

Reading: I Chronicles 19:1-19, James 3:5

Topic: Unfortunate Misunderstandings

INTRODUCTION: In life it is unfortunate but true that many conflicts could have been be _____ if only proper communication had cleared up what was _____ a misunderstanding.

I. AN INTENDED KIND GESTURE:

A. David's Act of Compassion:

1. King David received the news that Nahash the king of the people of Ammon had _____ away and Nahash had been kind to King David in the past during the time of King Saul. I Chr. 19:1
2. The son of Nahash assumed the throne of his _____ and became the new king of the people of Ammon.
3. David's desire was to send a message of _____ to the new king and to comfort him in his time of mourning the _____ of his father. I Chr. 19:2

B. The Sending of Messengers:

1. In ancient times, the way to send personal greetings or _____ if you could not go yourself was to send a messenger or a _____ of messengers in your own stead.
2. Often a gift of some sort would also be _____ with the messengers to offer to the individual as part of the message of _____ and condolence.

II. THE MISUNDERSTANDING:

A. Suspicious Advisors:

1. The advisors to the new _____ caused a great misunderstanding to occur as they suggested that the real motive for David sending the delegation of messengers was not for _____ but to be spies.
2. The suggestion that the delegation was really a _____ of spies caused such consternation in the court of the new _____ that it was said there would be an overthrow of the kingdom. I Chr. 19:3

B. The Disrespectful Treatment:

1. The new young king listened to the suspicions of his advisors and then proceeded to mistreat _____ messengers in a most disrespectful _____, shaming them publicly. I Chr. 19:4
2. The shaving of the men and the cutting off of their _____ in the manner that is described in the Scripture would be much the same as if in today's modern world they would be _____ naked.

III. THE WAR BEGINS:

A. The Reaction of King David:

1. When the news came to King David of what had been done to the messengers that he had _____ to comfort the new king, he gave them instructions to go to Jericho and _____ there until their beards had grown out and then _____ to Jerusalem where David was. I Chr. 19:5

2. There is no mention in the Scripture that David had any intention of going to _____ over this incident, only just to shield his messengers from the embarrassment of returning _____ in shame.

B. Suspicion Causes War:

1. The people of Ammon began to realize that they might have severely _____ King David and as a result they began to _____ that David might launch an attack on them. I Chr. 19:6
2. The Ammonites hired 32,000 chariots along with the king of Maacah and his army and then the _____ of Ammon also assembled and prepared for the _____. I Chr. 19:7
3. From the words of few suspicious advisors to a mourning _____, a full-blown war is started involving the armies of Mesopotamia, Syria and Ammon _____ the army of Israel.

C. Many Lives are Lost:

1. The battle began and Israel fought on two _____ - against the Syrians and against the Ammonites and in both cases, God gave His people the power to defeat their _____ who fled before them. v.15
2. The Syrians who had been defeated and then retreated went and got reinforcements and _____ to make a second _____ on Israel. I Chr. 19:16
3. King David and his army soundly defeated the Syrians again and there were _____ lives lost in that battle – 7 thousand chariot warriors plus 40 thousand foot soldiers of the _____ were killed.

IV. LESSONS TO LEARN:

A. Misunderstandings Can Cause Big Trouble:

1. The Word of God states that small misunderstandings can _____ great trouble in the same way that a tiny spark can cause a huge _____ fire. James 3:5
2. The Lord stated in the Old Testament Law that it was against His word to cause _____ by being a Gossip among His _____, for it will lead to misunderstanding and conflict. Lev. 19:16

B. Avoid Escalation of Situations Through Communication:

1. This whole situation with David and the new _____ of Ammon could have been resolved if there had been a way to communicate _____ with each other.
2. Due to the lack of _____ communication, there was an escalation in this situation caused by the suspicion and the talk that came from the _____ of the advisors. Prov. 26:20
3. Jesus taught us that if a misunderstanding arises between people the _____ way to deal with the situation is not to go and talk with _____ other people, but rather go speak one to one. Mt. 18:15
4. Remember this – it is much better to approach an offence with the intent to _____ the situation peacefully through the _____ of Christ that to use an adversarial approach which will only escalate the tension and lead to an escalation of the _____. Pr. 15:1

CONCLUSION: Unfortunate misunderstandings have caused many _____ in the world and even in families and among the _____ of God. May we learn through the wisdom and help of Almighty God not to fall into the trap of causing a great issue out of a small spark. Eph. 4