

**FRIDAY, March 5, 2010:**

Happy Birthday to my son:  
**David L. Kemp II**

My old buddy; I love you, son!

2 Samuel 15:18 "...and all the Gittites, six hundred men who had followed him from Gath, passed before the king."

Old friends are best...don't neglect them!

That's the message of today's Bible verse. During the sad ordeal when Absalom was usurping the throne of his father, King David had to flee Jerusalem in order to save his life. The Bible records the people who went with him. One of the groups was his old friends and comrades in arms who were with him in the early days, all the way back to the times that he was in Gath.

One of the benefits of adversity is that it reveals your true friends. Don't allow the busyness of life to cause you to forget old friends. When the tough times come – and they will – all those surface friends and contacts will be missing in actions; it will be old friends that loved you when you were a nobody that will be there.

Why not pick up the phone today and call an old friend?

**SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 17:17**

"If you love, you're disciplined." \_Calvin Miller, Best Sermons, Volume 2, page 329

**SATURDAY, March 6, 2010:**

2 Samuel 17:25 "And Absalom made Amasa captain of the army instead of Joab...the son of a man who had gone in to Abigail the daughter of Nahash, sister of Zeruiah, Joab's mother."

Just as Absalom was beginning to achieve his objective, his faulty character began to undermine him. If you read today's Bible verse carefully you noticed that Absalom's choice to be the general of his army (an extremely important position!) was not chosen because he was qualified, but because he could bring ire to Joab (David's general.)

Absalom moved from managing his opportunities to seeking revenge.

The day came, however, when Absalom met Joab in a vulnerable moment and because his general had let him down, he lost his kingdom and his life.

When we allow ourselves to become distracted from our mission in life by personal vendettas and grudges we are also setting ourselves up for a terrible downfall. Please don't let that happen to you!

**SCRIPTURE: Leviticus 19:18**

"Vengeance and wrath are not emotions that humans are capable of handling. The reason God says, "Vengeance is Mine," is not because vengeance is wrong. Vengeance is right. It must come, but it must never be in the wrong hands. We are insufficient to the task. Vengeance in our hands will destroy us. We are not God, and vengeance is a godly thing." \_Mark Rutland, Character Matters



**Pastor Kemp's Weekly Devotional**

*For the week of February 28, 2010*

Daily Reflection Questions:

- Reflection: Of what eternal benefit was my day?
- Reflection: What eternal truth(s) did I observe today?
- Reflection: Did my behavior match my values?
- Reflection: What am I thankful for today?

***What I am thankful for this week:***

MONDAY: \_\_\_\_\_

TUESDAY: \_\_\_\_\_

WEDNESDAY: \_\_\_\_\_

THURSDAY: \_\_\_\_\_

FRIDAY: \_\_\_\_\_

SATURDAY: \_\_\_\_\_



## MONDAY, March 1, 2010:

2 Samuel 15:1 "...Absalom provided himself with chariots and horses, and fifty men to run before him."

The account of Absalom, how he betrayed his father and stole the Kingdom, is a sad tale. However, we can learn some important lessons from him about succeeding in life.

One is that how we present ourselves to the public matters. Absalom knew that if he was ever going to become king he had to appear "kingly." Nothing has changed. The way you present yourself matters; people read a lot into how you present yourself publically.

So what are you going to do today? If today feels a little strange, it is probably because you feel the weight of your 40-day commitments lifting from your shoulder. But let me remind you of one thing, if you made any commitment at all during the 40-days then by day 40 most of the people that live and work with you closely know about those commitments. How you respond today and in the days ahead are going to tell the tale of whether or not your sacrifices really made a difference. For you see, if nothing really changes about your life *after* the 40-days it probably means that nothing really changed *during* the 40-days. People will understand that your commitments were really just "window dressing" and not substantive.

I am not suggesting that you live in a perpetual state of fasting, but I am suggesting that life can't go back to the way it was before. God did not take you to a new level to have you go back to the old one. Too much is riding on your 40-day commitments to go back to "normal." God has lead you to a new normal; for your sake and for your witness, be strong today and keep the faith.

**SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 6:3-9**

## TUESDAY, March 2, 2010:

2 Samuel 15:3 "*Then Absalom would say to him, 'Look, your case is good and right; but there is no deputy of the king to hear you.'*"

Today's verse teaches us another important principle about life: If you do not take care of business, there are others that will be all too happy to do so.

Some of the blame for what Absalom did must lie with David. He ignored Absalom. He refused to see the warning signals and allowed Absalom to, little by little, undermine his standing with the people.

The same can happen in every area of our life. If we allow ourselves to become distracted, there will eventually come along some smooth talking competitor willing to steal all that we hold dear and sacred.

Let today's bible verse be a reminder to you to give your B-E-S-T...especially to those things that really matter.

**SCRIPTURE: Luke 10:40-42**

*"Things that go away by themselves can come back by themselves."* \_ "Rocky" the Microsoft Office Assistant

## WEDNESDAY, March 3, 2010:

2 Samuel 15:5 "*And so it was, whenever anyone came near to bow down to him, that he would put out his hand and take him and kiss him.*"

Continuing with the theme of lessons from the life of Absalom, we learn another extremely important lesson: **Relationships matter.**

The reason David lost his kingdom is that he allowed himself to become so busy with business of the kingdom that he forgot to stay connected with the people of the kingdom.

You can be the smartest, most talented, and best-qualified person in your organization but if people do not like you, there is only so much you will be able to do and only so far you will be able to go.

This is true in every area of life. The same can happen at home. Couples can get so busy with the business of running a household that they fail to take the time to hold each other.

Bottom line, do not forget why you're doing what you are doing. When you connect the dots of your life and it is not about a person, then you are most likely connecting the wrong dots!

**SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 2:32**

*"Age and experience don't necessarily make us better. Age and experience have a tendency to leave us in a rut, doing the same thing the same way with no one around to spur us toward change."* \_Andy Stanley, *The Next Generation Leader* p. 89

## THURSDAY, March 4, 2010:

2 Samuel 15:6 "*So Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel.*"

The writer sums up this sad chapter in the life of King David with today's verse.

The sad truth is that the spirit of Absalom still lives today.

Let me warn you, do not ignore the signs around you. Do not become distracted and allow your relationships to drift. Don't let little problems go unaddressed. Be vigilant concerning the state of your home, work and life.

But let me also remind you to not allow the spirit of Absalom to grip your life! The way you know if this may be the case is when your efforts in influencing people are no longer for their good but yours. When your agenda is about building your kingdom instead of Christ's Kingdom then there is a problem. When your efforts are about advancing your agenda instead of serving another's best interest you know you are treading on thin ice.

Bottom line, the best antidote for combating the spirit of Absalom is giving your B-E-S-T.

**SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 1:22**

*"Effective leaders are not enough. Hitler was an effective leader."* \_Henry & Richard Blackaby, *Spiritual Leadership*,