

## **Biggest Losers in the Bible** **Absalom**

### ***He murders his brother and flees after avenging his sister's assault.***

- ✓ Absalom (David' 3<sup>rd</sup> son by another wife, 3:3) kills David's firstborn son, Amnon, for raping his sister, II Sam 13:1ff. How should such assaults be handled?
- ✓ Absalom flees to his grandfather's city for protection but returns with Joab's help; yet he is further embittered because David initially won't allow see him, and Joab won't respond to him, thus more violence by Absalom, 14:21ff.

### ***He seizes his father's throne through flattery and deceit.***

- ✓ After David pardons Absalom, he immediately begins to woo the hearts of any who seek justice, as he parades around in his escorted chariot, 15:1-6. His handsomeness (14:25,26) and humility (15:5), help him in in what some call "the Absalom syndrome"—the idea that he would do a better job as the leader. Have you seen this in businesses and in the church?
- ✓ After a deceitful trip to Hebron (15:8ff.) Absalom's conspiracy is revealed and David and his loyalists flee. To strengthen his grip on power, Absalom does what so embittered him to begin with only worse, as he sexually assaults 10 of David's concubines while they take care of the palace, 16:20-23. What often happens when we can't forgive and nurse bitterness?

### ***He starts a civil war and dies in a humiliating way.***

- ✓ Hushai's counsel appeals to Absalom's vanity, thus dooming his attack on his more experienced father. He dies in a humiliating and ironically appropriate way, 18:9ff., and 20,000 die in battle because of Absalom's bitterness 18:7.
- ✓ The aftermath of the civil war leads to continued conflict/violence, 20:1ff. Do those who conspire in order to fix things tend to make things worse?



As w/Esau, predictions had been made about future family problems (12:10,11), but choices were made as to whom would fulfill them.

Why is the rebellion of Absalom especially so foolish and evil?