

ROYAL MISTAKES

Lessons from the Bible's worst leaders

Mistake #4 The Wrong Advice

Setting the Scene

1. David King
2. Absalom seek to overthrow his father (2 Sam. 15:1-12)
3. David leaves Jerusalem (2 Sam. 15:13-14)
4. Ahithophel, David's counselor side with Absalom (2 Sam. 15:31)
5. Hushai, Loyal to David but returns to "serve" Absalom (2 Sam. 15:32-34, 37 16:15-19)

Absalom's fatal mistakes

1. Falling to flattery (2 Sam. 16:19)
2. Treating human advice as God's advice (2 Sam. 16:23)
3. Failing to inquire of God
4. Being led by whomever is the most persuasive (2 Sam. 17:1-14)

The rest of the Story

1. David has time to prepare
2. Ahithophel commits suicide (2 Sam. 17:23)
3. Absalom leads army in battle
4. Absalom killed in woods of Ephraim (2 Sam. 18:9-18)

Lessons for us

1. Bathe everything in prayer (everything)
2. Rely on biblical guidance rather than human persuasion
3. Know the character of the person giving advice
4. Recognize the persuasion techniques that are used

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

Can you recall a time you received and followed poor advice?

In your own words state why you think Absalom was so open to follow poor advice?

How would you rate Hushai's ability to persuade? What methods and techniques did he use?

Why do we often fail to take everything to God in prayer?

How can we do a better job of praying about everything?

In what ways have you found God's Word to be the best advice on how to live?

How can we avoid being unduly persuaded by others who perhaps are not providing the best advice?