**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.