

“The Courage of Retreat” By Kirk Hunt

*So David said to all his servants who were with him at Jerusalem,
“Arise, and let us flee, or we shall not escape from Absalom. Make
haste to depart, lest he overtake us suddenly and bring disaster
upon us, and strike the city with the edge of the sword.”*

2 Samuel 15:14 NKJV

Absalom’s mutiny obviously threatened David. The conspiracy also threatened the city of Jerusalem. David had the courage to retreat to protect the precious city of Zion.

David could have made a stand against the usurper in the Capitol. The mutiny could not end without bloodshed, regardless. Still, the battle site makes a difference. There would be less collateral damage, human and structural, if David fought Absalom outside of the city.

Grieved but calm, David retreated. Absalom took Jerusalem without a fight, because of the king’s strength of mind and heart. The battle would involve fewer innocents in the open countryside. The city of Zion would not see fire or demolition if David retreated.

A single retreat is rarely the end of the story. The usurper quickly began to think himself the victor through conspiracy. David just did not want to make a mess in God’s city. The king’s courage during retreat, and Absalom seeing strength as weakness, helped set the stage for David’s victory.

Perhaps you are facing a battle in your life. A retreat may be the more courageous route. What action protects others? Seek God’s counsel in His Word and prayer.

Think: Retreat is sometimes the courageous route to victory.

Pray: “Lord, give me the courage to retreat to safeguard others and obey You.”

Copyright © November 2013, Kirk Hunt

This devotional is a ministry of <http://devotionals.cadremenpress.com>.