

NOON BIBLE STUDY: 2 SAMUEL 14

2 SAMUEL 13:37-39 - ABSALOM FLEES AFTER KILLING AMNON OUT OF REVENGE TO AMNON'S EVIL TOWARDS TAMAR.

V. 39 - "THE HEART OF KING DAVID LONGED TO GO OUT TO ABSALOM" —

HOW DO YOU THINK DAVID FEEL TOWARDS ABSALOM? CAN YOU RELATE TO THIS?

2 SAMUEL 14:1-3 - JOAB'S PLAN

V. 1 - JOAB IS ABSALOM'S UNCLE. HE PERCEIVES THAT DAVID IS WRESTLING IN HIS HEART TOWARDS HIS SON.

V. 2 - TEKOA - "IS IN THE JUDEAN HILLS ABOUT 10 MILES SOUTH OF JERUSALEM, NEAR BETHLEHEM." (ESV STUDY BIBLE, 2 SAM 14:1-3)

2 SAMUEL 14:4-7 - THE WOMAN OF TEKOA SPEAKS TO DAVID

THE WOMAN (WIDOW) SHARES A STORY WITH DAVID ABOUT HER TWO SONS FIGHTING. THIS FIGHTING, PERHAPS FOOLISHLY, LED TO ONE OF THE SON'S MURDER. NOW THE FAMILY IS CALLING FOR JUSTICE IN LIGHT OF THE LIVING SON'S CRIMES. BUT THE "WIDOW" IS CONCERNED THAT IF THE REMAINING SON DIES SHE WILL HAVE NO ONE TO CARE FOR HER AND NO ONE TO BE HER HEIR, CARRYING ON THE NAME OF HER LATE HUSBAND AND FAMILY.

2 SAMUEL 14:8-11 - THE WOMAN'S PERSISTENCE/INSISTENCE

V. 9 - AFTER HEARING HER STORY, DAVID PLANS TO SEND HER AWAY (V. 8) FOR HIM TO CONSIDER WHAT TO DO IN THIS MATTER. BUT THE WOMAN RESPECTFULLY INSISTS ON HAVING THE MATTER BE SETTLED NOW.

V. 10 - AT FIRST DECISION, DAVID TELLS HER TO SEND TO HIM ANYONE WHO CAUSES HER TROUBLE BY CALLING HER TO TURN OVER HER SON. BUT THE WOMAN IS NOT SATISFIED WITH THIS DECISION ALONE FOR SHE IS STILL CONCERNED ABOUT HER SON'S WELL-BEING. REMEMBER HER STORY INCLUDES THE INFORMATION THAT HER FAMILY WAS LOOKING TO HAVE THE REMAINING SON KILLED (V. 7).

V. 11 - THE PERSISTENT WIDOW CONTINUES TO MAKE HER CASE. FINALLY DAVID AGREES TO PARDON THE SON AND ENSURE HE REMAINS ALIVE.

2 SAMUEL 14:12-17 - THE HEART OF THE WOMAN'S REAL CASE

2 SAMUEL 14:12-17 (NLT) - "PLEASE ALLOW ME TO ASK ONE MORE THING OF MY LORD THE KING," SHE SAID. "GO AHEAD AND SPEAK," HE RESPONDED. 13 SHE REPLIED, "WHY DON'T YOU DO AS MUCH FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD AS YOU HAVE PROMISED TO DO FOR ME? YOU HAVE CONVICTED YOURSELF IN MAKING THIS DECISION, BECAUSE YOU HAVE REFUSED TO BRING HOME YOUR OWN BANISHED SON. 14 ALL OF US MUST DIE EVENTUALLY. OUR LIVES ARE LIKE WATER SPILLED OUT ON THE GROUND, WHICH CANNOT BE GATHERED UP AGAIN. BUT GOD DOES NOT JUST SWEEP LIFE AWAY; INSTEAD, HE DEVISES WAYS TO BRING US BACK WHEN WE HAVE BEEN SEPARATED FROM HIM. 15 "I HAVE COME TO PLEAD WITH MY LORD THE KING BECAUSE PEOPLE HAVE THREATENED ME. I SAID TO MYSELF, 'PERHAPS THE KING WILL LISTEN TO ME 16 AND RESCUE US FROM THOSE WHO WOULD CUT US OFF FROM THE INHERITANCE GOD HAS GIVEN US. 17 YES, MY LORD THE KING WILL GIVE US PEACE OF MIND AGAIN.' I KNOW THAT YOU ARE LIKE AN ANGEL OF GOD IN DISCERNING GOOD FROM EVIL. MAY THE LORD YOUR GOD BE WITH YOU."

ABSALOM AND DAVID ARE THE REAL STARS OF THIS STORY. ABSALOM IS IN THE ROLE OF THE REMAINING SON OF THE WOMAN. HE HAS SINNED BY KILLING HIS BROTHER AND A GOOD CASE CAN BE MADE FOR HIS GUILT, IN SPITE OF HIS "INTENTIONS". AND DAVID IS CAST AS THE WOMAN'S FAMILY, FOR THEY KNOW THE "SON" SHOULD BE BANISHED OR KILLED. BUT DAVID IS ALSO PLAYING THE ROLE OF HIMSELF AS THE WOMAN'S JUDGE AND REDEEMER OF THE SON. THE WOMAN INDIRECTLY APPEALS TO DAVID'S WILLINGNESS TO SHOW MERCY TO HER SON AS AN APPEAL FOR MERCY TO ABSALOM.

THIS PARABLE STYLE OF MAKING A POINT OR BRINGING CONVICTION PROVES TO BE POWERFUL AND COMPELLING (CP. NATHAN'S STORY ABOUT THE LAMB IN 2 SAMUEL 12)

2 SAMUEL 14:18-20 - DAVID SUSPECTS JOAB'S INVOLVEMENT

2 SAMUEL 14:21-24 - ABSALOM PERMITTED TO RETURN...BUT...

V. 24 - DAVID FORGIVES ABSALOM, BUT THERE IS NOT THE RESTORATION THAT IS POSSIBLE IN THIS CIRCUMSTANCE.

2 SAMUEL 14:25-27 - ABSALOM RETURNS TO JERUSALEM AND LIFE BEGINS AGAIN

V. 26 - 200 SHEKELS IS EQUIVALENT TO ABOUT 3-5LBS

V. 27 - TAMAR - ABSALOM'S DAUGHTER WAS PROBABLY NAMED IN HONOR OF HIS SISTER

2 SAMUEL 14:28-29 - ABSALOM CALLS FOR JOAB

2 SAMUEL 14:30-32 - ABSALOM LONGS TO SEE DAVID AGAIN

V. 30-31 - TO GET JOAB'S ATTENTION, ABSALOM'S SERVANTS SET HIS FIELD ON FIRE. THIS DOES GET JOAB'S ATTENTION!

V. 32 - ABSALOM IS WILLING TO FACE THE POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF HIS ACTIONS. BUT HE DOESN'T WANT TO JUST SIT AND WAIT, UNSURE OF HIS FATE.

ABSALOM'S ATTITUDE IN THIS INSTANCE IS ONE TO BE ADMIRER. HE IS HONEST THAT HE HAS MADE MISTAKES WHICH ARE WORTHY OF PUNISHMENT. CLEARLY HE KNOWS THIS OR ELSE WHY WOULD HE HAVE FLED TO HIS GRANDFATHER TO BEGIN WITH? NOW THAT HE IS BACK, HE IS WILLING TO ACCEPT WHAT MAY COME TO HIM - WHETHER JUDGMENT OR MERCY. WHEN WE SIN AGAINST OTHERS, ACCEPTING RESPONSIBILITY IS IMPORTANT.

2 SAMUEL 14:33 - JOAB REUNITES ABSALOM & DAVID

THIS MUST HAVE BEEN A BITTERSWEET MOMENT. TO BE REUNITED WITH SOMEONE YOU LOVE WHO HAD HURT YOU OR DONE YOU WRONG CAN BE DIFFICULT - BUT THE PEOPLE OF GOD SHOULD TEND TOWARDS FORGIVENESS AND LOVE AT ALL TIMES. AND WHEN THE ONE WHO HAS DONE US WRONG REPENTS AND DESIRES RECONCILIATION, WE SHOULD NOT PUNISH THEM OR ACT IN A WAY THAT MAKES IT HARD FOR THEM TO RETURN.

EPHESIANS 4:32 - BE KIND TO ONE ANOTHER, TENDER-HEARTED, FORGIVING EACH OTHER, JUST AS GOD IN CHRIST ALSO HAS FORGIVEN YOU.

DAVID HIMSELF WAS IN NEED OF GRACE AND FORGIVENESS FOR HIS GREAT SIN, AND NOW IT WAS HIS TURN TO PARDON AND SHOW MERCY AND NOT CAST ABSALOM AWAY FROM HIS PRESENCE. WE TOO ARE IN NEED OF PARDON, MERCY AND GRACE AND KEEPING OUR OWN NEED IN MIND CAN INSPIRE US TO HAVE AN EAGERNESS TO SHOW IT TOWARDS OTHERS.