made Joab the captain of his army because he was a fearless and successful warrior (2 Samuel 8:16).
- C. But Joab was a "hard" man, as well as Abishai.
 1. Abishai wanted to kill Saul when he was sleeping (1 Samuel 26:5-12).
 2. Abishai also wanted to cut off the head of Shimei (2 Samuel 19:21).
 3. Joab killed Abner who was helping David (2 Sam. 2:18-23; 3:22-30).
 4. Joab was complicit in Uriah's death (2 Samuel 11:14-25).
 5. Joab killed Absalom (2 Samuel 18-19).
 6. After the death of Absalom, David replaced Joab with Amasa (2 Samuel 19:13), whom he promptly murdered (2 Samuel 20:8-13).

II. Lessons We Can Learn

- A. Be careful with whom you surround yourself.
 1. Joab was a violent and out-of-control man.
 2. David was trying to be a man of God and Joab was acting as ungodly as imaginable.
 3. David even said that he was weak and they were too harsh (2 Samuel 3:39).
 4. Why did David tolerate him? Could it be that success is seductive?
 5. We cannot be driven by results.
- B. Joab had moments of goodness.
 1. He rebuked David for the census (1 Chronicles 21:1-14).
 2. He gave David credit (2 Samuel 12:27-29).
 3. Was this an example of the Devil portraying himself as an angel of light, or is it an example of a spiritual struggle of a good man?
- C. You live by the sword, you die by the sword.
 1. Joab is eventually killed (1 Kings 2:29-34; Exodus 21:14).
 2. We are to be peacemakers (Matthew 5:9).

3. We cannot advance the kingdom of God through force.

D. Spasmodic obedience is not obedience.

1. It appears that Joab obeyed when he agreed with David, but disobeyed when he didn't agree.
2. Many do the same with regard to the eldership (Hebrews 13:17).
3. If one only obeys God when you agree with God, then you are your own god.

- Conclusion:
1. May we remember to look at these Old Testament characters and learn from their lives.
 2. (Romans 15:3; 1 Corinthians 10:11).