**2 Samuel 14** (https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+14/)

Peter B. Luh, 6/17, 19, 21/2018

**Absalom Returns to Jerusalem**

14 Now

Joab

the son of Zeruiah

knew

that the king's heart went out to Absalom.

2 And

Joab sent to Tekoa

and

brought from there a wise woman

and

said to her,

“Pretend to be a mourner

and

put on mourning garments.

Do not anoint yourself with oil,

but

behave like a woman

who has been mourning many days for the dead.

3 Go to the king

and

speak thus to him.”

So Joab put the words in her mouth.

4 When the woman of Tekoa came to the king,

she fell on her face to the ground

and

paid homage

and

said,

“Save me, O king.”

5 And

the king said to her,

“What is your trouble?”

She answered,

“Alas,

I am a widow;

my husband is dead.

6 And

Your servant had two sons,

and

they quarreled with one another in the field.

There was no one

to separate them,

and

one struck the other

and

killed him.

7 And now

the whole clan has risen against your servant,

and

they say,

‘Give up the man

who struck his brother,

that we may put him to death

for the life of his brother

whom he killed.’

And so

they would destroy the heir also.

Thus they would quench my coal

that is left

and

leave to my husband neither name

nor remnant on the face of the earth.”

8 Then the king said to the woman,

“Go to your house,

and

I will give orders

concerning you.”

9 And

the woman of Tekoa said to the king,

“On me be the guilt, my lord the king,

and

on my father's house;

let the king

and

his throne be guiltless.”

10 The king said,

“ If anyone says anything to you,

bring him to me,

and

he shall never touch you again.”

11 Then she said,

“Please let the king invoke the Lord your God,

that the avenger of blood kill no more,

and

my son be not destroyed.”

He said,

“ As the Lord lives,

not one hair of your son shall fall to the ground.”

12 Then the woman said,

“Please let your servant speak a word to my lord the king.”

He said,

“Speak.”

13 And

the woman said,

“Why then have you planned such a thing against the people of God?

For in giving this decision

the king convicts himself,

inasmuch as the king does not bring his banished one home again.

14 We must all die;

we are like water spilled on the ground,

which cannot be gathered up again.

But

God will not take away life,

and

he devises means

so that the banished one will not remain an outcast.

15 Now

I have come

to say this to my lord the king

because the people have made me afraid,

and

your servant thought,

‘I will speak to the king;

it may be that

the king will perform the request of his servant.

16 For the king will hear

and

deliver his servant from the hand of the man

who would destroy me

and

my son together

from the heritage of God.’

17 And

your servant thought,

‘The word of my lord the king will set me at rest,’

for my lord the king is like the angel of God

to discern good

and

evil.

The Lord your God be with you!”

18 Then the king answered the woman,

“Do not hide from me anything

I ask you.”

And

the woman said,

“Let my lord the king speak.”

19 The king said,

“Is the hand of Joab with you in all this?”

The woman answered

and

said,

“As surely as you live, my lord the king,

one cannot turn to the right hand

or

to the left from anything

that my lord the king has said.

It was your servant Joab

who commanded me;

it was he

who put all these words in the mouth of your servant.

20 In order to change the course of things

your servant Joab did this.

But

my lord has wisdom

like the wisdom of the angel of God

to know all things

that are on the earth.”

21 Then the king said to Joab,

“Behold now,

I grant this;

go,

bring back the young man Absalom.”

22 And

Joab fell on his face to the ground

and

paid homage

and

blessed the king.

And

Joab said,

“ Today

your servant knows

that I have found favor in your sight,

my lord the king,

in that the king has granted the request of his servant.”

23 So Joab arose

and

went to Geshur

and

brought Absalom to Jerusalem.

24 And

the king said,

“Let him dwell apart in his own house;

he is not to come into my presence.”

So Absalom lived apart in his own house

and

did not come into the king's presence.

25 Now in all Israel

there was no one

so much to be praised

for his handsome appearance as Absalom.

From the sole of his foot

to the crown of his head

there was no blemish in him.

26 And when he cut the hair of his head

(for at the end of every year

he used to cut it;

when it was heavy on him,

he cut it),

he weighed the hair of his head,

two hundred shekels by the king's weight.

27 There were born to Absalom three sons,

and

one daughter

whose name was Tamar.

She was a beautiful woman.

28 So Absalom lived two full years in Jerusalem,

without coming into the king's presence.

29 Then Absalom sent for Joab,

to send him to the king,

but

Joab would not come to him.

And

he sent a second time,

but

Joab would not come.

30 Then he said to his servants,

“See,

Joab's field is next to mine,

and

he has barley there;

go

and

set it on fire.”

So Absalom's servants set the field on fire.

31 Then Joab arose

and

went to Absalom at his house

and

said to him,

“Why have your servants set my field on fire?”

32 Absalom answered Joab,

“Behold,

I sent word to you,

‘Come here,

that I may send you to the king,

to ask,

“Why have I come from Geshur?

It would be better for me

to be there still.”

Now

therefore, let me go into the presence of the king,

and

if there is guilt in me,

let him put me to death.’”

33 Then Joab went to the king

and

told him,

and

he summoned Absalom.

So he came to the king

and

bowed himself on his face to the ground

before the king,

and

the king kissed Absalom.