

TREASON 2 SAM. 14:25-27; 15:1-11

This treason will dominate the next few chapters. However, this begins with criticism and gossip – a tool rebels & politicians have long used to promote themselves.

Basic kinds:

1. “Blowing off steam” criticism & gossip

Frustrations, irritations, limitations....

2. “Negative personality” criticism & gossip

Born & weaned on a dill pickle

Drink pickle juice for breakfast

Never happy, and never going to be happy – but they can make everyone else

They can poison those around them since they can only see & discuss the % negative!

3. “Small minded” criticism & gossip

Great minds: talk about ideas

Average minds: talk about events

Small minds: talk about people

Smallest minds: talk about themselves

That’s not my job, my responsibility, fault...

Why hasn’t the pastor / boss / person in charge...?

A lifetime of criticism of bosses, owners, those who are in charge or over you

4. “Putdown” criticism & gossip

I can only look good by making you look bad

Proverbs 26:20 Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: So where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth.

Proverbs 26:21 As coals are to burning coals, and wood to fire; So is a contentious man to kindle strife. **Proverbs 26:22** The words of a talebearer are as wounds, And they go down into the innermost parts of the belly. **Proverbs 26:23** Burning lips and a wicked heart Are like a potsherd covered with silver dross. **Proverbs 26:24** He that hateth dissembleth with his lips, And layeth up deceit within him; **Proverbs 26:25** When he speaketh fair, believe him not: For there are seven abominations in his heart. **Proverbs 26:26** Whose hatred is covered by deceit, His wickedness shall be shewed before the whole congregation. **Proverbs 26:27** Whoso diggeth a pit shall fall therein: And he that rolleth a stone, it will return upon him. **Proverbs 26:28** A lying tongue hateth those that are afflicted by it; And a flattering mouth worketh ruin.

5. The criticism & gossip of treason

Abasalom became this.

This is a high level (or low-level) form of gossip

A. Absalom started with his good looks

2 Samuel 14:25 But in all Israel there was none to be so much praised as Absalom for his beauty: from the sole of his foot even to the crown of his head there was no blemish in him. **2 Samuel 14:26** And when he polled his head, (for it was at every year’s end that he polled it: because the hair was heavy on him, therefore he polled it:) he weighed the hair of his head at two hundred shekels after the king’s weight. **2 Samuel 14:27** And unto Absalom there were born three sons, and one daughter, whose name was Tamar: she was a woman of a fair countenance.

2 Samuel 18:9 And Absalom met the servants of David. And Absalom rode upon a mule, and the mule went under the thick boughs of a great oak, and his head caught hold of the oak, and he was taken up between the heaven and the earth; and the mule that was under him went away.

2 Samuel 18:14 Then said Joab, I may not tarry thus with thee. And he took three darts in his hand, and thrust them through the heart of Absalom, while he was yet alive in the midst of the oak. **2 Samuel 18:15** And ten young men that bare Joab’s armour compassed about and smote Absalom, and slew him.

1 Samuel 10:23 And they ran and fetched him thence: **and when he stood among the people, he was higher than any of the people from his shoulders and upward.** **1 Samuel 10:24** And Samuel said to all the people, See ye him whom the LORD hath chosen, **that there is none like him among all the people?** And all the people shouted, and said, God save the king.

1 Samuel 16:6 And it came to pass, when they were come, that he looked on Eliab, and said, **Surely the LORD's anointed is before him.** **1 Samuel 16:7** But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look **not** on his countenance, **or** on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: **for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.**

B. Absalom arrived in grand style

2 Samuel 15:1 And it came to pass after this, **that Absalom prepared him chariots and horses, and fifty men to run before him.**

C. Absalom began early in the morning

2 Samuel 15:2 And Absalom rose up early, and stood beside the way of the gate: and it was so, that when any man that had a controversy came to the king for judgment, then Absalom called unto him, and said, Of what city art thou? And he said, Thy servant is of one of the tribes of Israel.

2 Samuel 11:1 And it came to pass, after the year was expired, at the time when kings go forth to battle, that David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the children of Ammon, and besieged Rabbah. But David tarried still at Jerusalem. **2 Samuel 11:2** And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon.

D. Absalom greeted everyone personally & even humbly

2 Samuel 15:2 And Absalom rose up early, and stood beside the way of the gate: and it was so, that when any man that had a controversy came to the king for judgment, **then Absalom called unto him, and said, Of what city art thou? And he said, Thy servant is of one of the tribes of Israel.**

2 Samuel 15:5 And it was so, that **when** any man came nigh to him to do him obeisance, **he put forth his hand, and took him, and kissed him.** **2 Samuel 15:6** And on this manner did Absalom to all Israel that came to the king for judgment: so Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel.

E. Absalom accepted every single case

F. Absalom agreed with every single complaint

2 Samuel 15:3 And Absalom said unto him, See, thy matters are good and right; but there is no man deputed of the king to hear thee.

G. Absalom created a false impression

2 Samuel 15:3 And Absalom said unto him, See, thy matters are good and right; but there is no man deputed of the king to hear thee.

2 Samuel 15:4 Absalom said moreover, Oh that I were made judge in the land, that every man which hath any suit or cause might come unto me, and I would do him justice!

2 Samuel 15:5 And it was so, that when any man came nigh to him to do him obeisance, he put forth his hand, and took him, and kissed him. **2 Samuel 15:6** And on this manner did Absalom to all Israel that came to the king for judgment: **so Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel.**

H. Absalom added the religious element

2 Samuel 15:7 And it came to pass after forty years, that Absalom said unto the king, **I pray thee, let me go and pay my vow, which I have vowed unto the LORD, in Hebron.** **2 Samuel 15:8** For thy servant vowed a vow while I abode at Geshur in Syria, saying, **If** the LORD shall bring me again indeed to Jerusalem, **then** I will serve the LORD. **2 Samuel 15:9** And the king said unto him, Go in peace. So he arose, and went to Hebron.

2 Samuel 3:1 Now there was long war between the house of Saul and the house of David: but David waxed stronger and stronger, and the house of Saul waxed weaker and weaker. **2 Samuel 3:2** And unto David were sons born in Hebron: and his firstborn was Amnon, of Ahinoam the Jezreelitess; **2 Samuel 3:3** And his second, Chileab, of Abigail the wife of Nabal the Carmelite; and the third, Absalom the son of Maacah the daughter of Talmai king of Geshur;

I. Absalom deceived many people

2 Samuel 15:10 But Absalom sent spies throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, As soon as ye hear the sound of the trumpet, then ye shall say, Absalom reigneth in Hebron. **2 Samuel 15:11** And with Absalom went two hundred men out of Jerusalem, that were called; and they went in their simplicity, and they knew not any thing.