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*When Winning Feels Like Losing*

The Bounce Back – Part 7

II Samuel 18:1-33

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May 31, 2020

Q. Have you ever had a win feel like a loss?

II Sam. 18:33 *The king was deeply moved and went up to the chamber over the gate and wept. And thus he said as he walked, "O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would I had died instead of you, O Absalom, my son, my son!"* (NAU)

Winning the Battles that Matter Most:

1. Dealing with Conflicting Goals (Vs. 1-5)

II Sam. 18:1-5 *Then David numbered the people who were with him and set over them commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds. 2 David sent the people out, one third under the command of Joab, one third under the command of Abishai the son of Zeruiah, Joab's brother, and one third under the command of Ittai the Gittite. And the king said to the people, "I myself will surely go out with you also." 3 But the people said, "You should not go out; for if we indeed flee, they will not care about us; even if half of us die, they will not care about us. But you are worth ten thousand of us; therefore now it is better that you be ready to help us from the city." 4 Then the king said to them, "Whatever seems best to you I will do." So the king stood beside the gate, and all the people went out by hundreds and thousands. 5 The king charged Joab and Abishai and Ittai, saying, "Deal gently for my sake with the young man Absalom." And all the people heard when the king charged all the commanders concerning Absalom.*

1. You Can’t Win them All. (Vs. 6-18)

II Sam. 18:6-18 *Then the people went out into the field against Israel, and the battle took place in the forest of Ephraim. 7 The people of Israel were defeated there before the servants of David, and the slaughter there that day was great, 20,000 men. 8 For the battle there was spread over the whole countryside, and the forest devoured more people that day than the sword devoured. 9 Now Absalom happened to meet the servants of David. For Absalom was riding on his mule, and the mule went under the thick branches of a great oak. And his head caught fast in the oak, so he was left hanging between heaven and earth, while the mule that was under him kept going. 10 When a certain man saw it, he told Joab and said, "Behold, I saw Absalom hanging in an oak."*

1. When Winning Feels Like Losing. (Vs. 19-33)

II Sam. 18:19-20;33 *Then Ahimaaz the son of Zadok said, "Please let me run and bring the king news that the LORD has freed him from the hand of his enemies." 20 But Joab said to him, "You are not the man to carry news this day, but you shall carry news another day; however, you shall carry no news today because the king's son is dead." … 33 The king was deeply moved and went up to the chamber over the gate and wept. And thus he said as he walked, "O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would I had died instead of you, O Absalom, my son, my son!"*

Matthew 16:26 *"For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”*

Point: Focus your life on winning where it matters most.

Doggy Bag: Something to take home and chew on! 

1. When have you won something and felt like a loser? What caused that response? What did you do with it?
2. What matters most to you in your life? What battles are the most important for you to win? How do we win the battles that matter most?
3. This Covid-19 shutdown is a chance for each of us to consider what matters most in life: Are you on the right career path? Are you focused on the right degree in school? Are you giving appropriate priority to your family or your relationships? Where is Jesus in your life? Are you making your life with Christ your number one? Have you discovered the Spirit’s call on your life?