

## The Life of Joab Part 3

1<sup>st</sup> Kings 2:28  
1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 16:7

- Your reputation is not the real you!
- Your job, career, and ministry success are not the real you.

### There have been

- Fortunate CEOs and multibillionaires who have committed suicide because they lost their fortune.
- Americans spend billions of dollars every year on their external surface image to impress and control human relationships.
  1. 12.9 billion dollars was spent on plastic surgery last year with 15.9 million spent on cosmetic surgery.
  2. Society trains people to wear mask because of the fear that if we show our true feelings and opinions about things, we will be rejected by our peers and family members. We become afraid the world is going to find us out. Or if I act like who I really am people will say, "Oh its just you".

**Joab became skilled at wearing the right mask at the right time.**

- Yet his life depicts a military genius that never found the true reality of personal relationship with The Almighty God.
- Joab worked hard at his skill as a church leader and was extremely effective but worked little to grow his inner character. Which 1 Sam. 16:7 says God looks at to measure a man's real identity.

God is drawn and attracted to:

1. A transparent attitude
2. A vulnerable attitude
3. Gods attracted to brokenness and humility to the point He honored David's curse on Joab. Yet God exalts David's name to have a throne forever. Read 2 Sam. 7:15-16.

**So how do you feel about the face you portray for the world to see?**

Let me ask the Question

- What mask do you wear?
- How do you feel about face you're portraying for the world to see? Are you truly yourself? Do you feel that you can be you, no matter what social situation you're in?
- Why are we so afraid to be authentic?
  - Becoming authentic is a process to begin knowing ourselves by knowing Him. To understand our own personality traits, behaviors, values, beliefs, needs, goals and motives. It's having the courage to acknowledge our limitations, and embrace our own vulnerability.

Read 1 John 3:2- Jacob created his own image and reputation while hiding his lust for control and hiding his anger.

- Joab wore a mask to protect himself from vulnerability. In the fear of looking weak and being taken advantage of.
- So Joab could never live up to his name and real identity as long as he had on his mask.
- Joab wore his mask because he did not value nor protect his spiritual treasures.
  - a. David was a resource of spiritual connection with God.
  - b. When threatened he let go all the other past spiritual victims.
- Joab wore his mask because he never learned to redirect his hidden anger he parked anger and lust in his productivity for his job and ministry.
- God's first priority is not your comfort but your character  
Read Matt. 11:28-30, this is how you take off masks.

This series is important tonight is reveals any mask we might be wearing. And it's important to come to an altar and take off all masks before God because the first is to live into our potential. We have to bring all of who we are to what we do. There are numerous people who have our same skillsets, or maybe an even better one. But none of these people bring the same personality, creativity, and spirit to the job that you do. That's something they can't match. The irony is that we often mask that part of ourselves at work and lose our greatest potential.

The second reason is relief. It is exhausting to live an inauthentic life. You put on a mask or two or ten, then take a few off, then put a couple more on...its exhausting! Worst of all, you start forgetting who you really are. As comedian and actress Fanny Brice explained, "Let the world know you as you are, not as you think you should be because sooner or later, if you are posing, you will forget the pose, and then, where are you?"

The third reason is healing. When we wear masks, we carve a piece of ourselves out- with holding parts of ourselves as unworthy. But in relationships, especially in our spiritual relationships, we can't be truly healed unless we offer up all the pieces. It's like handing someone a broken case and asking him or her to fix it but holding back two or three of the broken pieces. "Masks make shallow what God had intended to be deep... Everything in our lives bet cheated when we choose to hide ourselves behind our masks."

We weren't born with masks; we put them on, so we can take them off. "The greatest battle we face as human beings is the battle to protect our true selves from the self the world wants us to become."

Think about the masks you wear and commit to taking them off. Hold your gifts out to the world-no apology, no shame, and no regrets. As the old saying goes, every creature has its rightful place, and in that place it becomes beautiful.

Joabs greatest challenge to his mask and identity came when David was dying.

1. He changed his mask to support Adonijah as king.
2. How do you act when Pastor and leaders are not in your company?
3. Examples: Bro. Brown and Bro. Cupit at A.O.C people acted different after they died.

Closing:

1. Practice fearing God as your security and not making you successes and title your security.
2. Pursue intimacy with God as your highest priority at all times
3. Never use the church and ministry for personal gain.

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