

2 Samuel 14: Father

2 Samuel 13 Review: Influence of Friends and Family/Hope those Ravaged by Sin

- **Dysfunctional Family:** After being spurred on by a friend, David's son Amnon rapes his sister Tamar.
- **Absalom, another of David's sons** kills Amnon his brother and flees to Geshur away from his father David
- **David's actions** (or inactions) will drive a wedge between himself and his son who will eventually rebel against his father the King

Sin of Omission: Neglect or failure to do that which should have been done

2 Samuel 14 Father

1Now Joab the son of Zeruiah perceived that the king's heart was **inclined toward Absalom**. 2So Joab sent to Tekoa and brought a **wise woman** from there and said to her, "Please pretend to be a mourner, and put on mourning garments now, and do not anoint yourself with oil, but be like a woman who has been mourning for the dead many days; 3 then go to the king and speak to him in this manner." So Joab put the words in her mouth.

- Joab could see that **David missed his son** Absalom
- Joab sends a wise woman to David with a contrived story
- **Pretend to mourn** for your dead husband; **asking King for help**

4Now 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." 5The king said to her, "What is your trouble?" And she answered, "Truly I am a widow, for my husband is dead. 6"Your maidservant had **two sons**, but the two of them struggled together in the field, and there was no one to separate them, so one struck the other and **killed him**. 7"Now behold, the **whole family has risen against** your maidservant, and they say, '**Hand over the one who** struck his brother, that we may put him to death for the life of his brother whom he killed, and destroy the heir also.' Thus they will extinguish my coal

which is left, so as to leave my husband neither name nor remnant on the face of the earth."

- Two sons fighting to be head of the house (Amnon)
- One killed the other; if this one is killed none will be left
- Whole family has risen against me to hand him over
- **Message:** Israel in chaos due to David's inaction concerning Absalom; Neither judgment (death) nor forgiveness; not involved in his son's life...at all

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

- "**Go to your house...**" put off the decision; Woman presses David

9The woman of Tekoa said to the king, "O my lord, the king, the **iniquity is on me** and my father's house, but the king and his throne are guiltless."

- The woman agrees to take the guilt, softening David up

10So the king said, "Whoever speaks to you, bring him to me, and he **will not touch you anymore**."

- David agrees to **protect the woman**; no decision about the son

11Then she said, "Please let the king remember the LORD your God, so that the **avenger of blood** will not continue to destroy, otherwise they will destroy my son "And he said, "As the LORD lives, **not one hair of your son shall fall to the ground**."

- **Avenger of blood:** Protector of the family; expected to avenge the life of the murdered son by killing the murderer (son 2)
- "**Not one hair...**" David relents saying her son will live (mercy)
- The woman charges through the open door...

12Then the woman said, "Please let your maidservant speak a word to my lord the king." And he said, "Speak." 13The woman said, "**Why then have you planned such a thing against the people of God?** For in speaking this word the king is as one who is guilty, in that the king does not **bring back his banished one**. 14"For we will surely

die and are like water spilled on the ground which cannot be gathered up again. **Yet God does not take away life**, but plans ways so that the banished one will not be cast out from him.

- If Absalom is not brought back, **Israel will be in chaos** because the heir to the throne is not secure...up in the air
- If you would save my son whom you don't know...**what about you own?**
- **"God does not take away life..."** a distortion of God's law [premeditated murder equals death] appeals for mercy

15"Now the reason I have come to speak this word to my lord the king is that the people have made me afraid; so your maidservant said, 'Let me now speak to the king, perhaps the king will perform the request of his maidservant. 16 'For the king will hear and deliver his maidservant from the hand of the **man who would destroy both me and my son from the inheritance of God.**' 17"Then your maidservant said, 'Please let the word of my lord the king be comforting, for **as the angel of God**, so is my lord the king to discern good and evil. And may the LORD your God be with you."

- **"Destroy me and my son..."** Woman flip/flopping fabricated story
- **Angel of the God:** Praise and perhaps flattery
- **Flip flopping plus flattery** prompts David to ask a question:

18Then the king answered and said to the woman, "Please do not hide anything from me that I am about to ask you." [let me ask you a question] And the woman said, "Let my lord the king please speak." 19So the king said, **"Is the hand of Joab with you in all this?"** And the woman replied, "As your soul lives, my lord the king, no one can turn to the right or to the left from anything that my lord the king has spoken. [You got me!] Indeed, it was your servant Joab who commanded me, and it was he who put all these words in the mouth of your maidservant; 20in order **to change the appearance of things** your servant Joab has done this thing. But my lord is wise, like the **wisdom of the angel of God**, to know all that is in the earth."

- David discerns it was **Joab**
- **Change the appearance** of things [change the present situation]

- Things look out of control in Israel
- Wisdom of the angel of God: Again

21Then the king said to Joab, "Behold now, **I will surely do this thing**; go therefore, bring back the young man Absalom." 22Joab fell on his face to the ground, prostrated himself and blessed the king; then Joab said, "Today your servant knows that I have found favor in your sight, O my lord, the king, in that the king has performed the request of his servant." 23So Joab arose and went to Geshur and brought Absalom to Jerusalem. 24However the king said, "**Let him turn to his own house, and let him not see my face.**" So Absalom turned to his own house and did not see the king's face.

- Joab appears to have been there as David agrees to the request
- "Let him turn to his own house, let him not see my face"
- **David again refuses to deal with the situation:** forgiveness, bitterness, retribution, restoration... nothing

25Now in all Israel was no one as handsome as Absalom, so highly praised; from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head there was no defect in him. 26When he cut the hair of his head (and it was at the end of every year that he cut it, for it was heavy on him so he cut it), he weighed the hair of his head at 200 shekels by the king's weight. 27 To Absalom there were born three sons, and one daughter whose name was **Tamar; she was a woman of beautiful appearance.**

- **Handsome:** Locks were a kingly attribute (playing cards)
- **Three sons:** appear to have died young (2 Sam 18:18)
- **Tamar:** A honoring of his violated sister? Concern for his sister also appealing to others

28Now Absalom lived **two full years** in Jerusalem, and did not see the king's face. 29Then Absalom sent for Joab, to send him to the king, but he would not come to him. So he sent again a second time, but he would not come. 30Therefore he said to his servants, "See, 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.**

- Two more years estranged...Absalom got Joab's attention

- Set his fields on fire

31Then Joab arose, came to Absalom at his house and said to him, "Why have your servants set my field on fire?" 32Absalom answered Joab, "Behold, I sent for you, saying, 'Come here, that I may send you to the king, to say, "Why have I come from Geshur? It would be better for me still to be there."' Now therefore, let me see the king's face, and **if there is iniquity in me, let him put me to death.**" 33So when Joab came to the king and told him, he called for Absalom. Thus he came to the king and prostrated himself on his face to the ground before the king, **and the king kissed Absalom.**

- Joab finally schedules a meeting after Absalom pleads...
- ...If I'm guilty, let the King punish me, if not give me **full** restoration
- Absalom bowed before his father David..."**...the King kissed Absalom**" ...**Too little too late**

SUMMARY: David's relationship with his son is falling apart; he is looking weak and foolish to others; giving up and giving in and not sacrificing his pride for the sake of his son; not teaching him the ways of God

CONCLUSION: One Father

Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go, Even when he is old he will not depart from it.

Deuteronomy 6:1 (Read) "Now this is the commandment, the statutes and the judgments which the LORD your God has commanded me to teach you, that you might do them **in the land where you are going** over to possess it,[conversion]2 so that **you and your son and your grandson** might fear the LORD your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged. 3"O Israel, you should listen and be careful to do it, that it may be well with you and that you may multiply greatly, just as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey. 4" Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! 5"You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6"These words, which I am commanding you today, shall **be on your heart.** 7"You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall **talk of them when you sit** in your house and

when you walk by the way and **when you lie down** and **when you rise up**. 8 "You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. 9 "You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

- **First:** Father's must have God's Word **on their heart**
- **Talk about God and His Word** with his children when you sit, walk, lie down, wake; Write God's Word...all over the place

James 4:17 Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin.

- David knew what was right and did not do it, Absalom will rebel

Ephesians 6:4 Fathers, **do not provoke your children to anger**, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

- **Provoke:** To irritate, exasperate, rub the wrong way, incite, etc.
- **Cause :** Wrong spirit wrong methods including:
- **Severity, unreasonableness,** sternness, harshness, cruel demands, needless restrictions, selfish insistence upon authority
- **Provocation towards children may incite adverse reactions,** deaden their affection, question their desire for holiness, and make them feel that they can't possibly please their parents
- **A wise father** seeks to make obedience **desirable and attainable** by love and gentleness...which David withheld
- **In David's case,** not taking parental responsibility in a potentially volatile family situation provoked his son's separation, estrangement, mixed feelings and ultimate **rebellion**

So...What is our response if our fathers do not know the Lord and **cannot be the parents God wants them to be?**

Romans 8:6 (Read) For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, 7 because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, **for it is not even able to do so,** 8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

- Most of us have fathers in this situation...**unsaved and unable**
- What is our response to ungodly fathers?
- As Jesus was being tortured and ridiculed He responded...

Luke 23:33 ..."Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing"

- Our responsibility is to forgive and to do what's right...anyway
- We are responsible for our response to our fathers

Ezekiel 18:14 (Read) "Now behold, he has a son who has observed all his father's sins which he committed, and observing **does not do likewise**. 15"He does not eat at the mountain shrines or lift up his eyes to the idols of the house of Israel, or defile his neighbor's wife, 16or oppress anyone, or retain a pledge, or commit robbery, but he gives his bread to the hungry and covers the naked with clothing, 17he keeps his hand from the poor, does not take interest or increase, but executes My ordinances, and walks in My statutes; **he will not die for his father's iniquity**, he will surely live. 18"As for his father, because he practiced extortion, robbed his brother and did what was not good among his people, behold, he will die for his iniquity. 19"Yet you say, 'Why should the son not bear the punishment for the father's iniquity?' When the son has practiced justice and righteousness and has observed all My statutes and done them, he shall surely live. 20"The person who sins will die. The son will not bear the punishment for the father's iniquity, nor will the father bear the punishment for the son's iniquity; the righteousness of the righteous will be **upon himself**, and the wickedness of the wicked will be **upon himself**. [Responsibility]

Colossian 3:20 Children, **be obedient to your parents in all things**, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord.

Deuteronomy 5:16 ' **Honor your father and your mother**, as the LORD your God has commanded you, that your days may be prolonged and that it may go well with you on the land which the LORD your God gives you.

Proverbs 30:17 The eye that mocks a father And scorns a mother, The ravens of the valley will pick it out, And the young eagles will eat it.

- We are responsible to do what is right...anyway, [see Josiah]

understanding that God is our Father

Psalm 27:8 Of David. When You said, "Seek My face," my heart said to You, "Your face, O LORD, I shall seek." 9 Do not hide Your face from me, Do not turn Your servant away in anger; You have been my help; Do not abandon me nor forsake me, O God of my salvation! 10For my father and my mother have forsaken me, **But the LORD will take me up.**

Psalm 68:4 Of David. Sing to God, sing praises to His name; Lift up a song for Him who rides through the deserts, Whose name is the LORD, and exult before Him. 5 **A father of the fatherless** and a judge for the widows, Is God in His holy habitation. 6God makes a home for the lonely...

- God is our Father only if Jesus is our Lord and Savior

Abba: Affectionate way to say Father (Daddy). It is a term expressing warm affection and filial (befitting a son or daughters) confidence. It has **no perfect equivalent in our language.**

- Before Jesus went to the cross
- He is a Father when we are suffering or going through trials

Mark 14:36 And He was saying, " **Abba! Father!** All things are possible for You; remove this cup from Me; yet not what I will, but what You will."

- Adoption into the family of God; freedom in Christ
- He is a Father when we are fearful, feeling trapped

Romans 8:15 For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, " **Abba! Father!**"

- Jesus Spirit in us cries to the Father just as Jesus did...Daddy!

Galatians 4:6 Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, " **Abba! Father!**"

- Moses knew Him as a Father that stood beside him

Exodus 34:5 (Read) The LORD descended in the cloud and **stood there with him** as he called upon the name of the LORD. 6Then the

LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "**The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in loving-kindness and truth**

Psalms 18:35 You give me your shield of victory, and your right hand sustains me; you stoop down to make me great.