

No. 24 Do Not Imitate Disloyal Ones (Symposium)
-Absalom

[PLEASE NOTE: This talk includes a video]

HOW ABSALOM DISPLAYED DISLOYALTY (2 min.)

As a son of King David and a member of the royal family, Absalom enjoyed a unique and favored position in life

After Absalom spent three years in exile for plotting and carrying out vengeance against his half brother Amnon, David permitted Absalom's return and, in time, restored him to the royal court. Despite the favor shown to him, Absalom disloyally undermined his father's administration (2Sa 15:2-6; w12 4/15 9 ¶5)

He usurped the throne and waged war against his own father

His disloyal actions led to disaster (2Sa 18:9-17)

WHY ABSALOM CHOSE TO BE DISLOYAL (2 min.)

Absalom was not satisfied with his privileges and position

His disloyalty was fueled by pride and ambition

He was "highly praised for his handsome appearance"; he acquired for himself a chariot with a contingent of 50 men to run ahead of it; he erected a monument to himself (2Sa 14:25; 15:1; 18:18)

At the time of his revolt, Absalom may have been the eldest surviving son of King David and therefore the obvious choice, from a human standpoint, as David's successor

His ambition may have been stoked by association with his grandfather, pagan King Talmai of Geshur (2Sa 13:37, 38)

Perhaps Absalom reasoned that as a prince with royal lineage through both his father and his non-Israelite mother, he was undeniably the heir apparent, regardless of Jehovah's wishes (it-1 33 ¶3)

HOW WE CAN AVOID FOLLOWING ABSALOM'S BAD EXAMPLE (2 min.)

[Read Philippians 2:3] Never let an ambitious spirit like that of Absalom take root in your heart (w00 8/1 12 ¶13-14)

If you feel that you have been overlooked for privileges, do not allow this to cause you to become disloyal

Do not use generosity and flattery in a hypocritical way to influence overseers to give you privileges

Absalom's relatives may have influenced him to act disloyally

Wives, avoid fanning the flames of ambition in your husband if he does not receive privileges that others may have

VIDEO (2 min.)

"DO NOT SET YOUR MIND ON LOFTY THINGS" (1 min.)

[Read Romans 12:16] Avoid envying others when they receive privileges

Reflect appreciatively on the blessings you already enjoy

You are greatly valued by Jehovah when you loyally and modestly serve in whatever capacity you are assigned (Lu 9:48)

Reject the ambitious and disloyal course of Absalom!

Let us give our attention to Brother _____ as he helps us to avoid imitating the bad example set by another disloyal one, Solomon

TO BE COVERED IN 9 MINUTES

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