

LESSONS IN HANDLING CONFLICT

2 Samuel 20-21

Outline

1. Conflict between Israel and Judah (19:40-20:2)
2. Conflict between Joab and Amasa (20:7-13)
3. Conflict between David's army and the people of Abel-Beth-Maacah (20:14-22)
4. Conflict between Israel and God (famine) (21:1)
5. Conflict between Israel and the Gibeonites (21:2-14)

Rebellion of Sheba 2 Samuel 20



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Proverbs 15:1

A gentle answer turns away wrath,
But a harsh word stirs up anger.

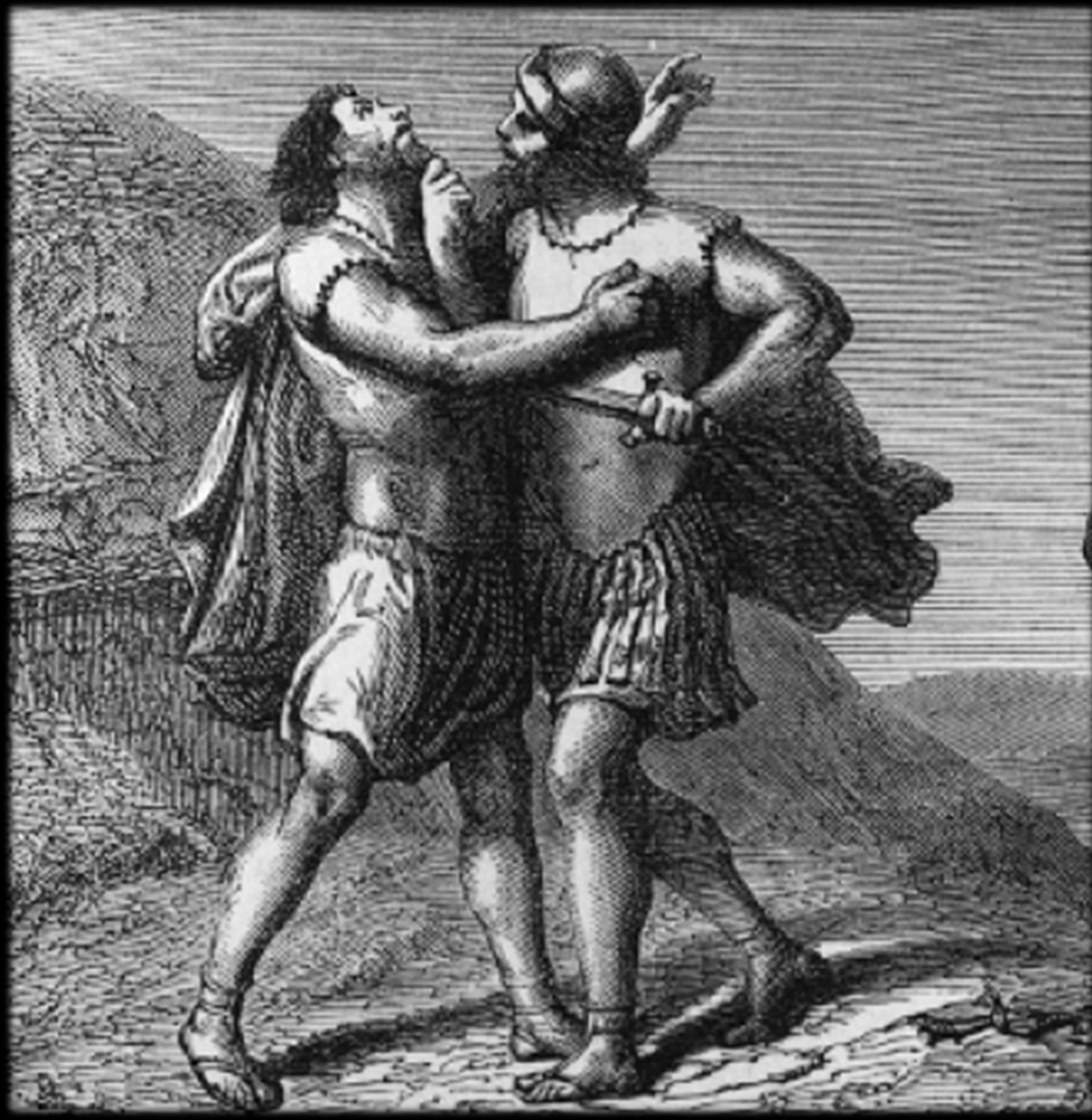
James 4:1-3

What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members? You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend *it* on your pleasures.

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Numbers 35:33-34

So you shall not pollute the land in which you are; for blood pollutes the land and no expiation can be made for the land for the blood that is shed on it, except by the blood of him who shed it. You shall not defile the land in which you live, in the midst of which I dwell; for I the LORD am dwelling in the midst of the sons of Israel.’ ”

Ecclesiastes 5:4-5

When you make a vow to God, do not be late in paying it; for *He takes* no delight in fools. Pay what you vow! It is better that you should not vow than that you should vow and not pay it.



Lessons in Handling Conflict

1. You can stir up more conflict with harsh words. Being prideful, self-focused, jealous, looking out for yourself, rather than the good of the whole.

Proverbs 15:1, Ecc. 9:18

Examine your motives.

2. David treated his 10 concubines who had been publicly dishonored and humiliated with kindness, compassion and care. He tended to them as widows, properly cared for in his household for the rest of their lives.

Treat victims with respect and honor and protection.

Lessons in Handling Conflict

3. David was unhappy with Joab for his part in killing his son Absalom and also for his murder of Abner. However, David's hands were tied in dealing Joab since Joab had led them to victory and he had the support of the people. David responded passive-aggressively by replacing Joab with Amasa as commander and chief of David's armies, which we see did nothing to resolve the conflict, and only resulted in more murder.

Was there a better way for David to have handled this conflict?

Beware of passive-aggressive moves. They don't usually have good outcomes, just delays.

Lessons in Handling Conflict

4. Joab and Amasa

Joab's way of handling conflict was to take matters into his own hands and get rid of any competition.

5. Joab and the Wise Woman

She showed wisdom in handling conflict and there is much we can learn from her example.

- a. She approached Joab—the man in charge.
- b. She was concise in her request.
- c. She was courageous, collected and calm—no histrionics or drama!
- d. She sought the counsel and agreement of her people and decided the wisest course to take and followed through, thus ending the conflict.

Lessons in Handling Conflict

6. David sought the Lord in the conflict between Israel and God.
7. Israel and the Gibeonites
 - a. David approached the Gibeonites after the Lord revealed the cause of the famine.
 - b. He accepted responsibility on behalf of Israel.
 - c. He asked what he could do to make this right.
 - d. He followed through with what they asked for.

8. Rizpah's grief over her sons

David is moved by compassion at Rizpah's grief and vigil over her sons' bodies and gives them, Saul, and Jonathan a decent and honorable burial.

Are we moved by compassion to do what we can to comfort or ease others' grief?