



"And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also." 1 John 4: 21

Sunday – March 8, 2026

Heart to Heart...

"I lay down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord sustains me." (Psalm 3:5) These words were penned by David and are amazing when one considers the adversity he was facing.

Absalom, David's son, was in pursuit of David and the throne of Israel. There had been over seven years of hatred that had built up in the heart of Absalom, and it was being sent out against his own father. Absalom's hatred was originally against his half-brother, Amnon, who had fallen in love with Tamar, his beautiful sister. Amnon had strong desires for Absalom's sister Tamar but she refused him knowing that his desires were ungodly. Amnon didn't care and ended up raping Tamar. Tamar told her brother Absalom and Absalom asked for her silence about the matter. The plot began in his heart. Two years went by and Absalom saw an opportunity to resolve his hatred that was hidden in his heart. He invited all his brothers for a celebration while they sheared the sheep. During the gathering Absalom gave orders to his men and they rose up and killed Amnon. This was greatly disturbing to David learning how his son Amnon, his firstborn, had died and David mourned deeply.

Absalom fled to Geshur in Aram and was there three years. David, at the bidding of Joab, sent for Absalom to come to Jerusalem but was not allowed to see his father, the king, face-to-face for two years. During those two years Absalom, still seething in his heart was handsome in appearance being praised by all, sat at the entrance of Jerusalem greeting people as they came in. He began picking out those who had something that needed to be settled lawfully and began telling them how he would be just in rendering a proper response. Absalom stole the hearts of the people. He gathered a big following. Absalom was planning it all along to overthrow his father's throne. No evil plan is without fault and a messenger informed King David that the hearts of the people were with Absalom. David knew what that meant and began getting his family out of the city along with his close friends and loyal army. Absalom pursued David with an army of 12,000 men which grew to 20,000! It was this context that David penned the words in Psalm 3. King David without a throne! The man who had killed a lion, faced and killed a giant and known for killing his ten-thousands in battles. It was his own son who wanted his life now. How could he fight against his own? There was an enormous burden on David's heart and a battle with Absalom was about to ensue. Armies are drawing lines and David asks his men to make sure they deal gently with Absalom. What a heart! With all this pressure and all the armies pursuing David and his men, the

faith of David reaches beyond man and man's strength. He reaches to God and speaks: **"I lay down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord sustains me."** David had a conviction in his heart about His God, His sustainer. With all this before him, he could lay down and sleep! What about us when worries/troubles hit our heart? Think about it!!!

-Brent