

- I) V1 INTRO: So Joab the son of Zeruiah perceived that the king's heart *was concerned* about Absalom
  - a) As we have seen, David's oldest son Amnon was guilty of raping his half sister Tamar
    - 1) When Tamar's brother Absalom learned of this, he sheltered his sister and planned on revenge
    - 2) Ultimately, two years later he was able to lure Amnon to his home, and had him killed
    - 3) After doing this, Absalom fled to his grandfather's home in Geshur, remaining three years
- II) DURING THIS TIME: King *David mourned* for his son because he loved him deeply
  - a) He longed to go to Absalom, but would not even though he had healed from the loss of Amnon
    - 1) KEY: In all of this, it is obvious that David loved him, but could not go to him
- III) DAVID HAD: Healed over his losses, but would not go to Absalom for at least two basic reasons
  - a) FIRST: It may be that the fear of public opinion had made David resist pardoning his son
  - b) SECOND: There was an internal battle going on in the heart of David: he was conflicted
- IV) REMEMBER: David under ordinary circumstances was a wise and righteous leader
  - a) AS A RIGHTEOUS MAN: He would struggle over what his son had done
    - 1) ON ONE HAND: He would desire to be with Absalom, as any father would
    - 2) ON THE OTHER: His righteous heart could not easily reconcile such terrible sin
- V) THIS IS WHERE: Many people fail to understand the heart of such men (1 Co 2:14)
  - a) When somebody really desires to do the right thing, those with less conviction often misunderstand
    - 1) David's heart was both *moved* for his son, while *simultaneously angry*
    - 2) CONCERNED: Speaks of concern, but can also speak of anger and hostility
    - 3) He was experiencing both a *longing* and *rejection*, simultaneously: Joab could see this
- VI) V2-3 AND: Joab sent to Tekoa and brought from there a wise woman and said to her Please pretend
  - a) Tekoa was a town around 10 miles south of Jerusalem
- VII) KEY: David's general Joab (his nephew) saw the struggle David was in, and devises a plan
  - a) He brings in a woman from the town that is reputed to be wise (older, with a good reputation)
    - 1) Pr 16:31 The silver-haired head *is* a crown of glory, if it is found in the way of righteousness.
    - 2) KEY: He gives her a prepared story that she is to deliver to the king
- VIII) V4-7 AND: When the woman of Tekoa spoke to the king she fell on her face to the ground and
  - a) STORY: A brother has killed his brother, leaving the widowed mother without support
    - 1) The family has demanded justice be done, which in this case would be capital punishment
    - 2) Ex 21:12 Anyone who strikes a man and kills him shall surely be put to death
- IX) HER CONCERN: First, she is a widow and relies on her son to provide support for her
  - a) SECOND: If the son were executed there would be no living heir to continue the line of descendants
    - 1) This would extinguish her ember (hope) and would result in despair
    - 2) OBVIOUSLY: The two sons fighting and one killing the other are Absalom and Amnon
- X) V8-10 THEN: The king said to the woman Go to your house and I will give orders concerning you
  - a) I will look into your case, and if it is as you have said your son will be safe

- son
- 1) V9 She says that she is willing to receive any blame that arises from the sparing of the guilty
  - 2) V10 David makes it clear that there will be no problem because of this
  - I) V11 THEN: She said Please let the king remember the LORD your God and do not permit the avenger
    - a) Avenger of blood: the nearest relative of the dead who would seek to kill the murderer (Dt 19:1-13)
      - 1) PROMISE: Full pardon, no one hair from his head shall fall to the ground
  - II) V12-17 THEREFORE: The woman said Please let your maidservant speak another word to my lord
    - a) KEY: By refusing to reconcile with Absalom, you have put the people of Israel's future in jeopardy
      - 1) You are like the unyielding family members, unwilling to show mercy
      - 2) IMPORTANT: The people of Israel loved Absalom, and she is speaking on their behalf
  - III) V14 FOR: We will surely die and become like water spilled on the ground which cannot be gathered
    - a) Water, when spilled on the ground, simply sinks into the earth
      - 1) MEANING: Amnon, when he died, was buried and will not come back to you
      - 2) Because of this, show mercy to the son that is still alive
  - IV) V14 GOD: Does not take away a life but He *devises means* so that His banished ones are not expelled
    - a) POINT: God does not rejoice in the death of people, but makes it possible for them to be saved
      - 1) Ezek 18:30-31 I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways," says the Lord GOD. "Repent, and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, O house of Israel?
        - 2) GRACE! This is most fully revealed in the ministry of Jesus and His seeking to save the lost
  - V) V15-17 NOW THEREFORE: I have come to speak of this thing to my lord the king because the people
    - a) She is not convinced that David will reconcile with Absalom, so she continues requesting of him
      - 1) She once again returns to the story to make her point
  - VI) V18-20 THEN: The king answered and said to the woman Please do not hide from me anything
    - a) David sees what she is saying, and suspects that it was not a story that she made up on her own
      - 1) In asking if Joab put her up to this, she answers that nothing gets past him!
      - 2) Yes, Joab put me up to this in order to foster reconciliation between you and Absalom
  - VII) V21 AND: The king said to Joab All right I have granted this thing. Go therefore bring back the young
    - a) Your story had its desired affect: go to retrieve Absalom that he may return
  - VIII) V22-24 THEN: Joab fell to the ground on his face and bowed himself and thanked the king
    - a) Joab rejoices, thinking that the problem will be completely healed
      - 1) STILL: David remains angry with his son, and does not desire to see him face to face
      - 2) KEY: David knows that Absalom needs to actually repent, and that this can take time
  - IX) V25-27 NOW: In all Israel there was no one who was praised as much as Absalom for his good looks
    - a) Like king Saul, his very appearance was striking and appealing at the same time
      - 1) His hair weighed 5 lbs. when it was cut
      - 2) He had three sons (his sons died young-18:18) and a beautiful daughter, named after her aunt
  - X) V28-31 AND: Absalom dwelt *two full years* in Jerusalem but did not see the king's face

- a) Absalom must have thought that Joab (cousin) was a friend because he had brought him home
  - 1) Joab obviously wanted to avoid any contact with Absalom, and kept ignoring his requests
- I) V30-31 ABSALOM'S SOLUTION: Set his field on fire which gets results
  - a) This worked perfectly, as Joab immediately comes to see him
    - 1) This gives us even more insight into the character of Absalom: he did what he wanted to do
- II) V32 AND: Absalom answered Joab Look I sent to you saying Come here so that I may send you
  - a) I have desired to see my father, but he has avoided me
    - 1) If my father believes that I am worthy of the death penalty, then let's get it over with
    - 2) If not, then I want to see my father
- III) V33 SO JOAB: Went to the king and told him and when he had called for Absalom he came to the king
  - a) This kiss was a token of reconciliation, indicating that David *fully forgave* his son
    - 1) Though David was satisfied, we shall see that Absalom was not
- IV) ABSALOM: Had gone through five years of isolation and exile while Amnon had received no penalty
  - a) It is this knowledge that provoked Absalom to anger, and fueled his plot to destroy his father
    - 1) His unresolved anger and bitterness will push him to revolting against his father