

2 Samuel 18:24-19:4 NIV

While David was sitting between the inner and outer gates, the watchman went up to the roof of the gateway by the wall. As he looked out, he saw a man running alone. The watchman called out to the king and reported it. The king said, "If he is alone, he must have good news." And the runner came closer and closer. Then the watchman saw another runner, and he called down to the gatekeeper, "Look, another man running alone!" The king said, "He must be bringing good news, too." The watchman said, "It seems to me that the first one runs like Ahimaaz son of Zadok." "He's a good man," the king said. "He comes with good news." Then Ahimaaz called out to the king, "All is well!" He bowed down before the king with his face to the ground and said, "Praise be to the LORD your God! He has delivered up those who lifted their hands against my lord the king." The king asked, "Is the young man Absalom safe?" Ahimaaz answered, "I saw great confusion just as Joab was about to send the king's servant and me, your servant, but I don't know what it was." The king said, "Stand aside and wait here." So he stepped aside and stood there. Then the Cushite arrived and said, "My lord the king, hear the good news! The LORD has vindicated you today by delivering you from the hand of all who rose up against you." The king asked the Cushite, "Is the young man Absalom safe?" The Cushite replied, "May the enemies of my lord the king and all who rise up to harm you be like that young man." The king was shaken. He went up to the room over the gateway and wept. As he went, he said: "O my son Absalom! My son, my son Absalom! If only I had died instead of you—O Absalom, my son, my son!" Joab was told, "The king is weeping and mourning for Absalom." And for the whole army the victory that day was turned into mourning, because on that day the troops heard it said, "The king is grieving for his son." The men stole into the city that day as men steal in who are ashamed when they flee from battle. The king covered his face and cried aloud, "O my son Absalom! O Absalom, my son, my son!"

"Getting Through Regret" (2 Samuel 18:24-19:4)

Learning from Scripture's family heartaches

The Monkey – Regret's start

The Elephant – Regret's finish

The Pelican – deliverance from regret

The Monkey (2 Samuel 11, 13)

David and Amnon – The tragedy of taking what doesn't belong to us

Kids may not do what we say. They watch what we do – and follow that.

Repentance includes setting things right with God and with people wronged.

The Elephant (2 Samuel 14-18)

David and Absalom – silence is poison

The dance of family dysfunction

David and Ahithophel (2 Sam. 11:3, 15:12, 31, 17:23)

If the elephants in the room are ignored, they will have babies.

Owning sin avoids compounding sin.

The Pelican

(2 Sam. 15:30, Luke 23:26-33)

David's tearful exit and the Son of David's tearful entrance

Only the cross can bear the burden of our regrets.