

When Disaster Strikes

Series: “*Winds of Change*”

Message #4: 2 Samuel 15, 18

EBC

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2 Samuel 15:1–6 (CSB) - *After this, Absalom got himself a chariot, horses, and fifty men to run before him. ²He would get up early and stand beside the road leading to the city gate. Whenever anyone had a grievance to bring before the king for settlement, Absalom called out to him and asked, “What*

city are you from?" If he replied, "Your servant is from one of the tribes of Israel," ³*Absalom said to him, "Look, your claims are good and right, but the king does not have anyone to listen to you."* ⁴*He added, "If only someone would appoint me judge in the land. Then anyone who had a grievance or*

dispute could come to me, and I would make sure he received justice.” ⁵*When a person approached to pay homage to him, Absalom reached out his hand, took hold of him, and kissed him.* ⁶*Absalom did this to all the Israelites who came to the king for a settlement. So Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel.*

Scene 1: Heartbreak Ridge

Psalm 63:1b (CSB) - *I thirst for you; my body faints for you in a land that is dry, desolate, and without water.*

**It's a fact: *To experience
personal attack and
betrayal is heartbreaking.***

Scene 2:

**Where to
turn?**

2 Samuel 15:30–31 (CSB) - *David was climbing the slope of the Mount of Olives, weeping as he ascended. His head was covered, and he was walking barefoot. All of the people with him covered their heads and went up, weeping as they ascended.*

***31 Then someone reported to David:
“Ahithophel is among the
conspirators with Absalom.”***

***“LORD,” David pleaded, “please
turn the counsel of Ahithophel into
foolishness!”***

Psalm 63:1–8 (ESV) - *O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.*

²So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory. ³Because your steadfast

love is better than life, my lips will praise you. ⁴So I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands.

*⁵My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips,
⁶when I remember you upon my*

*bed, and meditate on you in the
watches of the night; ⁷for you have
been my help, and in the shadow
of your wings I will sing for joy.*

*⁸My soul clings to you; your right
hand upholds me.*

Psalm 7:1-11 (CSB) - *LORD my God,
I seek refuge in you; save me from
all my pursuers and rescue me ²or
they will tear me like a lion, ripping
me apart with no one to rescue me.
³LORD my God, if I have done this,
if there is injustice on my hands,
⁴if I have done harm to one at*

*peace with me or have plundered
my adversary without cause, ⁵may
an enemy pursue and overtake me;
may he trample me to the ground
and leave my honor in the dust.*

Selah

*⁶Rise up, LORD, in your anger; lift
yourself up against the fury of my
adversaries; awake for me; you*

have ordained a judgment. ⁷Let the assembly of peoples gather around you; take your seat on high over it. ⁸The LORD judges the peoples; vindicate me, LORD, according to my righteousness and my integrity.

⁹Let the evil of the wicked come to an end, but establish the

righteous. The one who examines the thoughts and emotions is a righteous God. ¹⁰My shield is with God, who saves the upright in heart. ¹¹God is a righteous judge and a God who shows his wrath every day.

Timeless Truth: *In times of personal attack and betrayal, turn to God for protection and vindication.*

Scene 3:

God's Deliverance

2 Samuel 18:6–7 (CSB) - *Then David's forces marched into the field to engage Israel in battle, which took place in the forest of Ephraim. ⁷Israel's army was defeated by David's soldiers, and the slaughter there was vast that day—twenty thousand dead.*

Psalm 18:25–28 (CSB) - *With the faithful you prove yourself faithful, with the blameless you prove yourself blameless, ²⁶with the pure you prove yourself pure; but with the crooked you prove yourself shrewd. ²⁷For you rescue an oppressed people, but you humble*

*those with haughty eyes. ²⁸LORD,
you light my lamp; my God
illuminates my darkness.*

Bank on it: *You can trust that God will ultimately protect and vindicate you.*