

Bible Study August 14, 2024

2 SAMUEL 14 (NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION)

Where It All Begins – Chapter 11

- David commits adultery – Anytime you know a sin is about to overtake you, you need to phone a friend. – 911 Help Me!
- David commits pre-meditated murder to cover up his sin.

The Saga Continues – Chapter 12

What was it that displeased God:

- He despised the Word of the Lord & by his actions of trying to cover up his sin.
- He took what didn't belong to him.
- He committed another man to death, and not just any man, his servant Uriah.
- He abused his authority.

Calamity Strikes – Chapter 13

2 Samuel 12:10-12 (NIV) Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.' "This is what the Lord says: 'Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity on you. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will sleep with your wives in broad daylight. You did it in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel.'"

- Judgment is pronounced on the house of David - We witness the rape of Tamar by her brother Amnon.
 - ²⁰Her brother Absalom said to her, "Has that Amnon, your brother, been with you? Be quiet for now, my sister; he is your brother. Don't take this thing to heart." And Tamar lived in her brother Absalom's house, a desolate woman.
- ²¹When King David heard all this, he was furious.
- Even though David was furious, he did not check his son Amnon, why is that?
- Could it be because there was a time David lusted after things that he shouldn't have touched - why did this action go unchecked???
- And... because it went unchecked, the rage and anger of the other brother led to him taking matters into his own hands - it says he hated Absalom, for two years all that anger inside of him.
- So now, Absalom devises a plan to kill his brother (sound familiar?)
- Throws a party for all his brothers (they are princes) and tells his servants to strike Amnon down when he's drunk. - The same thing David did to Uriah, his sons have done to one another and in his own house.
- David slept with Bathsheba - David killed Uriah
- Amnon slept with his sister Tamar - Absalom kills his brother.

Pick up the story from chapter 13:37 – Absalom has just murdered his brother Amnon.

2 Samuel 13:37-39 (NIV)

³⁷Absalom fled and went to Talmai son of Ammihud, the king of Geshur. But King David mourned many days for his son. ³⁸After Absalom fled and went to Geshur, he stayed there three years. ³⁹And King David longed to go to Absalom for he was consoled concerning Amnon's death.

Absalom flees to his mother's father's house/his grandfather who was the King of Geshur.

2 Samuel 14 (NIV)

Absalom Returns to Jerusalem

¹ Joab son of Zeruiah knew that the king's heart longed for Absalom. ² So Joab sent someone to Tekoa and had a wise woman brought from there. He said to her, "Pretend you are in mourning. Dress in mourning clothes, and don't use any cosmetic lotions. Act like a woman who has spent many days grieving for the dead. ³ Then go to the king and speak these words to him." And Joab put the words in her mouth.

⁴ When the woman from Tekoa went to the king, she fell with her face to the ground to pay him honor, and she said, "Help me, Your Majesty!"

⁵ The king asked her, "What is troubling you?"

She said, "I am a widow; my husband is dead. ⁶ I your servant had two sons. They got into a fight with each other in the field, and no one was there to separate them. One struck the other and killed him. ⁷ Now the whole clan has risen up against your servant; they say, 'Hand over the one who struck his brother down, so that we may put him to death for the life of his brother whom he killed; then we will get rid of the heir as well.' They would put out the only burning coal I have left, leaving my husband neither name nor descendant on the face of the earth."

⁸ The king said to the woman, "Go home, and I will issue an order in your behalf."

⁹ But the woman from Tekoa said to him, "Let my lord the king pardon me and my family, and let the king and his throne be without guilt."

¹⁰ The king replied, "If anyone says anything to you, bring them to me, and they will not bother you again."

¹¹ She said, "Then let the king invoke the Lord his God to prevent the avenger of blood from adding to the destruction, so that my son will not be destroyed."

"As surely as the Lord lives," he said, "not one hair of your son's head will fall to the ground."

¹² Then the woman said, "Let your servant speak a word to my lord the king."

“Speak,” he replied.

13 The woman said, “Why then have you devised a thing like this against the people of God? When the king says this, does he not convict himself, for the king has not brought back his banished son? 14 Like water spilled on the ground, which cannot be recovered, so we must die. But that is not what God desires; rather, he devises ways so that a banished person does not remain banished from him.

15 “And now I have come to say this to my lord the king because the people have made me afraid. Your servant thought, ‘I will speak to the king; perhaps he will grant his servant’s request. 16 Perhaps the king will agree to deliver his servant from the hand of the man who is trying to cut off both me and my son from God’s inheritance.’

17 “And now your servant says, ‘May the word of my lord the king secure my inheritance, for my lord the king is like an angel of God in discerning good and evil. May the Lord your God be with you.’”

The law provided a way to avenge murder. Numbers 35:9-21 records how cities of refuge protected people from revenge and how blood avengers were to pursue murderers. This woman was asking for the king’s protection against any claim against her because Joab wanted to convince David to restore Absalom. The special circumstance that David applied to her supposed situation could also apply to protecting Absalom.

18 Then the king said to the woman, “Don’t keep from me the answer to what I am going to ask you.”

“Let my lord the king speak,” the woman said.

19 The king asked, “Isn’t the hand of Joab with you in all this?”

The woman answered, “As surely as you live, my lord the king, no one can turn to the right or to the left from anything my lord the king says. Yes, it was your servant Joab who instructed me to do this and who put all these words into the mouth of your servant. 20 Your servant Joab did this to change the present situation. My lord has wisdom like that of an angel of God—he knows everything that happens in the land.”

21 The king said to Joab, “Very well, I will do it. Go, bring back the young man Absalom.”

22 Joab fell with his face to the ground to pay him honor, and he blessed the king. Joab said, “Today your servant knows that he has found favor in your eyes, my lord the king, because the king has granted his servant’s request.”

23 Then Joab went to Geshur and brought Absalom back to Jerusalem. 24 But the king said, “He must go to his own house; he must not see my face.” So Absalom went to his own house and did not see the face of the king.

25 In all Israel there was not a man so highly praised for his handsome appearance as Absalom. From the top of his head to the sole of his foot there was no blemish in him.

26 Whenever he cut the hair of his head—he used to cut his hair once a year because it

became too heavy for him—he would weigh it, and its weight was two hundred shekels by the royal standard.

²⁷ Three sons and a daughter were born to Absalom. His daughter's name was Tamar, and she became a beautiful woman.

By naming his daughter Tamar, Absalom was showing his love and respect for his sister Tamar. This also served as a reminder to everyone of the Amnon/Tamar incident.

²⁸ Absalom lived two years in Jerusalem without seeing the king's face. ²⁹ Then Absalom sent for Joab in order to send him to the king, but Joab refused to come to him. So he sent a second time, but he refused to come. ³⁰ Then he said to his servants, "Look, Joab's field is next to mine, and he has barley there. Go and set it on fire." So Absalom's servants set the field on fire.

We see the following:

- Seeds of rebellion in Absalom. As an independent and scheming young man, he took matters into his own hands and killed his brother (13:22-29).
- Unchecked power & accountability, led to Absalom doing whatever he wanted, as evidenced by his setting Joab's field on fire to get his attention (14:31-32).
- Arrogance, Absalom's good looks also added to his self-centeredness (14:25).
- Needed Discipline - Children need discipline, especially those who have natural abilities and physical attractiveness. Otherwise, like Absalom, they will grow up thinking they can do whatever they want to do whenever they want to.

³¹ Then Joab did go to Absalom's house, and he said to him, "Why have your servants set my field on fire?"

³² Absalom said to Joab, "Look, I sent word to you and said, 'Come here so I can send you to the king to ask, "Why have I come from Geshur? It would be better for me if I were still there!"' Now then, I want to see the king's face, and if I am guilty of anything, let him put me to death."

³³ So Joab went to the king and told him this. Then the king summoned Absalom, and he came in and bowed down with his face to the ground before the king. And the king kissed Absalom.

What can we learn from this terrible story?

- Even the highest-ranking and best-equipped people are sinners and rebels at heart. We must guard our own hearts against sin and rebellion.
- David failed to teach his children the ways of God. Even if our children are raised in church, we must teach and exemplify character and obedience to God.

- David was preoccupied with government, wives, and concubines; he failed to act decisively to correct the evil in his family. At times, his guilt about his own sin caused him to avoid disciplining his sons caught in similar sins. That led to his family's undoing of the kingdom. – Even when we're wrong or make a mistake we must own it and still seek out repentance.
- We must make every attempt to break cycles of lust, hatred, and rebellion.
- We must stay involved in guiding our children's lives while they are still under our care.
 - David made only halfhearted efforts to correct his children. He did not punish Amnon for his sin against Tamar, nor did he deal decisively with Absalom's murder of Amnon. Such inaction became David's undoing. When we ignore sin, we experience greater pain than if we deal with it immediately.
- Revenge lets us know where.
 - Absalom's revenge against Amnon and rebellion against David were the beginning of the final decline of David's kingdom that had been prophesied in 12:10-12.
 - The cycle of lust and murder had begun with David's adultery with Bathsheba. By killing his half-brother Amnon, Absalom was getting revenge for the rape of his sister Tamar as well as getting rid of the firstborn son, the one next in line to be king. Clearly, he had his sights set on being Israel's king, and he did everything in his power to obtain that goal—killing a half-brother and rebelling against his father. Absalom was handsome and popular like his father, but he lacked his father's heart for God.