

Are you Just Hanging Around?

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Suggested Props to Use:

- † Long Haired Wig.
- † Folding Chair to straddle as a Mule.
- † Also, makes a great arena message if you have a Mule.

2 Samuel 18:9 And Absalom met the servants of David. And Absalom rode upon a mule, and the mule went under the thick boughs of a great oak, and his head caught hold of the oak, and he was taken up between the heaven and the earth; and the mule that was under him went away.

Introduction:

Do you ever have times when you feel like you aren't accomplishing anything? Sometimes I do? There are times I feel like I am waiting for something to take place, but I am not certain what. I feel restless. When I was your age, I felt this way more often than I do now, but it still does happen.

If you are not careful you will find yourself wishing away the time you have now: Dreaming about the future or wishing you could re-live some pleasant times in the past. Let me tell you about a man that refused to live in the present. He was always dreaming about tomorrow or scheming to hurt people that got in his way.

This man was Absalom, the son of King David.

Absalom grew up with a dad that loved God and lived a life that had purpose. His Dad helped many people. He had a dad that was wronged but forgave. He saw a dad that was a great warrior but would humble himself over even small sins. He saw a dad that lived a life full of purpose every day.

However, Absalom would not accept what God had for him. He dreamed about being some great man that everyone would respect, or he would plan for a year or more to get even with someone. He spent his life planning, scheming, and dreaming.

{Read *II Sam. 18: 9* and then tell the story.}

The Absalom Story:

Absalom the Bible tells us was a good looking, handsome young man. He had charisma, that is, he knew how to charm the people of the Kingdom.

He had influence because he attended all the parties, meetings, conferences, and made sure people noticed he was around. He could tell a good joke, laugh with the crowds, and chum around with the masses.

Absalom took every opportunity to let the people of the Kingdom know that HE would do things better than his father IF he were King instead. Yes, he was a real charmer and a politician.

All the while, he was planning to overthrow his father, King David.

Absalom rebelled against his Dad, King David, to overthrow him. But here's the funny thing. HE RODE A MULE into battle !!!

Now what kind of a man rides a mule to battle? [Straddle the chair and ride the "mule"]. A mule is stubborn, awkward, SLOW compared to other animals. Who in their RIGHT MIND follows a man that leads a battle on a MULE !

That should have been a CLUE don't you think?

So he's riding out into battle, waving his sword, hollering like a wild man, his long wavy hair flying in the breeze and suddenly there is a tree up ahead. A bouncing mule does not stop on a dime. His long hair gets caught in the tree branches AND THE MULE RODE ON !

So there is "pretty boy" Absalom, rebellious Absalom, not-right-with-God Absalom, hanging in a tree by his hair. Along rides his enemy. What do you think happened? He lost his bid for election as King that day.

Summary:

Are You Happy With Who God Made You?

Absalom was the third son of King David. (*II Sam. 3:2-3*) Absalom knew that the first son was supposed to become the next king and he didn't like it that he wasn't the first born son. He thought that he should be king, not his half brother Amnon. BE CAREFUL!!! You were planned by God. Before you were formed in the womb, God knew you. Never be upset with who you are. When you wish you were taller, stronger, skinnier, or whatever else you wish; you are telling God that you don't like His plan.

Absalom wasn't the first born son, he wasn't meant to be the next king, and he wasn't satisfied with God's will. He decided to plan his own future and wound up a murderer and had to flee from his home because of it. He messed up his relationship with his dad, the king, and all his family. What a mess he made of his life. You need to find out what God made you to be, and then be YOU!

Can You Accept God's Plan For You?

Absalom could have been a powerful and influential man in Israel. He was a son of a great king. He was tall like his dad and handsome. He was powerful with his words. He could sway people to his ideas. He could have been the right hand man to his dad, the king. He could have lived a happy life as a wealthy man of royalty. He could have used the talents that God gave him to help the nation of Israel, but he didn't like God's Plan!!!

How many times do our actions say that God's plans are wrong? When we rebel against God's will for us, we are telling God that we think we are smarter than Him. That will never be true.

Absalom rejected God's plan and took the throne of his dad by force. He planned how he could murder his dad, the king. He wound up hanging by his hair in a tree with 3 arrows in his heart. You will never out-smart God. He has a perfect plan for your life: **Don't mess with it!!!**