

## Lesson 8 – 2 Samuel 13-17

Text: 2 Samuel 13-17

Main Characters: God, David, Absalom, Joab, Amnon, Tamar, Hushai, Ahithophel

Key Passages:

- 2 Samuel 15:10-14 – Absalom schemed for 4 years to steal the kingdom of Israel from David.
- 2 Samuel 16:9-12 – David believed that Shimei may have been part of God’s plan to punish him.

Main Storyline:

One of David’s sons, Absalom, had a sister named Tamar, and one of David’s other sons, Amnon (their half-brother), was in love with her. Amnon was so smitten that he became ill, and knowing he could not have her made it worse. His cousin, Jonadab, told him to pretend he was very sick, and to ask the king (David) to send Tamar to attend to him. Amnon did as Jonadab suggested, so David sent Tamar to make him food. When Tamar came into Amnon’s bedroom, he asked her to sleep with him. Tamar denied him and pleaded for him not to force her to do it. Amnon did not listen to Tamar and raped her.

After this, Amnon hated Tamar more than he had loved her to begin with. Absalom offered comfort to Tamar, who was understandably devastated by it all. When David heard about it, he was very angry, but did not do anything about it (Amnon deserved to be punished, if not killed). Absalom said nothing, though he hated Amnon because of his sin. Finally, after 2 years, Absalom took things into his own hands and killed Amnon. Absalom fled Israel (as he was now a murderer) to Geshur for 3 years.

David was very upset about the situation, however, and wanted Absalom to come back to Israel. Joab, perceiving this, came up with a plan to convince David to bring Absalom back. His plan worked, and David ordered Joab to go to Geshur to bring Absalom back. David told him to bring Absalom back to his own house, but not to bring him to David’s house or let him see David’s face. Joab brought Absalom back to Jerusalem, but he did not see his father’s face for 2 years. Finally, after protesting to Joab, he was allowed to see his father. When David saw Absalom, he kissed his son, who bowed to him.

However, this reunion did not erase all of the bitterness that Absalom held in his heart against David. For the next 4 years, Absalom worked to undermine David’s authority and to gain the people’s hearts. Absalom was planning to take the throne away from his father and to make himself king in his place. When David heard Absalom’s plan, he knew that Absalom already had enough power to dethrone and kill David. David immediately called for his servants to gather and flee from Jerusalem. David left 10 concubines in the house to take care of it while he and the rest of the servants were away. They arrived at the Mount of Olives, where David and his followers wept bitterly about the betrayal.

David had been betrayed by his son, but also by many others. One such man was Ahithophel, who had been one of his most trusted advisors. David prayed that Ahithophel’s advice would be turned to foolishness. He sent one of his loyal servants, Hushai, to infiltrate Absalom’s regime and defeat Ahithophel’s advice. David’s plan was successful, and Hushai convinced Absalom to disregard Ahithophel. When Ahithophel realized that Absalom was not going to listen to him, he hanged himself.

Another man to betray David was Shimei, a relative of Saul, who hurled insults and stones at David as he was passing by. David stopped his men from killing him, as he wondered if God had sent him to contribute to this, part of his punishment for his sin with Bathsheba. They continued fleeing from Israel until they had crossed the Jordan River into Gilead, where they were attended to by a few men.

Lessons/Applications:

- 1.) When dealing with a situation, we must trust the wisdom of God rather than the tricks of men.
- 2.) Not dealing with sin promptly can ultimately lead to more numerous and worse problems later.