

“Then Ahimaaz cried out to the king, “Everything is all right!” He bowed before the king with his face to the ground and said, “Praise to the Lord your God, who has handed over the rebels who dared to stand against my lord the king.” “What about young Absalom?” the king demanded. “Is he all right?” Ahimaaz replied, “When Joab told me to come, there was a lot of commotion. But I didn’t know what was happening.” 2 Samuel 18:28-29 NLT

## [lectio] // 2 SAMUEL 7:18, 23-29

He lied! Ahimaaz told King David a half truth. After Ahimaaz begged Joab to let him tell the king the news of his son’s death (thinking somehow he’d be happy because his son was a punk) Joab warned him, “No,” Joab told him, “it wouldn’t be good news to the king that his son is dead. You can be my messenger another time, but not today.” After running to get ahead of the Ethiopian messenger, he withholds the news, “there was a lot of commotion (kinda true) and I didn’t know what was happening (lie),” so his silence told David, he didn’t know if Absalom was dead. But he did know. This is how the political, some say, diplomatic ways work in top down leadership structures. There is a culture of fear and second guessing. Of course, I don’t know why anyone would WANT to deliver news like that to a father. But Absalom was causing so much division and pain for his father and the kingdom of Israel. The news had to be delivered. Notice how many men participated in stabbing Absalom. Joab stabbed him with three knives. Was this to make it look like three different men participated? When you kill the king’s son, even though he was the enemy, there are normally consequences- DEATH. Joab even had his ten young body guards all participate. Joab had the authority and was an expert in death, but he still may have wanted David to think that it was a group decision. The first guy that found him did not touch him, ““I would not kill the king’s son for even a thousand pieces of silver,” the man replied to Joab. “We all heard the king say to you and Abishai and Ittai, ‘For my sake, please spare young Absalom. And if I had betrayed the king by killing his son—and the king would certainly find out who did it—you yourself would be the first to abandon me.” This is how a “king” ruled structure works. This culture of self protection, posturing, sharing of half truths and “pin the blame” still exists in businesses, non profits and Church staff today. Today, the king/leader may not have you killed but you’ll be out on the street without a job. Is this the way leaders and a top leadership circle work? Is this the way a church staff should operate? Appease the leader, pass the blame and watch out for yourself?

Dad,

As much as I would want to learn how to be MUCH more diplomatic in crisis, response and reporting, I can’t stand this kind of leadership posturing. I think this is a poisonous culture. For one, it is not a New Testament model of leadership to begin with, but two, it reflects the weakness of the human heart in hiding and manipulating truth. This style of leadership holds so much power and sway over their followers, and inner circle. This is detrimental to the leaders personal health and devastating to the mission of the Church. These are the kind of behaviors we try to hide from new believers because it’s deadly for their soul.

## [contemplatio]

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root