

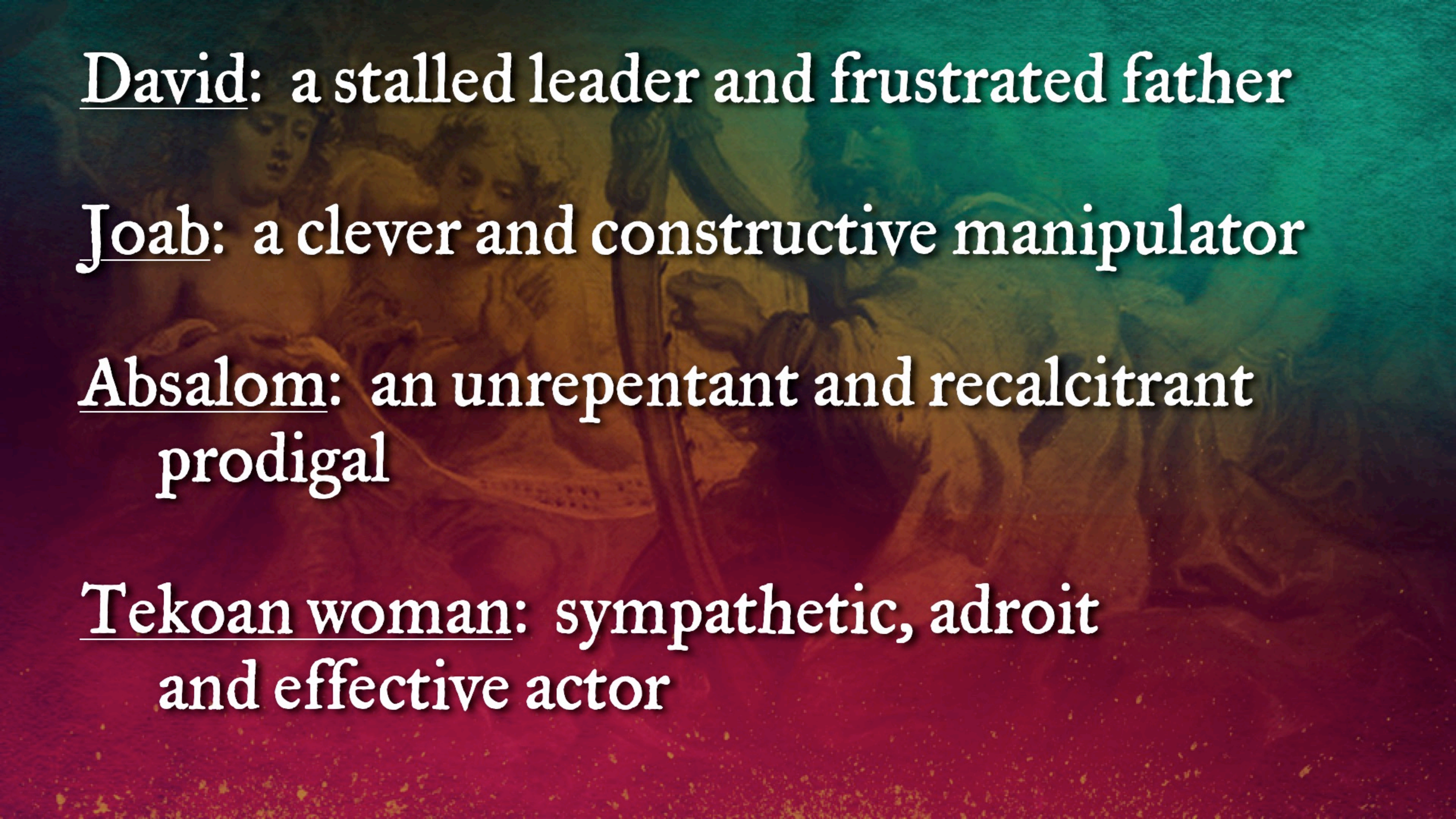


2 SAMUEL

THE STORY OF UNLIKELY REDEMPTION

2 Samuel 14



A classical painting depicting King David and his sons, with a woman in the foreground. The scene is set in a room with a large, ornate chandelier hanging from the ceiling. The king is seated on the right, looking towards the left. Several young boys are gathered around him, some holding objects. A woman in a white dress is in the foreground, looking towards the king. The background shows a large window with a view of a landscape.

David: a stalled leader and frustrated father

Joab: a clever and constructive manipulator

Absalom: an unrepentant and recalcitrant prodigal

Tekoan woman: sympathetic, adroit and effective actor

2 Samuel 14

1. There are times we all experience a clash of responsibilities. The wisdom of God's Word can help us prioritize and navigate the collisions and confusion.

“This chapter should haunt the church, not to mention the individual, believing or unbelieving. It is possible to have all the signs of wisdom - plans, strategies, accomplishments - and yet be utterly devoid of it.”

- Dale Ralph Davis

2 Samuel 14

2. Far too often we reach for solutions that are merely cosmetic when the solutions we really need are systemic.

“Without wonder, we approach spiritual formation as a self-help project. We employ techniques. We analyze gifts and potentialities. We set goals. We assess progress. Spiritual formation is reduced to cosmetics.”

- Eugene Peterson
Living the Resurrection

2 Samuel 14

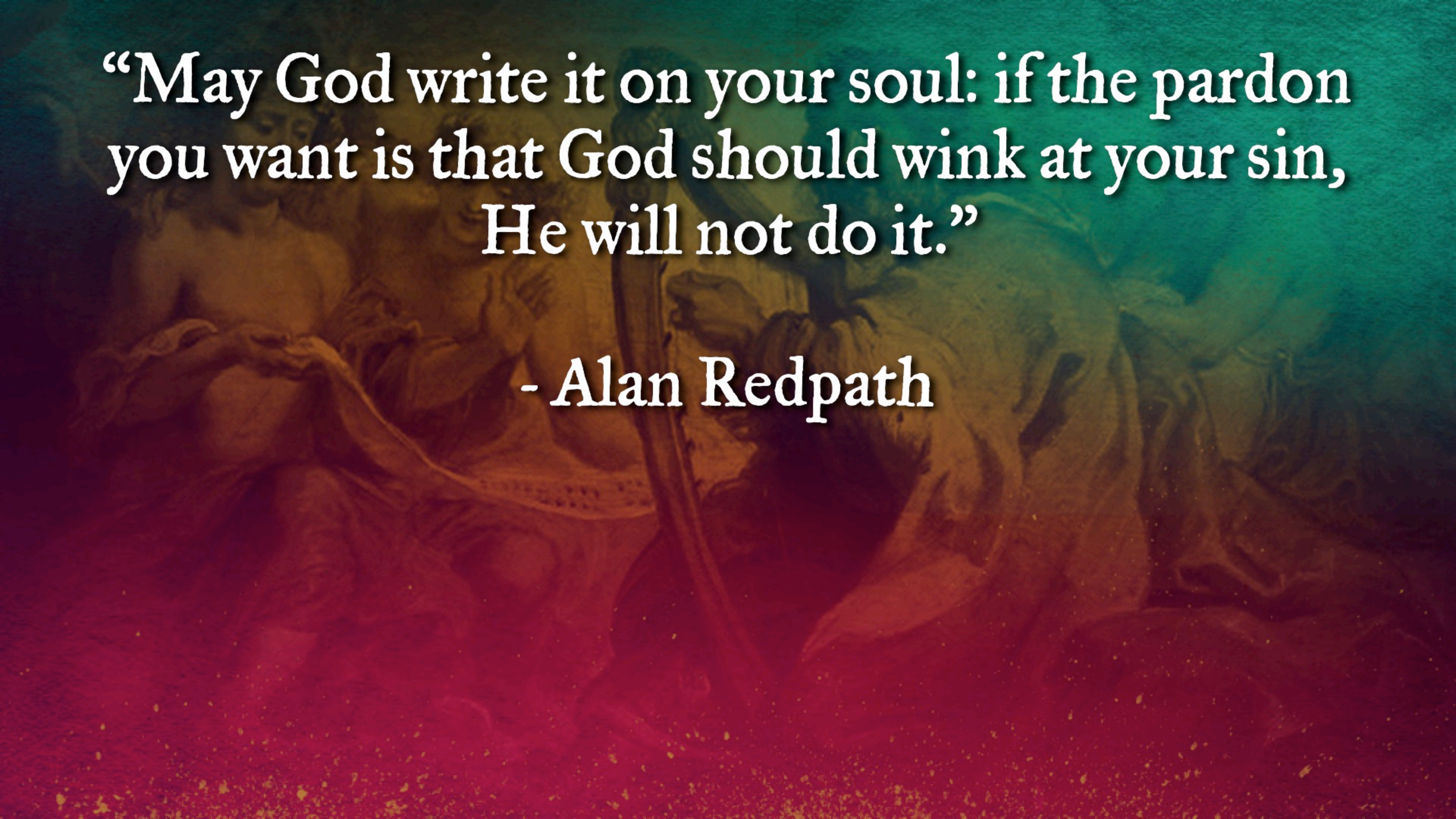
3. If God's justice is tempered by mercy,
so should ours be.

2 Samuel 14

4. There's a difference between acquittal and forgiveness.

2 Samuel 14

5. How grateful we can be that God's grace towards repentant sinners is whole-hearted and unrestrained.



“May God write it on your soul: if the pardon
you want is that God should wink at your sin,
He will not do it.”

- Alan Redpath

“Our beliefs and our experiences are not meant to be unrelated, kept in different compartments of our lives. We all have a responsibility to bring them together, to think about how what has happened to us can be understood in light of our faith and how our understanding of God and his work can be developed in the light of our experiences.”

- Mary J. Evans
The Message of Samuel