

Life of David

A Man After God's Own Heart

Absalom Returns

- Joab recognized that David dearly missed his son Absalom [2 Sam 14:1].
 - Proper justice under Mosaic Law required Absalom's execution [Ex 21:12-14].
 - David's emotional attachment to Absalom caused him to show partiality [Jas 2:1, 9].
 - Joab was an accomplice to Uriah the Hittite's murder [2 Sam 11:15-18].
 - NOTE: Associating with evil can lead believers to become involved in additional evil.
 - Joab was also a murderer himself [2 Sam 3:26-30] on whom David failed to administer proper justice [2 Sam 3:39; 1 Kgs 2:5-6].
- Joab concocted a scheme to convince David to bring Absalom home [2 Sam 14:2-3].
 - He convinced a woman from Tekoa to pretend to be a grieving mother [vv. 2-3a].
 - Joab told the woman exactly what to say to King David [v. 3b].
 - The story Joab concocted was similar to the parable of Nathan the prophet [2 Sam 12:1-9].
- When the woman spoke to King David, she recounted Joab's fake story [2 Sam 14:4-7].
 - She told David that she was a widow with two sons and that one murdered the other [vv. 4-6].
 - She described how the surviving son was subject to the blood vengeance of the family [v. 7a].
 - She explained that her son was her only means of support and her husband's only heir [v. 7b].
- David was moved by her story and promised to take care of the situation [2 Sam 14:8-11].
 - The woman told David that he would not be guilty if vengeance was required [v. 9; Num 35:9-21].
 - David assured her that he would personally take care of things [v. 10].
 - The woman persisted until she received a formal oath from David regarding her son [v. 11].
- Having David's word, the woman explained the meaning of the story [2 Sam 14:12-14].
 - She accused David of being guilty of hypocrisy for not bringing Absalom back [v. 13].
 - She reminded David that there are circumstances where the death penalty does not apply [v. 14].
 - This exception was not valid here because Absalom had planned Amnon's death for years.
- The woman was forced to admit that Joab had a hand in the story [2 Sam 14:15-20].
 - She tried to claim that her remarks about Absalom were only incidental [vv. 15-16].
 - She also showered David with flattery [v. 17].
 - David sensed that something was amiss and asked if Joab was behind the story [vv. 18-19a].
 - The woman then told David the truth [vv. 19b-20].
- David conditionally agreed to allow Absalom to return to Jerusalem [2 Sam 14:21-24].
 - David instructed Joab to bring Absalom back and he was more than happy to do so [vv. 21-23].
 - However, David did not allow Absalom access to the king's court [v. 24].
 - Perhaps this was so people would not see David as being too lax in his treatment of Absalom.

- Absalom's description [2 Sam 14:25-27].
 - He was a very handsome man in every way [v. 25].
 - He had a bountiful head of hair (5 pounds when cut every year) [v. 26].
 - NOTE: It is possible that Absalom's full head of hair contributed to his death [2 Sam 18:9].
 - He had three sons and a daughter he named after his sister Tamar that he loved so much [v. 27].
 - All of these attributes made Absalom very appealing to the people of Israel to be their king.
- After two years Absalom was reunited with David [2 Sam 14:28-33].
 - When Absalom could not get Joab's attention, he resorted to dramatic measures [vv. 29-31].
 - Absalom made his case to Joab that, for better or worse, he wanted to see David [v. 32].
 - Joab asked David and Absalom was brought to the king's court where David kissed him [v. 33].
 - Even though David received Absalom with grace, Absalom was very bitter about being spurned by David for two years and did everything he could to make David pay for shunning him.