

**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