

## 2 Samuel Chapter 14

**Now Joab the son of Zeruiah perceived that the king's heart was toward Absalom. <sup>2</sup> And Joab sent to Tekoah, and fetched thence a wise woman, and said unto her, I pray thee, feign thyself to be a mourner, and put on now mourning apparel, and anoint not thyself with oil, but be as a woman that had a long time mourned for the dead: <sup>3</sup> And come to the king, and speak on this manner unto him. So Joab put the words in her mouth.**

Verse 1 – Joab perceived that David’s heart and deep desire was in favor towards Absalom.

Verse 2 – Joab gets a woman who was crafty to play like she was in mourning. Tekoah = stockade. Sets out a plan to trick David using a woman.

Verse 3 – Joab tells her what to say in order to trap David to act.

**<sup>4</sup> And when the woman of Tekoah spake to the king, she fell on her face to the ground, and did obeisance, and said, Help, O king. <sup>5</sup> And the king said unto her, What aileth thee? And she answered, I am indeed a widow woman, and mine husband is dead. <sup>6</sup> And thy handmaid had two sons, and they two strove together in the field, and there was none to part them, but the one smote the other, and slew him. <sup>7</sup> And, behold, the whole family is risen against thine handmaid, and they said, Deliver him that smote his brother, that we may kill him, for the life of his brother whom he slew; and we will destroy the heir also: and so they shall quench my coal which is left, and shall not leave to my husband neither name nor remainder upon the earth.**

Verse 4 – When she faces the King, she bows and gives him respect and honor. She asks for help. Problem....looks good on the outside, but purpose was to deceive. Be careful.

Verse 5 – David asks the question and is interested in the woman’s problem.

Verse 6 – 12 – Tells a story about two sons who have a fight with each other and one of them dies.

- She is afraid that the name will be cut off because the family wants to kill rather than forgive the remaining son who killed someone.

**<sup>8</sup> And the king said unto the woman, Go to thine house, and I will give charge concerning thee. <sup>9</sup> And the woman of Tekoah said unto the king, My lord, O king, the iniquity be on me, and on my father's house: and the king and his throne be guiltless. <sup>10</sup> And the king said, Whoever saith ought unto thee, bring him to me, and he shall not touch thee any more.**

**<sup>11</sup> Then said she, I pray thee, let the king remember the LORD thy God, that thou wouldst not suffer the revengers of blood to destroy any more, lest they destroy my son. And he said, As the LORD liveth, there shall not one hair of thy son fall to the earth.**

Verse 8 – David says he will consider her case....that is not good enough for her so she continues to press.

- David hears the story and says he will protect her and her son so that he can return to her and be safe.
- She keeps pressing until David tells her that no one will take revenge on her or her son.
- The trap is set so now she wants to discuss a different matter....everything before this was the setup.

**<sup>12</sup> Then the woman said, Let thine handmaid, I pray thee, speak one word unto my lord the king. And he said, Say on. <sup>13</sup> And the woman said, Wherefore then hast thou thought such a thing against the people of God? For the king doth speak this thing as one which is faulty, in that the king doth not fetch home again his banished. <sup>14</sup> For we must needs die, and are as water spilt on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again; neither doth God respect any person: yet doth he devise means, that his banished be not expelled from him. <sup>15</sup> Now therefore that I am come to speak of this thing unto my lord the king, it is because the people have made me afraid: and thy handmaid said, I will now speak unto the king; it may be that the king will perform the request of his handmaid. <sup>16</sup> For the king will hear, to deliver his handmaid out of the hand of the man that would destroy me and my son together out of the inheritance of God. <sup>17</sup> Then thine handmaid said, the word of my lord the king shall now be comfortable: for as an angel of God, so is my lord the king to discern good and bad: therefore the LORD thy God will be with thee.**

Verse 13 – If he was going to grant mercy to her son who was a killer, why doesn't he do the same thing for his son?

Verse 14 – Logic here is that everyone dies so that Amnon (David's son) was going to die sooner or later anyway. The woman throws God in the picture...saying even God makes provisions for those who are banished to be able to return to him.

- David never consults the Lord in this decision. He protects her son but no grace for his own situation. Faulty logic since the scenario the woman uses is different than David's situation.
- David is caught because he is giving advice from his own reasoning rather than the word of God.

Verse 15 – I'm not sure if she is still lying here when indicating the people put her up to ask the King about this. It could be the people favored Absalom because of his looks.

Verse 16-17 – She flatters David as being godly in his decisions.

**<sup>18</sup> Then the king answered and said unto the woman, Hide not from me, I pray thee, the thing that I shall ask thee. And the woman said, Let my lord the king now speak.**

**<sup>19</sup> And the king said, Is not the hand of Joab with thee in all this? And the woman answered and said, As thy soul liveth, my lord the king, none can turn to the right hand or to the left from ought that my lord the king hath spoken: for thy servant Joab, he bade me, and he put all these words in the mouth of thine handmaid: <sup>20</sup> To fetch about this form of speech hath thy servant Joab done this thing: and my lord is wise, according to the wisdom of an angel of God, to know all things that are in the earth.**

**<sup>21</sup> And the king said unto Joab, Behold now, I have done this thing: go therefore, bring the young man Absalom again. <sup>22</sup> And Joab fell to the ground on his face, and bowed himself, and thanked the king: and Joab said, To day thy servant knoweth that I have found grace in thy sight, my lord, O king, in that the king hath fulfilled the request of his servant.**

**<sup>23</sup> So Joab arose and went to Geshur, and brought Absalom to Jerusalem.**

Verse 18 – David knows now things are not right and that he has been tricked.

Verse 19 – David asks if Joab put her up to this. He must have known Joab was the culprit.

Verse 20 – Confession by the woman and more flattery toward David.

Verse 21 – David tells Joab to go get the boy since he has put his foot in his mouth.

Verse 22 – Joab bows thinking and saying that he has found grace with David because he honored the request to bring Absalom back. If Joab really wanted grace, he could have made the request without being tricky.

Verse 23 – Joab goes back to get Absalom.

**<sup>24</sup> And the king said, Let him turn to his own house, and let him not see my face. So Absalom returned to his own house, and saw not the king's face. <sup>25</sup> But in all Israel there was none to be so much praised as Absalom for his beauty: from the sole of his foot even to the crown of his head there was no blemish in him. <sup>26</sup> And when he polled his head, (for it was at every year's end that he polled it: because the hair was heavy on him, therefore he polled it:) he weighed the hair of his head at two hundred shekels after the king's weight.**

**<sup>27</sup> And unto Absalom there were born three sons, and one daughter, whose name was Tamar: she was a woman of a fair countenance.**

Verse 24 – Instructions are he can come back but he can't stand in the presence of the King. He can go to his house.

NOTE: His sin is preventing him from fully seeing the King. He needs only follow the process of humility, repentance to begin the process of drawing closer. The same is true for us as believers when we fall out of right standing with God. Don't be satisfied where you are in relationship with God in any instance. Press to have a full relationship and close fellowship with the King. I want to see His face.

Verse 25 – Verse talks about how pretty and handsome Absalom is. On the outside...no flaws. However, he was still very flawed and not right on the inside.

Verse 26 – Absalom had a lot of hair that he was very proud of. That's going to come back on him and ultimately cause his fall. Polled means he had it cut once a year. The thing he was most proud of is the thing that will hang him up.

Verse 27 – He has 4 kids.

**<sup>28</sup> So Absalom dwelt two full years in Jerusalem, and saw not the king's face.**

**<sup>29</sup> Therefore Absalom sent for Joab, to have sent him to the king; but he would not come to him: and when he sent again the second time, he would not come. <sup>30</sup> Therefore he said unto his servants, See, Joab's field is near mine, and he hath barley there; go and set it on fire. And Absalom's servants set the field on fire.**

**<sup>31</sup> Then Joab arose, and came to Absalom unto his house, and said unto him, Wherefore have thy servants set my field on fire?**

**<sup>32</sup> And Absalom answered Joab, Behold, I sent unto thee, saying, Come hither, that I may send thee to the king, to say, Wherefore am I come from Geshur? It had been good for me to have been there still: now therefore let me see the king's face; and if there be any iniquity in me, let him kill me.**

**<sup>33</sup> So Joab came to the king, and told him: and when he had called for Absalom, he came to the king, and bowed himself on his face to the ground before the king: and the king kissed Absalom.**

Verse 28 – 2 years living there without seeing David's face. Never see where Absalom ever repented.

Verse 29 – He sends a message to Joab a couple times but Joab didn't respond.

- So much pride in Absalom will keep him out of right standing. Instead of humbling himself and going to Joab politely, he burns up his field.



Verse 30 – He gets his attention by setting his field on fire. That's pride. Not content with the forgiveness....wants a full restoration on his terms. Joab did him a favor in bringing him back and in return he burns up his field....foul!

- Application for Today: Beware of your pride and thinking you have some special privilege or are owed something. Stay humble or you will miss God and His best.

Verse 31 – Joab comes to the door of his bad neighbor.

Verse 32 – 33 – Joab sets a meeting up; Absalom he sees David...bows, and David kisses and receives him. No repentance and no judgment. Both are missing and this will be a problem.

- Application for Today: Don't make the mistake of trying to get favor and obtain God's best or your goals the wrong way. What Absalom desires in wanting to see the King is not wrong, but his motive is wrong and his approach is wrong. Absalom is just wrong.
- When you have the discernment of the Holy Spirit, you should be able to tell if the person is coming correct or if their motivation is wrong. David who knows something about how to repent after sinning, should have seen Absalom wasn't doing this correctly. Don't let your emotions get in the way of good judgement.

Later Observations from 2019

Observations and Commentary

Why is there a separation between father and son?

Absalom

- Sins, commits same crime as dad, murder.
- Leaves home because of sin and pride. Sin separates you from relationship with the Father.
- He may not realize that his father still loves him after all of this.
- He may not realize that his father is sad about the separation.
- He eventually returns but never truly repents.
- Closer to his father physically, but spiritually and relationally, they are far apart.

David

- Didn't discipline his sons from what we can see (Heb 12:5-11).
  - Why didn't he do more than just get mad? Was it guilt? Was he trying to be a nice guy?
  - What are some reasons why you wouldn't take corrective action?
- He loves his son, but doesn't tell him or reach out to him for 3 years. After he has gotten over the loss of one son, he realizes his love for the son he has left.
  - Why does he not reach out to tell his son he loves him?
  - What are some reasons why you wouldn't reach out to your child? Guilt, fear of rejection, don't care, etc.

## Joab

- See David really loves Absalom so he comes up with a plan to trick David into action.
- Why was he concerned about what David loved?
  - Guilt, self-gain, may have been genuinely concerned and wanting to help.
- Why do you think he needed to trick David into reaching out to Absalom?
  - Didn't think David would listen or be defensive.
  - Better way of getting the message across by using a similar story.
- Nathan did something similar to get David to understand and repent but significant differences here.
  - In Chap 12, the Lord told Nathan to go and was involved. Joab figured this one out on his own.
  - Nathan didn't involve anyone else; Joab got another person to join in a lie.
  - Nathan used an example based on a truth; Joab didn't.
  - Nathan's example was designed to get David to confess, repent and reconcile with God; Joab's plan was just to get him to change his mind about Absalom but God wasn't in it.
- David in verse 21 states he has done this thing. There are two possible scenarios here. He has done this thing meaning since he has made a promise to the woman in here example, he must now also do the same for his own son...and/or....he too has also done the same thing his son is guilty of so he will extend mercy to him as well.
- Joab shows humility and is happy. Perhaps because he also knows he is guilty of the same crime and we never see him repenting for killing Abner.
- Absalom returns and is closer but cannot be face to face with David. Why?
- What would need to happen for David and Absalom to draw closer?
- This goes on for two full years. It takes Absalom making a request and Joab interceding to get David to see him.
- End of Chapter, physically the relationship is restored. But there is a problem spiritually. What level is their relationship? You can be in the same physical location and yet be on totally different spiritual planets.

David makes a moral decision with Absalom and everybody approved. But there is a difference between a spiritual choice and a moral choice. They are not always the same.

Morality – what everyone sees. A highly moral person can be fully wicked. Concerned with principles of right and wrong behavior and the goodness or badness of human character. System of values held by society.

Spirituality – everything that happens around us is caused by our inner spiritual moral state. Our spirit creates our form. Relate to or affects the human spirit or soul as opposed to material or physical things. Divine or holy. Deals with the inner person.

Absalom never goes through the spiritual process for reconciliation. You can have someone who you have lost and was gone, come back into your life, and be close to you but things still ain't quite right. Just like that Stephen King movie Pet Cemetery; they come back crazy and evil and try to take you out.

David is failing as a father in this instance again (he may get it right with Solomon).



Application:

What could David have done differently? What would you have done?

As a parent, letting things slide may not always be the best approach for the welfare of your child in the end.

When you are in the Lord, you never have to operate in the fear of your past. Your history should not hinder you from being a good parent, it should be helping you. The blood and the indwelling Holy Spirit gives you the power to move beyond your past and be the parent God designed you to be.

2020 Observations:

Absalom is a picture of Satan in his beauty. See Isa 14:12-14 and Ezek 28:1-19

- The people looked at the outside but ignored the evil on the inside of him. This is still an issue today where we at times ignore the character of our leaders.
- His hair was his pride but it got heavy for him to carry. Pride is a burden. It is hard to be right with all that weight.
- Is conversation is crazy:
  - Why come to Jerusalem from Geshur; I would have been better off staying there. That is not true...it certainly is not true from a spiritual perspective. Better to be closer to the King than on the run.
  - Geshur = translates to "proud beholder"
  - He says David can kill him if there is any sin or wrong in him. This is a huge problem...he doesn't see where he is wrong. He feels justified.
  - Application for Today: This is a spiritually bad place to be when you are so prideful that you don't see where you are wrong. If you don't see the truth, it is going to be hard for you to see the need to repent and come to God correctly.

Burning up the field concept

- When you manipulate someone to get them to do something by taking away or messing with something they own or enjoy.
- Problem with this is it can work – however, there may be consequences.
- It is not a Godly way to get your own way....this way.
- Absalom's response – I burned your stuff up because you didn't come when I called and didn't do what I asked or expected of you. So instead of coming to you correctly and humbly, I burned up your field. It is designed to get your attention so I can get what I want.
  - Don't do this. It may not be a spiritual approach even though it might provide some early success.
  - Are there any spouses in the house burning up their mate's field?
- Absalom never apologizes to Joab. The focus is only on himself.

In all of this between the meetings...you don't see any evidence of any of them talking to the Lord.



For parents there is a lesson as well. Letting things slide may not be what's best for them. Some things need to be called out in love at the proper time.

Problem: No judgement or instruction from David; no repentance from Absalom.