

Growth Group Questions – 2 Samuel 18 – “I Instead of You”

1. Read v5, where King David gives a special command to his army in v5.
 - i. If you were part of David’s army that day, how might this command come across as unjust, or weak, etc.?
 - ii. How do you think David’s own experience of God’s grace shaped the way he desired to deal with Absalom, his wayward son?

2. Read v9-11, v14-15 where we learn about two rebels: Absalom and Joab.
 - i. Reflecting on all that we’ve learned about Absalom, how would you describe his character (both positively & negatively)?
 - i. What are the qualities (both positive & negative) that might make him an “attractive” leader to us?
 - ii. Reflecting on all that we’ve learned about Joab, how would you describe his character (both positively & negatively)?
 - i. What are the qualities (both positive & negative) that might make him an “attractive” leader to us?
 - iii. In what ways are Absalom and Joab similar? In what ways would you say Jesus is different from them?

3. Read v32-33, where David responds to the bad news about Absalom.
 - i. King David’s lament shows the depth of his love for his son. In what ways does this lament make sense to us, but also NOT make sense to us?
 - ii. David’s wish predicts how Jesus, the true Son of David will die for sinners in their place...
 - i. What does this cry of David’s “heart” tell us about God’s heart for lost sinners?

4. How does the cross of Christ correct the way we perceive our own & other people’s “worth”?
 - i. How might the gospel empower us to “deal gently” with one another “for His sake”?