

2 Samuel 10 - An Act of Kindness that Led to the Death of 40,000

It started as an act of kindness - it ended in the death of more than 40,000 people. What happened? How could something so innocent and benign escalate out of control so quickly.

Unwilling to seek truth

- 2Sa 10:1-19 NIV In the course of time, the king of the Ammonites died, and his son Hanun succeeded him as king. 2 David thought, "**I will show kindness to Hanun** son of Nahash, just as his father showed kindness to me." So **David sent a delegation to express his sympathy** to Hanun concerning his father. When David's men came to the land of the Ammonites, 3 the Ammonite commanders said to Hanun their lord, "**Do you think David is honoring your father by sending envoys to you to express sympathy?** Hasn't David sent them to you only to explore the city and **spy it out and overthrow it?**"

No one knows the heart of another

- 1Co 2:11 ESV For who knows a person's thoughts ***except the spirit of that person***, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.

Search out a matter

- Deu 13:12-15 NIV ***If you hear it said*** about one of the towns the LORD your God is giving you to live in 13 that troublemakers have arisen among you and have led the people of their town astray, saying, "Let us go and worship other gods" (gods you have not known), 14 ***then you must inquire, probe and investigate it thoroughly***. And if it is true and it has been proved that this detestable thing has been done among you, 15 you must certainly put to the sword all who live in that town. You must destroy it completely, both its people and its livestock.
- [Read Joshua 22] for a real life example of this

There are two sides to every story

- Pro 18:17 NIV In a lawsuit ***the first to speak seems right, UNTIL*** someone comes forward and cross-examines.

Go to the source

- Mat 18:15 ESV "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, ***between you and him alone***. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother.

Unwilling to show respect

4 So Hanun seized David's envoys, **shaved off half of each man's beard, cut off their garments at the buttocks**, and sent them away. 5 When David was told about this, he sent messengers to meet the men, for **they were greatly humiliated**. The king said, "**Stay at Jericho till your beards have grown, and then come back.**"

- Rom 12:10 NIV Be devoted to one another in love. **Honor one another above yourselves.** [*ESV Outdo one another in showing honor.*]
- 1Pe 2:17 NIV **Show proper respect to everyone**, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.
- Pro 17:5 NIV Whoever **mocks the poor shows contempt for their Maker**; whoever gloats over disaster will not go unpunished.
- Jas 3:9-11 NIV With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it **we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness.** 10 Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. 11 Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring?

Hanun had no regard for the dignity of these men - cut their beard and clothing

David guarded these men from embarrassment - stay in Jericho till your beards have grown

Unwilling to humble himself

6 When the Ammonites realized that they had become obnoxious to David, they hired twenty thousand Aramean foot soldiers from Beth Rehob and Zobah, as well as the king of Maakah with a thousand men, and also twelve thousand men from Tob.

- What happened to admitting he was wrong
- Why not apologize and seek forgiveness
- Instead he raises the stakes and hires an army

Unwilling to fight his own battles

7 On hearing this, David sent Joab out with the entire army of fighting men. 8 The Ammonites came out and drew up in battle formation at the entrance of their city gate, while the Arameans of Zobah and Rehob and the men of Tob and Maakah were by themselves in the open country. 9 Joab saw that there were battle lines in front of him and behind him; so he selected some of the best troops in Israel and deployed them against the Arameans. 10 He put the rest of the men under the command of Abishai his brother and deployed them against the Ammonites. 11 Joab said, "If the Arameans are too strong for me, then you are to come to my rescue; but if the Ammonites are too strong for you, then I will come to rescue you. 12 Be strong, and let us fight bravely for our people and the cities of our God. The LORD will do what is good in his sight." 13 Then Joab and the troops with him advanced to fight the Arameans, and they fled before him. 14 **When the Ammonites realized that the Arameans were fleeing, they fled** before Abishai and **went inside the city.** So Joab returned from fighting the Ammonites and came to Jerusalem.

Unwilling to yield until it was too late (the party HE dragged into the conflict)

15 **After the Arameans saw that they had been routed by Israel, they regrouped.** 16 Hadadezer had Arameans brought from beyond the Euphrates River; they went to Helam, with Shobak the

commander of Hadadezer's army leading them. 17 When David was told of this, he gathered all Israel, crossed the Jordan and went to Helam. The Arameans formed their battle lines to meet David and fought against him.

It all ended with over 40,000 people losing their lives

18 But they fled before Israel, and **David killed seven hundred of their charioteers and forty thousand of their foot soldiers**. He also struck down Shobak the commander of their army, and he died there. 19 When all the kings who were vassals of Hadadezer saw that they had been routed by Israel, they made peace with the Israelites and became subject to them. So the Arameans were afraid to help the Ammonites anymore.