



2 Samuel 14-15

Difficult times:

Chapter 13 -daughter raped, son Amnon murdered by Absalom, son Absalom living in exile in Geshur and David estranged from his son.

Timeline of Events in 2 Samuel 13-15

<u>Event</u>	<u># of years</u>	<u>David's age</u>
Tamar's rape to Amnon's death	2 (2 Sam. 13:23)	~50 -52
Absalom exiled in Geshur	3 (2 Sam. 13:38-14:1)	~52 - 55
Absalom returns, no meeting	2 (2 Sam. 14:28)	~55-57
Absalom plays politician, revolts	<u>4 (40)</u> (2 Sam. 15:7) 11-12 years	early-mid 60's

2 Samuel 13:38-14:1

"So Absalom had fled and gone to Geshur, and was there three years, and the heart of King David longed to go out to Absalom; for he was comforted concerning Amnon, since he was dead. 14:1 Now Joab the son of Zeruiah perceived that the king's heart was inclined toward Absalom."

I. **The Return of Absalom**

Why would Joab want Absalom to return?

- Joab was concerned about how David's grief was impacting Israel as a nation.
- David is getting older. (mid -50's) Question of succession.
- Joab is considering his own future.

2 Samuel 14:2-3 "So 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 like a woman who has been mourning for the dead many days, then go to the king and speak to him in this manner.' So Joab put the words in her mouth."



α Avenger of Blood (go'el) = redeemer

It was the responsibility of the go'el, the nearest kinsman to avenge the blood of a slain relative, or to protect the life and property of a relative. He was to assure that the person who had taken the life of his relative stood trial, and to exact the payment of a "life for a life" for someone who had committed premeditated murder. (Numbers 35:9-34)



2 Samuel 14:13-14 *“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 the banished one. For we shall 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 may not be cast out from him.”*

True statements in v.14:

- *Life IS short.*
- *You can't change the past.*
- *We are to do what we can to be reconciled to others.*
- *God has found a way to restore the banished one.*

False conclusions in v. 13:

- *David is GUILTY, he has acted against Israel by banishing his son with no opportunity to return.*
- *David is obligated to bring Absalom back.*
- *David has not acted in a God-like manner!*

“the lady doth protest too much, methinks.”
Hamlet -Act III, Scene II

“As your soul lives, no one can turn to the right or to the left from anything that my lord the king has spoken. Indeed, it was your servant Joab who commanded me, and it was he who put all these words in the mouth of your maidservant... But my lord is wise, like the wisdom of the angel of God, to know all that is in the earth.”
(2 Sam. 14:19-20)

Problems with the Woman of Tekoa's Arguments:

1. Premeditated murder v. manslaughter
2. Truth mixed with false conclusions
3. God does NOT show mercy by suspending judgment. He does not ignore justice, He satisfies it!
u **“for the wages of sin is death...” Rom. 6:23**
u *“...that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.” Rom. 3:23-26*
4. Nathan appealed David's conscience to set aside his emotions and rule justly vs. widow appealed to David's emotions to set aside his conscience and disregard justice.



Forgiveness = an agreement to release from a debt
 2 kinds of forgiveness –judicial and relational

1. Judicial forgiveness

- the kind of forgiveness God offers us based on the death of Christ, - *Hebrews 9:22 "without the shedding of blood, there is no remission (of sin)."*
- Can also be exercised by human governments acting as God's agents or others in positions of authority-Romans 13:1-5 *"... For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God...v.4 it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath upon the one who practices evil..."*

2. Relational forgiveness - forgiveness is an agreement (between you and God) to lay aside or abandon a debt or offense done to you by another person. God becomes the creditor or bill collector. You release the debt to him.

- u We are commanded by God to forgive others and to seek reconciliation, whether we are the offended or the offender (Matt. 5:23, 18:15-16)
- u (words of Peter to Jesus) *"Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven."* (Matt. 18:21-22)

How did Absalom go about planning a coup?

- ø Looked the part! Hired an entourage. 15:1
- ø Rose early in the morning! 15:2
- ø Listened to people and told them what they wanted to hear. Used flattery. 15:2-4
- ø Shook hands and kissed the people. 15:5
- ø Bred discontent by implying they could not get justice; undermined his father's authority. 15:3-4
- ø v.6 *"...so Absalom stole away the hearts of the men of Israel."*

Traitors and True Friends:

u **Traitor:** Ahithophel –Bathsheba’s grandfather
(2 Sam. 15:13, 31; cf. 11:3 with 23:34) see also
Psalms 41 & 55

u **True Friends:**

- 1) Ittai the Gittite (from Gath) (15:19-22)
- 2) Priests -Zadok, Abiathar, and sons Ahimaaz,
and Jonathan (15:24-29)
- 3) Hushai the Archite, David’s friend (15:32-37)

IV. David’s Retreat from Jerusalem



Lessons from 2 Samuel 14-15

1. Beware of judging situations based on emotions, and appearances and not on truth. 2 Sam. 14:1-22; 15:1-6
2. The dangers of unforgiveness. -Eph 4:26-27 "do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil an opportunity."
3. How do you respond to discipline and trials in your life?
2 Sam. 15:26 "if He(God) should say thus, 'I have no delight in you,' behold, here I am, let Him do to me as seems good to Him."