

The Life of Joab

1 Kings 2:28

This 3-week series highlights 4 essential growth tools for us.

1. Growing relationally with God's saints and leaders through The Life of Joab
2. Strengthening our servanthood to The Kingdom business of God
3. Increasing The Fear of God in or interpersonal relationships
4. Being a productive soul winner when experiencing relationship breakdowns

Opening Verse:

- Joab knows the power of the altar when getting in trouble.
- Even though he was a mighty, mighty warrior, Joab knew when The Altar was the safest place to be in order to receive mercy. How many here believe the Altar of prayer produces mercy when your life is in danger?

Let's look at the two sides of Joab's walk with God tonight that gives you and I wisdom for walking with each other.

His first side was:

1. Joab was a loyal and skilled kingdom fighter
 - He was part of the mighty men of valor. These were military soldiers who accomplished unbelievable victories.
 - He along with two other brothers Abishaai and Asahel were hailed as the sons of Zeruah. Joab was fearless, cunning, and highly gifted.
 - Joab's name means "Yahweh is my Daddy."
 - Joab teaches us a different level of loyalty like no other bible character.
 - For example he carried out David's orders in killing Uriah the Hittite and never breaks ranks to serving King David.
 - Joab stuck by David when Saul sought to kill him.
 - Joab was loyal to David when Absalom tries to kill him, in 1 Sam. Chapter 18,19, 20 and 23.
 - Joab is loyal to David when his own son Absalom tries to kill him in 2 Sam. 16:20
 - Joab's brothers were the ones that went into the enemies camps to get him water.
2. The second side of Joab was his character and integrity.
 - Joab was personally close to David when David cried out to God and saw God deliver him in Ziglag and the Cave of Adullam.
 - Joab saw God spare David's life against Saul when David cut off a piece of Saul's robe in 1 Sam. Chapter 24
 - Joab personally, saw God's powerful hand of deliverance in David's life.
 - It could be why he ran to the Altar of prayer in our opening text.
 - But I want to draw your attention to a story about Joab in 2 Sam. 3:20-21 and 24-29

What's happening here?

- Joab's other side of his decorated military loyalty and servanthood reveals that he developed a vengeful conduct in his character
- He walked close to David more than any other man but used his military soul-winning gifts to kill Abner who killed his brother and then believed David concerning the motive behind it.
- Joab was a highly respected servant who everybody knew was loyal to David.
- Joab saw nothing wrong with his actions while performing his ministry.
- Joab mistakes loyalty, duty, and productivity for character and integrity.
- Joab was extremely strong and very ambitious and yet struggles with walking with David's heart for God himself.
- Joab was more loyal to David than he was to God. His gifts brought him very high but his character brought him lower.
- Perhaps that's why his name is what it is.

Lets look a little closer at the two sides of Joab. Read Heb. 3:10-11

Key Verse:

- Known my ways- in Greek this implies sexual intimacy.
 - They didn't know 1) my thinking 2) my feelings and 3) the way I make decisions
 - This means when I don't pursue God's ways, God's thinking, God's feelings and God's decision-making, I don't experience spiritual rest and contentment.
-
- Joab became comfortable in his religious pride that he was perfectly okay.
 - And we must give honor to this man. He was a great loyal follower of David.
 - But his life did not end like his name represented.
 - The deception here is we become comfortable with where we are and like Joab God sends us through a long suffering journey of divine intimacy and love to grow our character.
 - Read Vs. 11

I call this the process of Gods intimacy to grow the Joab side of your character.

Here are God's levels of intimacy to grow our character and integrity.

1. God speaks to us to lovingly say go this way or that way.
2. God overtakes us with mercy while we won't obey Heb. 12:6
3. God steps it up to chastising.
4. He moves to judgment and He allows us to be enslaved by a habit, affliction, or stronghold. All to show us how bad we need Him.
5. God moves to anger- All of this while He still wants intimacy with us.
6. Finally He moves to wrath 1 Thes. 5:9

All of this to shake the religious pride of Joab from the I'm okay and comfortable attitude.

- Joab never realized he had character issues.

- Joab never sought spiritual contentment in dealing with his anger and lust for revenge and control.

Read Galatians 6:1-9

So, to avoid the deception of the I'm comfortable attitude with little desire to face my character Paul is saying make it your daily business to know Gods ways to know His feelings to know how he make decisions and to know his thinking so you can handle the revenge and religious pride of Joab in your personal life.

DLR/ag