

BOOK OF 2 SAMUEL
THE LORD DO THAT WHICH SEEMETH HIM GOOD
2 SAMUEL 10:1-19

I. WHILE DOING GOOD OR EVEN ATTEMPTING TO DO GOOD, OUR MOTIVES CAN SOMETIMES BE CALLED INTO QUESTION! (Vs 1-3)

Has that ever happened to you?

Have you ever tried to do someone good and somebody called your actions into question because they mistook what your intentions were? It can happen to the best of us...even when we have the best of intentions!

Here we see it happened to David, the man after God's own heart!

Here in 2 Samuel 10 we see that the king of the Ammonites, Nahash, had died and his son, Hanun, now was ruling in his place.

David wanted to show kindness to Hanun because there was a time that his father, Nahash had shown kindness to David.

So sent a delegation to express his condolences to Hanun for the loss of his father.

Unfortunately, this good gesture was questioned and wrongly interpreted by the princes of the children of Ammon.

Hanun, being new and being young, was swayed by his princes into thinking that David's intentions were not good!

They wrongly suspected that the delegation from David did not come out of sympathy, but rather to spy on the land.

Of course this was a wrong assumption that, as we will see in the verses that follow, eventually led to some very disastrous results for a whole lot of people!

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OUR MOTIVES CAN SOMETIMES BE CALLED INTO QUESTION.*

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II. WHEN WE MAKE WRONG ASSUMPTIONS, IT CAN LEAD TO WRONG ACTIONS! (Vs 4-5)

What we see King Hanun do here should cause us to pause and take note because it is something that can happen to us as well!

Be careful about the assumptions you make and especially be careful about letting your assumptions lead you to doing something that you'll wind up regretting!

King Hanun believed what his princes had to say and, unfortunately for him, his people, and even his allies, he acted upon it.

What did he do? He mocked and humiliated the delegates.

First, Hanun shaved off one half of their beards.

Next, he cut off their garments in the middle up to their buttocks and sent them away.

III. WRONG ACTIONS THAT COME FROM WRONG ASSUMPTIONS CAN SOMETIMES LEAD TO OTHER FOOLISH ACTIONS! (Vs 6-11)

A. David's Anger. (Vs 6a)

Obviously David became very angry when he came to know what happened to his servants! And who can blame him?

B. The Ammonites Prepare. (Vs 6b)

The Ammonites, knowing that they had greatly offended David, expected that David would retaliate against them.

So they preempted David by hiring bands of various Syrians to help them go fight against David's army. In fact, they prepared a great offensive to attack David's army on two fronts!

C. David's Defense. (Vs 7)

In response to the buildup of forces against Israel, David sent Joab and all the host of the might men to meet them.

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But as we know that David's main defense was his LORD, as we will see articulated later by Joab before the battle began!

D. The Ammonites Plan And Joab's Response. (Vs 8-11)

The Ammonites and Syrians used a war maneuver that has become known through the years as "*The Pincher*". It is a maneuver that has been used by various armies through the years, but was made famous by Hitler's army in WWII.

"*The Pincher*" maneuver involves an attempt to overwhelm an army by fighting them on opposite ends of the battlefield at the same time! The Syrian armies attacked Israel from the north and the Ammonite army attacked them from the south.

But the Ammonites failed to consider the foolishness of warring against the LORD's people! And the Syrians were drawn into this ill-fated battle that was not their own. But their ignorance did nothing to help them in their fight against Israel!

Remember now, all the fighting that we see going on here started with a wrong presumption...the wrong presumption led them to react with some wrong actions and then pile on foolishness on top of those wrong actions—fighting against the LORD and His people!

IV. GOD WATCHES OUT FOR HIS PEOPLE WHEN THEY ARE WRONGLY ATTACKED! (Vs 12)

David really had meant well in sending the delegation. His desire was to show kindness. And something good COULD have come out of his actions for both the Ammonites and Israel. (I'm thinking possibly a long-lasting peace accord?)

However, whatever got into the minds of the nobles and King Hunan destroyed all possibility of any good coming out of it on THEIR part AND Syria's part ! (Be very careful in fighting someone else's battle... especially when you don't have all the facts!)

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But we'll see that God saw to it that ISRAEL got something out of it!

You don't mess with God's people and think you are going to be on top in the end!

Here in this verse Joab articulates what he, no doubt, has learned under the leadership of David. Four things we see here:

Be of good courage...

Fight for the cause of the LORD's people...

Fight for what belongs to the LORD...

Trust the LORD to do that which seemeth good to Him!

V. THE RESULTS OF THE BATTLE! (Vs 13-19)

Needless to say, the battle went well for the people of the LORD and not so well for their oppressors! In the END that is how it will always be!

In this battle, the Syrians fled in defeat...(Vs 13) and the Ammonites fled back through the gates of their city in defeat! (Vs 14)

The Syrians added some reinforcements to their number and came back for seconds and were defeated a second time! (Vs 15-19)

The results of the battle for the Syrians:

700 chariot men were killed!

40,000 horsemen were killed!

The Captain of the Syrian army, Shobach, was killed!

Syria surrendered and made peace with Israel by becoming their servants!

The Syrians determined that they had made a mistake in helping the Ammonites!

The outcome of the Ammonites wasn't much better in the end. (11:1)