

## ***2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel Chapter 14***

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V: 1-3 Joab, and probably others are watching the king's behavior trying at times to figure out what is going on in his mind.

- Joab comes to the conclusion that David is conflicted about Absalom, and so he intercedes on Absalom's behalf, or David's, or for his own sake.
- Joab obtains the help of a wise woman from Tekoah.
- Tekoah is where the prophet Amos was from; located about 6 miles South of Bethlehem, and about 10 miles South / East of Jerusalem.
- Joab asks the woman to "feign" or "pretend" to be in mourning and speak to the king, and he will script it out for her.

V: 4-8 This actress from Tekoah bows herself before king David and cries out to him for help.

1. She is a widow, which would invite sympathy.
  2. She lived at some distance from Jerusalem, which made it difficult to easily know or inquire of the facts of her case.
  3. She was old, which gave more dignity to her story.
  4. She wore the clothes of mourning to heighten the effect.
  5. She brought a case of family estrangement to David.
  6. She brought a case that was close but not too similar, lest it arouses David's suspicions.
- Laying out her case that the fire in her family is just about out, down to a few burning coals – which others want to quench altogether.
  - The Law of Moses addresses the situation that she is describing, according to the Law the murderer was to be put to death, but she is counting on the mercy and grace of the king.

**John 1:17** "For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ."

- She's barking up the right tree, David has been the recipient of God's grace and mercy.
- David tells the woman to go her way, he will see to it.
- Another option not explored in this passage is the cities of refuge and allowing the elders an opportunity to judge this situation.

V: 9-10 The woman presses further, because she hasn't actually achieved her true goal in this audience.

- She wants David to make a definite judgment, to commit to a verdict in this case – which he hasn't done yet.
- She responds that she would bear the guilt and responsibility, then David tells her that if anyone says anything to her about it, to bring them to him – and he will see to it that they don't bother her anymore about it.

V: 11 Remember the Lord: Thus far David has been relying on his wisdom and experience, having been the king now for about 30 years.

**Proverbs 3:5-6** “<sup>5</sup>Trust in the Lord with all your heart, lean not on your own understanding, <sup>6</sup>in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your path.”

- She presses on because she still hasn't brought to the surface that which she desires.
- Remember the Lord meaning: remember His kindness, His mercy, His forgiveness – which we all know He's shown you.
- She's looking for some kind of forgiveness, a commitment for her son to be forgiven the murder of his brother – David hadn't made a real commitment up to this point – then he says those words: “**As the Lord lives, not one hair of thy son shall fall to the earth.**”
- He takes an oath in the name of the Lord – that is a commitment.
- This is as though Joab had watched how Nathan the prophet had approached David with the story about the one little ewe lamb which brought David to realize his sin, it seems as though Joab is making a lesser attempt at the same thing.

V: 12-13 Now that David has finally put his foot in the snare it's time to spring the trap.

- Why would you rob the children of Israel, thinking such a thing against the children of God, of an heir to the throne?
- How can you be so unfair? You would forgive the woman's son of murder whom you've never met, yet withhold forgiveness from your own son whom you love.
- You're being a hypocrite.
- In essence why don't you bring Absalom back? Then she gives the king good counsel:

V: 14 She's saying that when we die, there is no opportunity to make amends, no chance to take up what was done, what was spilled.

- Death ends the opportunities to show kindness, of showing forgiveness, and expressing our love.
- She's saying we shouldn't leave any unfinished business at our death bed, how regrettable that would be, how it would weigh on the conscious of those left behind. The grief of the inability to make things right or to express our love and forgiveness.
- Also, like water spilled to the ground which can't be recovered, killing Absalom will not bring Amnon back – but it is an opportunity to extend mercy and grace.
- God is not respecter of persons; you've made a judgment regarding my son, why wouldn't this apply to your son as well.

*“... yet doth He devise means, that His banished be not expelled from Him.”*

- She utters these words of wisdom to David, but they apply to all of us:
- God has devised a way for those who were banished from His presence because of sin to somehow be reconciled to Him and not be expelled from Him. (Isa. 59:1-2).
- This device is the sacrifice and substitutionary death of Jesus on the cross for each of us, paying our debt, allowing us to be reconciled to God who is righteous and Holy, blameless

**John 3:16** “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

**1 Timothy 2:5** “For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.”

- While it is true that God finds a way to bring us back to Himself it is not at the expense of justice. God reconciles us to Himself by satisfying the righteous requirements of justice, meaning that someone shall pay the price.
- The woman is suggesting that because God's finds a way for us, shouldn't we find a way for others.

V: 15-17 I was afraid of the people so I came to bring my request hoping you would perform it, now your words are a comfort to me.

- Then she butters him up a bit, your words and wisdom are like an angel of the Lord, discerning right from wrong, God is with you.

V: 18-20      Maybe a little too much butter as David figures out that he's being worked.

- Joab thought he knew David's heart, but David also knew Joab's ways.
- She admits to the whole thing, probably with Joab looking on, and adds once again how smart David is and how wise that nothing escapes his discernment, like an angel of God...
- She also admits that it was all to get David to say what he said about the son being forgiven.

V: 21-24      Joab confesses and falls to the ground before the king, falling upon his mercy.

- Joab expresses his gratitude for the king's grace in fulfilling what is actually his request in bringing Absalom back from exile.
- So Joab went to Geshur and brought Absalom back to Jerusalem, but then David would not see him but instead sent him back to his own house.
- David still has not forgiven his son, which would do as much harm to David as it would to Absalom.
- This may have caused that root of bitterness in Absalom to grow and eventually lead to his rebellion against his father because **things aren't being resolved in a biblical way.**

V: 25-27      A parenthetical break: Absalom is a beautiful man, at least on the outside, like Saul, which is probably why he was popular with the people.

- His yearly haircut: to poll their hair was to get a close haircut, as the season got hotter, and their hair got heavier – kind of like the annual sheep shearing.
- When cut and measured he had about 5 ½ to 6 pounds of hair, for which he received tribute, they got paid by how much hair was cut off, his take was 200 shekels.
- Absalom was very proud of his hair, which would later be his undoing – should have kept it high and tight.
- Absalom had 3 sons and a daughter who was named after his sister Tamar, and she was beautiful like he and his sister. His 3 sons would die at early ages, before their father leaving him without heirs, the coals of his household would go out much like what the woman from Tekoah had described.

V: 28-32 Absalom is two years now in Jerusalem and hasn't been given an audience with the king. David hasn't seen his son in 5 years.

- At this time I think that it's fair to say that Joab did not correctly perceive that David's heart was toward Absalom.
- Absalom sends messages to Joab who ignores them.
- Why would Joab ignore Absalom after working so hard to get him to Jerusalem and David? On supposition might be that Joab knows about the rebellion in Absalom's heart and doesn't want to be connected to what will soon be his attempt at a coup, not wanting to be seen going back and forth from Absalom's house, being his messenger.
- Absalom then gets Joab's attention by setting his field and crops on fire, which seems to be very effective in getting Joab's attention.
- There are times when God will set our crops on fire then all of a sudden there we are, answering His call in our lives.
- The message that Joab is to take to the king: why am I here if you're going to ignore me? It would have been better for me to stay in Geshur.
- "Let me see the king's face, if I'm guilty then kill me."
- David had committed adultery and pre-meditated murder – and God had forgiven him.
- Absalom had killed his brother, because he had committed rape and shamed his sister.
- Now David is in that place of having to make a decision.
- God has forgiven David, but now David is refusing to forgive his son.

**Matthew 6:14-15** “<sup>14</sup>For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: <sup>15</sup>But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

V: 33 Joab reports to the king what Absalom has said, David summons Absalom into his court.

- Absalom humbles himself before David, who raises him up and kisses him, indicating that all is forgiven.
- Not quite the joyful reception that the prodigal son received, but he got a kiss and forgiveness which is a lot.

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- David loves Absalom, but he has a difficult time forgiving him; God loves us and He freely forgives us the moment we humble ourselves before him, admit that we're wrong, and repent of our sin.

**1 John 1:9** “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

**Hebrews 10:17** “And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.”

**Psalms 86:5** “For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.”

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- We are approaching in the next chapter or two what are probably the darkest days of David's life.
  - There is no record that Absalom was repentant or that he sought his father's forgiveness, he seems more defiant than repentant.
  - Father and son were together again, but it was a fragile truce and not a real peace. Absalom had a hidden agenda and was determined to seize David's throne.
  - David was about to lose his throne and crown, his concubines, his trusted adviser Ahithophel, and ultimately his son Absalom.
  - These would indeed be dark days for David.

**Galatians 6:7-8** “<sup>7</sup>Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. <sup>8</sup>For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.”

**Galatians 5:16** “This I say then, walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.”

- Thankfully, this is not the end of the story – and if we're in David's shoes there is still hope!

**Joel 2:25** “And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you.”