

David Mourns - 2 Samuel 18:19-19:8

Topics: Accusation, Advice, Alone, Apathy, Arguments, Attitude, Children, Confusion, Correction, Death, Depression, Discouragement, Encouragement, Enemies, Expectations, Family, Forget, Goodness, Grief, Hatred, Humiliation, Indifference, Injustice, Leadership, Love, Loyalty, Mourning, Neglect, Parents, Praise, Priorities, Resentment, Responsibility, Running, Shame, Unfairness, Victory

Open It

1. What would you do if someone urged you not to grieve a loved one's death?
- * 2. To what extent do you expect a leader to set aside his or her personal feelings for the good of the group?
3. Why would you or would you not want to be the one to break bad news to your best friend?

Explore It

4. Who wanted to take the news of the battle's outcome to David? (18:19)
5. Why did Joab want to send a different messenger than the one who wanted to go? (18:20)
6. Whom did Joab send with the news of Absalom's defeat and death? (18:21)
7. What did Joab do when Ahimaaz insisted that he wanted to run with the news of Absalom's death? (18:23)
8. What did the watchman report to David, who was waiting inside the city? (18:24-26)
9. What did David assume about the two lone runners coming his way? (18:24-27)
10. Why did David assume that Ahimaaz came with good news? (18:27)
11. What positive message did Ahimaaz convey to David? (18:28)
12. How did Ahimaaz respond to David's inquiries about Absalom's safety? (18:29)
13. How did the Cushite answer the question from David? (18:32)
- * 14. What was David's response to the news of the death of his son? (18:33)
- * 15. Why was the spirit of victory squashed among David's supporters? (19:2-3)
16. What was David's lament from the time he learned the news of his son's death? (19:4)
- * 17. What were Joab's accusations against David? (19:5-6)
18. What did Joab warn would happen if David didn't encourage the troops? (19:7)
19. What did David do in response to Joab's urgings? (19:8)

Get It

20. Why was Joab hesitant to send the son of a priest to David with bad news?
21. Why did both of the messengers present the good news first?
- * 22. Why was David's reaction confusing and disheartening to his followers?
23. Why is it difficult to give up hope about someone we love, even when there is no logical reason to hope?
24. Why is it impossible for grief and rejoicing to happen side by side?
25. What level of responsibility does God require of leaders?
- * 26. To what extent does God expect a leader to set aside his or her own emotions and work for the good of the group?
27. Why is it wise to reward loyalty and sacrifice?

Apply It

28. In what concrete way can you show appreciation for someone who has sacrificed on your behalf?
- * 29. What are some responsibilities that you need to fulfill despite how you feel?
30. How can you reach out to someone who is dealing with bad news?