

FINAL STUDY NOTES – 2 Samuel Chapters 13-14 11/10-11/2025

CLASSROOM LOCATION AND ZOOM – SIGN IN INFORMATION:

Phil Twente: <https://www.ptwente.com> - Previous Audio/notes ptwente@gmail.com cell 714 425 9221

NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE ONLINE (ZOOM) STUDY!

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM PACIFIC STANDARD Time (US and Canada)
THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY WILL BE MEETING ON ZOOM ONLY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!

MEETING ID - 878 5864 4763 Passcode: 087484

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TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM PACIFIC STANDARD Time (US and Canada).

TUES MORNING MTG PLACE: 1201 KEY WEST, CORONA DEL MAR (shown as 1201 KW, Corona del Mar, CA 92625) on Global Positioning System (GPS) in automobiles. For driving directions, suggest using (waze.com/live map) or *MapQuest* (mapquest.com), **AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!**

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OPENING PRAYER

2 SAMUEL – Chapter 13 – Amnon and Tamar – (vs. 1-22); Absalom Murders Amnon – (vs. 23-33); Absalom Flees to Geshur – (vs. 34-39); Chapter 14 - Absalom Returns to Jerusalem – (vs. 1-24); David Forgives Absalom – (vs. 25-33).

- **David had sinned in taking Bathsheba, and having her husband put to death** to cover his sin. He thought that he had pretty cleverly covered his guilt, however God had observed the whole thing. God sent Nathan the prophet to David to speak in a parable. David made judgement upon the man, declaring that he should die. Nathan said, “You are the man!” David confessed, “I have sinned,” and Nathan said, “Your sins are forgiven, you shall not die. But the sword will not depart from your house. Now we see in the chapter thirteen, how this prophecy is being fulfilled. Problems that are going to arise within the house of David.

Amnon and Tamar

2Sa 13:1 After this Absalom the son of David had a lovely sister, whose name was Tamar; and Amnon the son of David loved (eros in Greek, lusted) her.

- **Amnon was the oldest son of David.** He was born in Hebron; Chileab was the second son. We never hear anything about him. Absalom was the third son, in the legacy line to be king after Amnon.

Absalom's mother was Maacha, a different mother than Amnon's. Absalom's mother had another child, Tamar, born. Absalom was very handsome. Tamar was very beautiful. Amnon, the oldest son of David, fell in love (lust), it says, with Tamar.

- **Here is a tragedy of the English language**, because the English language has one word that must cover a broad spectrum of experiences, and emotions. The word, "love." "I love fresh peach pie," "I love my wife," "I love my grandkids," and "I love peanuts." But what I feel for peanuts, and what I feel for my wife are far different, in the emotional spectrum. Yet the English language is so deficient, that I really have only one word to express this broad spectrum of feeling. The Greek language is a more expressive language than English, having a vocabulary of about three times that of English. Thus they are able to be far more expressive.
- **The Greeks have a word, "Eros," that is translated into English, "love."** It is love on the physical plane. We get our words, "erotic," from this Greek word *Eros*. It is a love that is highly heralded by Hollywood, which is not true love, but just lust or passion. Quite often, it is only a sexual passion.
- **This was the case of Amnon.** He had a strong sexual desire for his half-sister Tamar. He was attracted to her physically. It was not love at all. He had no interest or concern with her feelings. When she objected to his advances, if he truly loved her, he would have respected the feelings that she had.
- **A true love is other-centered, not self-centered.** This *Eros* is a self-centered love that is interested only in getting. The concerns, the wishes, the desires, the feelings of the other person, are not really taken into consideration. You often force yourself upon them, whether they want, or like it. Thus was the case with Amnon. "He lusted after her," would be probably a more accurate translation.

2Sa 13:2 Amnon was so distressed over his half-sister Tamar that he became sick; for she was a virgin. And it was improper for Amnon to do anything to her.

- **Amnon's obsession was so great, he could not function.** "I don't know how I can get her in bed," is basically what he wanted. Under the law *it was improper for Amnon*, a close blood-relative, (**Lev 8:9**) *The nakedness of your sister, the daughter of your father, or the daughter of your mother, whether born at home or elsewhere, their nakedness you shall not uncover*.
- **The other problem that he has here in his attraction to her** and wanting to be involved with her, is because she was a virgin. As a virgin daughter of the king, he did not have direct access to her, even as the son of the king.

2Sa 13:3 But Amnon had a friend whose name was Jonadab the son of Shimeah, David's brother. Now Jonadab was a very crafty man.

- **Now, at this point in Amnon's life, having a desire in his heart** for something that the law of God clearly prohibits, this was a great time for a godly friend to show up in his life and tell him, Amnon, what in the world are you thinking about? You cannot go against the clear word of God and prosper. But the opposite of this, Jonadab comes, not with Biblical words of wisdom to stop, but gives a plan to Amnon in how to succeed in his ungodly desire!
- **Get away from that influence! Avoid these kind of friends and be better off.** Jonadab was a cousin to Amnon, a nephew to David. Jonadab was a very crafty fellow.
- **If you have a family member, or a friend in your life, who encourages you** in doing whatever your flesh wants to do, to engage in whatever sin you want to do; provides you with attempted legitimacy for doing what violates the word of God, get away from that relationship! Get away from that influence!
- **How about the influencers in my life? Are there any Jonadab's? Oh Lord, help me to get rid of them. I do not need them. They can do so much damage. I know that You do not want me to be under their influence.**

2Sa 13:4-5 And he said to him, "Why are you, the king's son, becoming thinner day after day? Will you not tell me?" Amnon said to him, "I love Tamar, my brother Absalom's sister." [5] So Jonadab said to him, "Lie down on your bed and pretend to be ill. And when your father comes to see you, say to him, 'Please let my sister Tamar come and give me food, and prepare the food in my sight, that I may see it and eat it from her hand.' "

- **This is the plan of Jonadab**, "I am so sick, I cannot eat anything, but I think if Tamar would just come, and fix one of her delicacies, you know so I could see her fixing it. Then I would gain enough appetite that I could eat it."

2Sa 13:6-10 Then Amnon lay down and pretended to be ill; and when the king came to see him, Amnon said to the king, "Please let Tamar my sister come and make a couple of cakes for me in my sight, that I

may eat from her hand." [7] And David sent home to Tamar, saying, "Now go to your brother Amnon's house, and prepare food for him." [8] So Tamar, being innocently obedient, went to her brother Amnon's house; and he was lying down. Then she took flour and kneaded it, made cakes in his sight, and baked the cakes, sort of a pancake. [9] And she took the pan and placed them out before him, but he refused to eat. Then Amnon said, "Have everyone go out from me." And they all went out from him. [10] Then Amnon said to Tamar, "Bring the food into the bedroom, that I may eat from your hand." And Tamar took the cakes which she had made, and brought them to Amnon her brother in the bedroom.

- **Come and just feed me the food**, you know, come into my bedroom. Tamar innocently took the cakes which she had prepared into Amnon's bedroom.

2Sa 13:11 Now when she had brought them to him to eat, he took hold of her and said to her, "Come, lie with me, my sister."

- **So he grabs a hold of her.** He is stronger than she is. He will not release her, and calls on her to become involved with him physically here!

2Sa 13:12-13 But she answered him, "No, my brother, do not force me, for no such thing should be done in Israel. Do not do this disgraceful thing!" [13] And I, where could I take my shame? And as for you, you would be like one of the fools in Israel. Now therefore, please speak to the king; for he will not withhold me from you."

- **Do not be a fool man!** Amnon, think what you are about to throw away! By virtue of lineage, he was to become the king to follow David!
- **You are going to shame me. This is a disgraceful thing** that you are going to do. It will leave me without any chance of marriage or having any children. As for you, she tells him about the consequences that are about to come on him if he continues his foolishness! You will be like one of the fools in Israel. Your entire future is going to be ruined because you do this, you will be viewed by the rest of the nation as being unfit to be their king.
- **Please speak to the king.** Now, it could be that Tamar was just trying to buy time. Ask dad, he will probably let me be your wife. Buying time. But you see, his love was not really for her. Here she expresses her feelings. "No, no do not do this. Do not be foolish." But he is not really concerned at all with her, or with her feelings. He is only concerned with gratifying his own fleshly lusts

2Sa 13:14-15 However, he would not heed her voice; and being stronger than she, he forced (raped) her and lay with her. [15] Then Amnon hated her exceedingly, so that the hatred with which he hated her was greater than the love with which he had loved her. And Amnon said to her, "Arise, be gone!"

- **This is a further indication that it was not a true love at all.** The moment he had satisfied his passions, he hated her.
- **Let me give a friendly, fatherly, tip unto all of you young women**, who may be in the position of Tamar, having some fellow who is really pressing hard to have sex with you. He is the soul of kindness. He is very attentive. He calls all the time, but he is pushing hard for a sexual relationship. Do not give in. If you really love him, make him wait until you are married. If he really loves you, he will. Over, and over the fellow will press and press until he has taken you to bed, and that is the last you see or hear from him. You are no longer a challenge. He has conquered, and he is off for new conquests. If you really love him and want him, make him wait. If you really love God, and love yourself, make him wait.
- **God has provided sex as a marvelous and beautiful experience**, whereby two become one. He has designed that through it; there should be the perpetuation of the human species upon the earth. It was not designed as an exciting, pleasurable experience between two people, outside of marriage. There is the place in which it has its proper fulfillment, and God-ordained fulfillment. Outside of that, it is a perverting of God's plan, and God's purpose. (**Heb 13:4**) Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.
- **God has planned and designed, that through this, two people may express** the deepest kind of feeling, and of love, and unity together. But there is where it finds its true fulfillment. This business of trying to create an atmosphere morally, what they call sex without guilt, which is promiscuous sex, it is wrong and unfulfilling. So many times the great passion changes to hatred.
- **The hatred with which he hated her was greater than the love with which he had loved her.** Our emotions are a very interesting thing. You can go from laughter to crying, in just a little flip of a switch. This same thing is true of love and hate. There is such fine balance in the emotions, changing from a feeling of intense passion to a feeling of scorn, disgust. Such was the case with Amnon.

- **How frequently do I make decisions based on emotion, on my feelings in my heart, in my gut, which can completely change in an instant? Do I really understand the importance of relying on His unchanging word and its truth? How am I in testing my responses and my actions with the Word of God? Whose will am I following, mine or His?**

2Sa 13:16-17 So she said to him, "No, indeed! This evil of sending me away is worse than the other that you did to me." But he would not listen to her. [17] Then he called his servant who attended him, and said, "Here! Put this woman out, away from me, and bolt the door behind her."

- Great love? No way! I mean, her life has been ruined in one hour!

2Sa 13:18 Now she had on a robe of many colors, for the king's virgin daughters wore such apparel. And his servant put her out and bolted the door behind her.

- This robe signified her to be a virgin eligible for marriage

2Sa 13:19 Then Tamar put ashes on her head, and tore her robe of many colors that was on her, and laid her hand on her head and went away crying bitterly.

- She tore her robe of many colors, which was an indication of her being abused. She laid her hand on her head, and she went home sobbing. She is just experiencing inexpressible grief at that moment in time!
- Not only is she expressing her heart over what has just happened in her life, But she does these things even before she leaves Amnon's doorway, because as she makes her way back to wherever she is living in the king's palace, she wants everybody to know, seeing these marks of mourning, lest anyone thinks that she consented to what had happened there.

2Sa 13:20 And Absalom her brother said to her, "Has Amnon your brother been with you? But now hold your peace, my sister. He is your brother; do not take this thing to heart." So Tamar remained desolate in her brother Absalom's house.

- Absalom said, "Hey, you know, he's your brother, pass it off." You had every right to be trusting of him in that environment. You are not responsible for what has happened in there. No one could have conceived that a brother would have done this to you. So there is that whole thing of feeling responsible, and Absalom consoles her on this.
- But in his heart, Absalom at that moment, planned revenge. He probably did not tell Tamar, because she would have sought to dissuade him of what he was intending to do. Perhaps he wanted to wait to see what their father David would do, when he heard about this. It was really David's responsibility to discipline in this case.

2Sa 13:21 But when King David heard of all these things, he was very angry.

- It seemed that he did not do anything at all to punish Amnon. David, the father of both Amnon and Absalom has this great emotional response to what happens. The problem is he did not do anything about it!
- In such a situation, the father should step in and follow the law of Moses, which says in (*Lev 20:17*) *'If a man takes his sister, his father's daughter, or his mother's daughter, and sees her nakedness and she sees his nakedness, it is a wicked thing. And they shall be cut off in the sight of their people. He has uncovered his sister's nakedness. He shall bear his guilt.* That is talking about consensual sex. That is not even talking about rape.
- At the very least, David should have made it clear that these actions of Amnon had disqualified him from ever becoming king or having any position of influence over the nation of Israel, and some exile on top of it.
- It is possible that David failed to respond forcibly to Amnon's sin because it was the same sin that he had committed against Bathsheba, which brings us to a very important lesson as parents. As Christian parents, the standard for good and bad, right, and wrong is that we teach and enforce in our children is the Bible! It is not what our behavior was when we were their age! And many of us did not know the Lord.
- We must never, ever lower the standard of God's Word in dealing with our children and our home because we have been guilty of some sin earlier in our lives! Because if we do that, here is what happens. Then every generation gets worse than the previous generation.
- It is so important to learn that from David's mistake so that we do not make the same mistake.

- **Am I very clear on that? Never to let my behavior be the standard, but God, through His word?**

2Sa 13:22 *And Absalom spoke to his brother Amnon neither good nor bad. For Absalom hated Amnon, because he had forced his sister Tamar.*

- David makes a great mistake here because he does not chasten Amnon. Absalom becomes bitter, not just against Amnon, but against his father for failing to deal with the situation. Absalom's bitterness and hatred of his father is just going to grow. A large part of it starts right here, his father did not step in and do what was right in the situation. Absalom is going to give his father two full years to do the right thing before he takes the law into his own hands.

Absalom Murders Amnon

2Sa 13:23 *And it came to pass, after two full years, that Absalom had sheepshearers in Baal Hazor, which is near Ephraim; so Absalom invited all the king's sons.*

- Absalom plays it cool for two years.

2Sa 13:24 *Then Absalom came to the king and said, "Kindly note, your servant has sheepshearers; please, let the king and his servants go with your servant."*

- At the time of shearing the sheep, it was a celebration. It was a time of partying and all, really celebrating the wealth that you had. So Absalom invited his brothers, he invited the king.

2Sa 13:25 *But the king said to Absalom, "No, my son, let us not all go now, lest we be a burden to you." Then he urged him, but he would not go; and he blessed him.*

- Absalom played the thing off, pushing David to come.

2Sa 13:26-27 *Then Absalom said, "If not, please let my brother Amnon go with us." And the king said to him, "Why should he go with you?" [27] But Absalom urged him; so he let Amnon and all the king's sons go with him.*

- So Absalom had set the stage to kill his brother.
- David shows his curiosity. Now it is not entirely odd that Absalom would ask for Amnon to come to this feast because if David is not going to come, then Amnon, who is heir to the throne would be the next person that you would want in terms of prominence.

2Sa 13:28 *Now Absalom had commanded his servants, saying, "Watch now, when Amnon's heart is merry with wine, and when I say to you, 'Strike Amnon!' then kill him. Do not be afraid. Have I not commanded you? Be courageous and valiant."*

- Kill him. Do not be afraid, even though he is the king's son. I am the king's son also. I will take care of you.

2Sa 13:29-30 *So the servants of Absalom did to Amnon as Absalom had commanded. Then all the king's sons arose, and each one got on his mule and fled. [30] And it came to pass, while they were on the way, that news came to David, saying, "Absalom has killed all the king's sons, and not one of them is left!"*

- Baal Hazor was about eight miles north of Jerusalem, and word first came back to David, and probably when just at the time that the servants had killed Amnon, they started fleeing. They did not know to the extent that the murderers would go. They did not know but what Absalom was going to cut off all the heirs of David. So they fled, and they came back, saying, "Absalom's killed all your boys." The first guys out, just ran back to Jerusalem. They got back to David with this horrible news.

2Sa 13:31 *So the king arose and tore his garments and lay on the ground, and all his servants stood by with their clothes torn.*

- Tore his garments. You can just picture David's heart being torn in half.

2Sa 13:32-33 *Then Jonadab the son of Shimeah, David's brother, answered and said, "Let not my lord suppose they have killed all the young men, the king's sons, for only Amnon is dead. For by the command of Absalom this has been determined from the day that he forced his sister Tamar. [33] Now therefore, let not my lord the king take the thing to his heart, to think that all the king's sons are dead. For only Amnon is dead."*

- Jonadab was a crafty fellow. He was subtle, he could read people's personalities, and character. He realized, "Hey Absalom has this in his heart to get revenge on Amnon." He had been watching.

Absalom Flees to Geshur

2Sa 13:34-36 *Then Absalom fled. And the young man who was keeping watch lifted his eyes and looked, and there, many people were coming from the road on the hillside behind him. [35] And Jonadab said to the king, "Look, the king's sons are coming; as your servant said, so it is." [36] So it was, as soon as he had finished speaking, that the king's sons indeed came, and they lifted up their voice and wept. Also the king and all his servants wept very bitterly.*

- This was a terrible, terrible loss. David loved his son Amnon. They all loved Amnon.

2Sa 13:37 *But Absalom fled and went to Talmai the son of Ammihud, king of Geshur. And David mourned for his son (probably Amnon) every day.*

- **Talmai the king of Geshur was the father of Maacah, Absalom's mother** (2Sa 3:3). Talmai is his grandfather on his mother's side. She was a Gentile. So he flees there to find refuge with the other side of the family and this grandfather would have been very happy to supply him with a refuge even though he had killed Amnon because of the killing of because of what he had done to his blood relative Tamar.

2Sa 13:38-39 *So Absalom fled and went to Geshur, and was there three years. [39] And King David longed to go to Absalom. For he had been comforted concerning Amnon, because he was dead.*

- **After three years, David has come to grips with the death of Amnon.** He has processed it, and he has lost the one son, and he is dealt with the pain of that. Now he realizes he has lost another son, probably to fleeing as a result of his own weakness as a father, and he desires some kind of a reconciliation here with Absalom.
- **He longs to go to Absalom, yet he has this thing of pride** that keeps him from putting on a makeup. It is sad how that pride so often keeps people apart. You get two stubborn people, and you get a stand-off. Though there is the desire for reconciliation, this stubborn pride will not allow you to make the first move, to take the initiative to restore the relationship. That is sad and tragic indeed!

Absalom Returns to Jerusalem

2Sa 14:1-2 *So Joab the son of Zeruiah perceived that the king's heart was concerned about Absalom. [2] And Joab sent to Tekoa and brought from there a wise woman, and said to her, "Please pretend to be a mourner, and put on mourning apparel; do not anoint yourself with oil (as was done during feast times), but act like a woman who has been mourning a long time for the dead.*

- **Joab, the general of the Israeli army, was also a blood relative of David,** *perceived the king* wanted to have this relationship once again with his son. So Joab set up a kind of a ruse, a play acting in order to accomplish this. He *sent to Tekoa and brought from there a wise woman. She is a smart actress who* could take care of herself in any situation.
- **This the plan.** *Please pretend to be a mourner. Put on mourning apparel like you have lost a loved one. And do not anoint yourself with oil, but act like a woman who has been mourning a long time for the dead.*

2Sa 14:3 *Go to the king and speak to him in this manner." So Joab put the words in her mouth.*

- **Joab, remembering Nathan's Bethsheba parable to David,** tells her what to do, giving her a story that she is going to recite in front of the king to elicit a response from him. Joab recreates the same kind of a situation here in sending this woman with a story.

2Sa 14:4-7 *And when the woman of Tekoa spoke to the king, she fell on her face to the ground and prostrated herself, and said, "Help, O king!" [5] Then the king said to her, "What troubles you?" And she answered, "Indeed I am a widow, my husband is dead. [6] Now your maidservant had two sons; and the two fought with each other in the field, and there was no one to part them, but the one struck the other and killed him. [7] And now the whole family has risen up against your maidservant, and they said, 'Deliver him who struck his brother, that we may execute him for the life of his brother whom he killed; and we will destroy the heir also.' So they would extinguish my ember that is left, and leave to my husband neither name nor remnant on the earth."*

- **She told this sad story, you know.** "They were my two heirs, my only sons. My husband is dead. They were fighting, no one was there to break it up, the one killed the other, and now, they are demanding that the one son be put to death. If that happens then *they would extinguish my ember that is left, and leave to my husband neither name nor remnant on the earth.*"

2Sa 14:8 *Then the king said to the woman, "Go to your house, and I will give orders concerning you."*

- But she was wanting to get more than that out of David. She was wanting David to make an absolute judgement in the case..

2Sa 14:9 And the woman of Tekoa said to the king, "My lord, O king, let the iniquity be on me and on my father's house, and the king and his throne be guiltless."

- The woman was willing to receive whatever blame might arise from the sparing of her guilty son.
2Sa 14:10 So the king said, "Whoever says anything to you, bring him to me, and he shall not touch you anymore."

- "Whoever said this is not to bother you anymore." So she is still wanting him to make the judgement, in saying, "Your son is forgiven."

2Sa 14:11 Then she said, "Please let the king remember the LORD your God, and do not permit the avenger of blood to destroy anymore, lest they destroy my son." And he said, "As the LORD lives, not one hair of your son shall fall to the ground."

- Now swearing by the Lord, is what she is desiring, you know, "Not one hair of his head will fall;" meaning that no harm will come to the son of the widow in the story.

2Sa 14:12-13 Therefore the woman said, "Please, let your maidservant speak another word to my lord the king." And he said, giving her permission, "Say on." [13] So the woman said: "Why then have you schemed such a thing against the people of God? For the king speaks this thing as one who is guilty, in that the king does not bring his banished one home again."

- Look, you have said that the son should be forgiven, that there might be an heir. Yet your son Absalom, who is heir to the throne, has been banished. So you actually are speaking against yourself, you see? Why don't you not bring back Absalom? Then she gives him tremendous words of counsel!

2Sa 14:14 For we will surely die and become like water spilled on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again. Yet God does not take away a life; but He devises means, so that His banished ones are not expelled from Him.

- David, when you die, there is no opportunity to then reconcile, or to redo the things that have been done. Death ends the opportunities of showing kindness, forgiveness, and love! When there are these kind of differences within a family, that little bit of pride keeps you from calling and saying, "I am sorry, I really did not mean what I said." Can you forgive me?" If you hold onto that, if you refuse to apologize, if you do not tell the person that you really love them, you did not mean it.
- One day death is going to come, and it is going to rob you of any further opportunity of making amends, of making things right. That can be a haunting thought. "Why didn't I tell them? Why didn't I say I was sorry? I do love them!" but now you cannot tell them! Death ends those opportunities.
- It is like water that is spilled on the ground. You cannot gather it up again! You cannot gather up these opportunities again, they are gone, like water spilled on the ground, it is over. No way can you gather it again. So now is the time, while they are still alive, while you are still alive. To make things right, to make amends. To swallow your pride, to say you are sorry. To tell them you love them!
- **Reconcile now! What a great reminder for us! What in my life needs to be reconciled or taken care of before my last breath. Or before the last breath of another with whom reconciliation needs to be made. Help me Lord to do this now. Once death occurs there will be no more opportunity! It needs to be done now!**
- Then she said, Yet God does not take away a life; David, you have made a judgement concerning the situation of my sons, but God does not take away a life. If you would forgive my son his evil, then surely you know, you should forgive your own son. .
- But He devises means, so that His banished ones are not expelled from Him. Oh, I love that when I consider the means that God has devised whereby we who were banished through sin, are not expelled from Him.
- Because of sin, Adam was banished from the garden. But God devised the means whereby Adam would not be expelled from Him, but could spend eternity with God. He devised the sacrifices and all, whereby the sins could be covered until the promised Messiah, would put them away, through His death upon the cross!
- As we look at Jesus Christ dying on the cross, we see how God was devising the means whereby the banished may not be expelled from Him. Though you have sinned, and your sin has separated you from God, causing you to be banished from God, yet He has devised the means whereby you need not be expelled from the kingdom! But through Jesus Christ, the door is open!

- **Verse 14. Yet God does not take away a life; but He devises means, so that His banished ones are not expelled from Him. What a great verse this is! A beautiful reminder of His devised means of our salvation! Of His saving us through Jesus Christ! Oh the joy of my salvation! Thank You, my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!**

2Sa 14:15 Now therefore, I have come to speak of this thing to my lord the king because the people have made me afraid. And your maidservant said, 'I will now speak to the king; it may be that the king will perform the request of his maidservant.'

- In other words she said that all of the people are wishing that you would patch things up with Absalom. They were pushing me to come and to say these things to you. She was trying to hide the fact that Joab was the one who set her up for it.

2Sa 14:16-17 For the king will hear and deliver his maidservant from the hand of the man who would destroy me and my son together from the inheritance of God.' [17] Your maidservant said, 'The word of my lord the king will now be comforting; for as the angel of God, so is my lord the king in discerning good and evil. And may the LORD your God be with you.'

- She is flattering him, buttering him up, saying, "I knew that your heart would be this way, because you are as the angel of God!"

2Sa 14:18-19 Then the king answered and said to the woman, "Please do not hide from me anything that I ask you." And the woman said, "Please, let my lord the king speak." [19] So the king said, "Is the hand of Joab with you in all this?" And the woman answered and said, "As you live, my lord the king, no one can turn to the right hand or to the left from anything that my lord the king has spoken. For your servant Joab commanded me, and he put all these words in the mouth of your maidservant."

- No one can hide anything from you David. You are exactly right!

2Sa 14:20 To bring about this change of affairs your servant Joab has done this thing; but my lord is wise, according to the wisdom of the angel of God, to know everything that is in the earth."

- She again is flattering David, but acknowledging that Joab was behind it.

David tells Joab to bring Absalom back to Jerusalem

2Sa 14:21-22 And the king said to Joab, "All right, I have granted this thing. Go therefore, bring back the young man Absalom." [22] Then Joab fell to the ground on his face and bowed himself, and thanked the king. And Joab said, "Today your servant knows that I have found favor in your sight, my lord, O king, in that the king has fulfilled the request of his servant."

- Joab was probably standing there listening to the whole thing. You know acting like he is interested in what the woman was saying. It could be that he was a little bit too interested, and David discerned, "Hey, wait a minute," you know. "Joab fell on the ground on his face."

2Sa 14:23 So Joab arose and went to Geshur, and brought Absalom to Jerusalem. [24] And the king said, "Let him return to his own house, but do not let him see my face." So Absalom returned to his own house, but did not see the king's face.

- David said, "Oh well, you tricked me, but bring him back." But David was still holding on to this thing. He would not let Absalom make up. This was a mistake on David's part. If he had received Absalom, and had they gotten you know, their feelings out, and the forgiveness and all, that Absalom would probably not have rebelled against David. But with David taking this continued attitude towards him, Absalom's rebellion began to work. The hatred and rebellion in his heart grew!

2Sa 14:25 Now in all Israel there was no one who was praised as much as Absalom for his good looks. From the sole of his foot to the crown of his head there was no blemish in him.

- Absalom was really a good looking man. Every year, it was a custom for the kings, or the king's sons to pull their head, which is to shave their heads. They would weigh the hair, and they would be given so much gold for the hair. It was a way of giving tribute.

2Sa 14:26 And when he cut the hair of his head—at the end of every year he cut it because it was heavy on him—when he cut it, he weighed the hair of his head at two hundred shekels (4-6 pounds) according to the king's standard.

- Now that is a lot of hair!

2Sa 14:27 To Absalom were born three sons, and one daughter whose name was Tamar. She was a woman of beautiful appearance.

- Absalom named his daughter Tamar after his sister, whom he loved.

2Sa 14:28 *And Absalom dwelt two full years in Jerusalem, but did not see the king's face.*

- There was now five years of separation since Absalom's revenge killing of his brother Amnon. In reality what Absalom did was not as bad as what David had done. David committed adultery with Bathsheba, and then deliberately had her husband put to death just to cover his sin of adultery. At least Absalom had some reason, some cause. Amnon had disgraced raped his sister; then put her out. He had some reason for revenge.
- David really had no reason to kill Uriah. Yet David is holding this against his son, what he has received forgiveness for himself. For God said to David, "Your sins are forgiven," and yet here he is holding Absalom's crime against him.
- We remember in (Mat 18:32-35) *Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. [33] Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?' [34] And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. [35] 'So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.'*
- **David did not see Absalom's face for two full years! What a great reminder! Are there instances where He has shown His grace, mercy, and forgiveness, that I turn around and not extend it to another, such as David did with Absalom?**

2Sa 14:29 *Therefore Absalom sent for Joab, to send him to the king, but he would not come to him. And when he sent again the second time, he would not come.*

- Absalom was wanting Joab now to go to the king again, and say, "Come on David, make peace with Absalom.

2Sa 14:30-33 *So he said to his servants, "See, Joab's field is near mine, and he has barley there; go and set it on fire." And Absalom's servants set the field on fire. [31] Then Joab arose and came to Absalom's house, and said to him, "Why have your servants set my field on fire?" [32] And Absalom answered Joab, "Look, I sent to you, saying, 'Come here, so that I may send you to the king, to say, 'Why have I come from Geshur? It would be better for me to be there still.' ' Now therefore, let me see the king's face; but if there is iniquity in me, let him execute me.' [33] So Joab went 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. Then the king kissed Absalom.*

- Absalom's prank succeeded in persuading Joab to bring him to his father for reconciliation. Although David's kiss was a sign of complete reconciliation and restoration of Absalom's position as the king's son, it was given reluctantly. The fact that his father did not give him instant, wholehearted forgiveness rankled in Absalom's soul. It seems that David made a blunder in not forgiving his son as God had forgiven him. He will live to regret it.
- There is a great contrast in (Luk 15:20) *"And he (the prodigal son) arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.* It is a sign that all is forgiven, it is over. It is interesting to me Absalom's method of getting Joab's attention. "Send a message to Joab, I want to see him. I want you to make peace with my dad for me." Twice he sends a message, Joab does not respond. So he sets his fields on fire, which brings him over in a hurry.
- In a way, this is how God operates. Has He ever set your field on fire? He has set mine on fire. You know, God speaks to us, and we do not respond, or we are slow. "Oh well, I'll get around to it you know." God speaks to us on an issue, and if we do not respond, God is not beyond setting your field on fire, bringing some kind of a calamity into your life. Bringing some kind of a situation where we come and say, "God what is going on? What are You doing Lord?" "Whoa, nice to see you, I have been wanting to talk to you about this issue! How sad that God has to set our fields on fire, to get our attention.
- And the king kissed Absalom; in token of his reconciliation to him; which laid the foundation for troubles from Absalom, related in the following chapters. Nothing was said by Absalom about forgiveness; for his falling down before the king when he came into his presence was nothing more than the ordinary manifestation of reverence with which a subject in the East approaches his king. It was not a deep and complete reconciliation.
- Lord, give us grace to forgive!

SUMMARY

- **How about the influencers in my life? Are there any Jonadab's? Oh Lord, help me to get rid of them. I do not need them. They can do so much damage. I know that You do not want me to be under their influence. (2Sa 13:3)**
- **How frequently do I make decisions based on emotion, on my feelings in my heart, in my gut, which can completely change in an instant? Do I really understand the importance of relying on His unchanging word and its truth? How am I in testing my responses and my actions with the Word of God? Whose will am I following, mine or His? (2Sa 13:15)**
- **Reconcile now! What a great reminder for us! What in my life needs to be reconciled or taken care of before my last breath. Or before the last breath of another with whom reconciliation needs to be made. Help me Lord to do this now. Once death occurs there will be no more opportunity! It needs to be done now! (2Sa 14:14)**
- **Verse 14. Yet God does not take away a life; but He devises means, so that His banished ones are not expelled from Him. What a great verse this is! A beautiful reminder of His devised means of our salvation! Of His saving us through Jesus Christ! Oh the joy of my salvation! Thank You, my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! (2Sa 14:14)**
- **David did not see Absalom's face for two full years! What a great reminder! Are there instances where He has shown His grace, mercy, and forgiveness, that I turn around and not extend it to another, such as David did with Absalom? (2Sa 14:28)**
- Lord, give us grace to forgive!

I BELIEVE IN JESUS – Keith Matten (2:05/2:08)

*I believe in Jesus I believe He is the Son of God I believe He died and rose again
I believe He paid for us all I believe He's here now Standing in our midst Here
with the power to heal now And the grace to forgive*

*I believe in You, Lord I believe You are the Son of God I believe You died and rose
again I believe You paid for us all And I believe You're here now (I believe that
You're here) Standing in our midst Here With the power to heal now (With the
power to heal) And the grace to forgive*

*And I believe You're here now Standing in our midst Here With the power to heal
now And the grace to forgive*

CLOSING PRAYER

- I pray that we might each be sensitive to the voice of the Lord, as He calls to us. That He will not find it necessary to set any of our fields on fire. But that when God speaks, we will respond in a positive way. May God draw you unto Himself. Maybe you feel banished from God, maybe you are conscious of your sin, and the guilt is weighing upon you, but remember God has devised the means, whereby those that have been banished, are not expelled. If you will just come, God has provided the means of your forgiveness, your restoration! God bless you and give you a beautiful week, as He works His work within your heart and life, for His sake.

NEXT WEEK: Study 2 Samuel, Chapters 15-16!