



## Second Samuel Pursuing the Heart of God

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### “Dangerous Ambition”

#### Absalom Returns to Jerusalem & Conspires against David

2 Samuel 14:1-15:12

June 24, 2018

Dr. Mark Strauss

**Theme:** After Absalom murders his brother Amnon, he escapes to his relatives in Geshur. Though David longs to be reconciled to his son, he is unwilling to initiate that reconciliation. His general, Joab, eventually arranges the reconciliation by sending a woman to David with a fictional story of a man’s estrangement from his mother and his family. David recognizes himself in the story and allows Joab to bring Absalom back to Jerusalem. Yet Absalom has ambitions to be king and plots to overthrow David.

#### **Outline:**

1. Joab’s Plan to Bring Absalom Back (14:1–22)
  - a. Joab’s plan, vv. 1–3
  - b. The woman of Tekoa’s story, vv. 4–7
  - c. David grants clemency to the woman’s son, vv. 8–11
  - d. The woman reveals the allegorical nature of the story, vv. 12–17

e. David recognizes Joab's role, vv. 18–20

f. David allows Absalom's return, vv. 21-22

## 2. Absalom's Return (14:23–33)

a. Return to Jerusalem but no reconciliation, vv. 23-24

b. Absalom's appeal and popularity with the people, vv. 25–27

c. Absalom manipulates Joab to intervene for reconciliation, vv. 28-32

d. Absalom and David "reconcile," v. 33

## 3. Absalom Steals the Hearts of the People of Israel (15:1–12)

a. Absalom's PR Campaign, 15:1–6

b. The coup begins: Absalom's plans to be declared king, 15:7-12

**Takeaway:** True reconciliation is more than a cessation of hostility. It occurs when we seek the best for the other person.

### **Next Cove:**

Date: June 31, 2018

Title: David Flees; the Advice of Ahithophel and Hushai

Scripture: 2 Samuel 15:13-17:23