**2 Samuel 13-14. Family disgrace and murdering in David’s house, 6/22/2018**

**Opening**

* There is a Chinese saying: Revenging after ten years is not considered too late (君子报仇十年不晚). Do you agree?
  + How to prevent hatred from developing into major and unstoppable tragedies?
  + What were major incidents in Chinese history between brothers within a family? Have you heard about the incident of “Xuan-Wu-Men” (玄武门)? What happened? What is your take on them? What can be learned?
  + How should we handle dispute in a family? Will time take care of everything?
* Is it important to have good “good friends”? Examples?
  + What can good friends do to help you?
  + What can bad friends do to hurt you without your realizing the consequences?
* Do you remember what we discussed last Friday? David and Bathsheba. The Death of Uriah. Nathan Rebukes David. David's Child Dies and Solomon's Birth.

**Outline** (ESV Study Bible)

1. Story of King David ([1:1–20:26](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+1-20/))
   1. David and the death of Saul ([1:1–27](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+1/))
   2. David becomes king ([2:1–5:5](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+2-5.5/))
   3. Jerusalem, the city of David ([5:6–25](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+5.6-25/))
   4. Zion, the place of worship ([6:1–23](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+6/))
   5. Davidic covenant: eternal throne ([7:1–29](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+7/))
   6. Catalog of David’s military activities ([8:1–18](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+8/))
   7. Mephibosheth ([9:1–13](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+9/))
   8. Israel-Ammon war ([10:1–12:31](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+10-12/))
      1. Beginning of Israel-Ammon war ([10:1–19](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+10/))
      2. David and Bathsheba ([11:1–12:25](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+11-12.25/))
      3. End of Israel-Ammon war ([12:26–31](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+12.26-31/))
   9. Absalom’s banishment and reinstatement ([13:1–14:33](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+13-14/))
   10. Absalom’s rebellion ([15:1–19:43](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+15-19/))
       1. Absalom’s conspiracy ([15:1–12](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+15.1-12/))
       2. David’s escape from Absalom ([15:13–16:14](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+15.13-16.14/))
       3. Ahithophel and Hushai ([16:15–17:23](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+16.15-17.23/))
       4. David arrives at Mahanaim ([17:24–29](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+17.24-29/))
       5. Death of Absalom ([18:1–19:8a](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+18-19.8/))
       6. David’s return to Jerusalem ([19:8b–43](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+19.8-43/))
   11. Sheba’s rebellion ([20:1–26](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+20/))
2. Epilogue ([21:1–24:25](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+21-24/))
   1. Famine and the death of Saul’s sons ([21:1–14](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+21.1-14/))
   2. Philistine wars ([21:15–22](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+21.15-22/))
   3. Song of David ([22:1–51](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+22/))
   4. Last words of David ([23:1–7](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+23.1-7/))
   5. David’s heroes ([23:8–39](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+23.8-39/))
   6. The census and the threshing floor ([24:1–25](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+24/))

**Amnon and Tamar (13:1-22)**

* What are the differences between “obsession” and “true love”?
* 2 Sam. 13:1–14:33 Absalom’s Banishment and Reinstatement. Chapters 13–20 show the “evil … out of your own house” that Nathan warned David of in 12:11, namely, the rebellion of his son Absalom. ESV Study Bible.
* 2 Sam. 13:1–22 After a time suggests that some time has passed since the end of ch. 12. This is an account of both rape and incest – the brother-sister relationship between Tamar and Amnon is referred to a dozen times. This rape was an outrageous thing (see Gen. 34:7; Deut. 22:21; Judg. 20:6; Jer. 29:23) that was not done in Israel (2 Sam. 13:12). ESV Study Bible.
  + 1 Sam. 17:13. The three oldest sons of Jesse had followed Saul to the battle. And the names of his three sons who went to the battle were Eliab the firstborn, and next to him Abinadab, and the third Shammah. (With a slightly difference spelling.)
* 2 Sam. 13:12–13 such a thing is not done in Israel. Intercourse between brother and sister, even half-brother and half-sister, was forbidden in Lev. 18:9. He will not withhold me from you. Perhaps Tamar is saying that David would be willing to bend the rules, or perhaps she is just trying to escape. ESV Study Bible.
* 2 Sam. 13:16 this wrong … is greater than the other. If a man seduced an unmarried (or unbetrothed) woman, he had to marry her, unless her father refused; if he raped her, he was not permitted to divorce her (Ex. 22:16; Deut. 22:28–29). Having ruined her life, he had a responsibility toward her. ESV Study Bible.
* 2 Sam. 13:21 David was very angry, but he did not do anything. He showed favoritism toward his eldest son, which was the source of many of the later problems in David’s family (cf. 1 Kings 1:6). Heads of households have to deal justly with members of their household, but because of his sin with Bathsheba, David had lost his moral courage and clarity of judgment. ESV Study Bible.
* Discussion
  + Like father like son. Is that true?
    - What are major similarities between David and his son Amnon?
    - How about us? Do we share certain similarities?
  + Did King David take any actions against Amnon? Why or why not?
    - What would be the appropriate way to deal with such an incident?

**Absalom Murders Amnon and Flees to Geshur (13: 23-39)**

* 2 Sam. 13:23 As seen in 1 Samuel 25, sheepshearing was a time of feasting. Absalom invited all the king’s sons, and the next four verses explain how he gives the invitation. Absalom invited David, probably guessing that he would decline, in order to lend an aura of importance to the occasion and to mask his true intentions. If he had started out by inviting Amnon, it could have seemed suspicious. ESV Study Bible.
* 2 Sam. 13:37 Talmai was Absalom’s maternal grandfather (3:3). ESV Study Bible.
  + 2 Sam. 3:2-3. And sons were born to David at Hebron: his firstborn was Amnon, of Ahinoam of Jezreel; 3 and his second, Chileab, of Abigail the widow of Nabal of Carmel; and the third, Absalom the son of Maacah the daughter of Talmai king of Geshur.
* Discussion
  + Why did Absalom murder Amnon? Remember the consequence that God told David through Nathan after his sin against Uriah and God?
  + Why didn’t David take care of this particular issue in a timely manner? Why did he long for Absalom?

**Absalom Returns to Jerusalem (14:1-33)**

* 2 Sam. 14:1–3 Joab recruited a wise woman and put the words in her mouth in an effort to push the king toward reconciliation with Absalom. Tekoa, hometown of Amos (Amos 1:1), is in the Judean hills about 10 miles (16 km) south of Jerusalem, near Bethlehem. ESV Study Bible.
* 2 Sam. 14:4–7 The woman, using a “parable” as Nathan did (cf. 12:1–7), appeals to the king to set aside the ordinary laws demanding the death of a murderer (e.g., Num. 35:31), not because of any extenuating circumstances in the killing but for the good of the family. David realized that it would apply to Absalom’s murder of Amnon. ESV Study Bible.
  + Neither name nor remnant means “no remaining posterity.”
* 2 Sam. 14:8–17 The woman sticks to her own story by referring to my son, while she uses a very sensitive term, avenger of blood (v. 11), which would apply to the king himself, who has been thinking about his own son (v. 1). She asks for an immediate ruling on her own (bogus) case so that she can comment on it (cf. vv. 13–14). The woman says what Joab has sent her to say (vv. 13–14) and then goes back to her made-up story (vv. 15–17). This in v. 15 would refer both to her real message in vv. 13–14 and to her “family problem” in vv. 5–7. This woman wisely finishes her dialogue with King David by mentioning her own problem, thus placing herself on the side of the needy and helpless, not in the position of an accuser of the king. ESV Study Bible.
* 2 Sam. 14:24 he is not to come into my presence. David’s forgiveness is incomplete, as Absalom complains in v. 32. David is confused: he is unwilling to punish, but also unwilling to forgive fully, so the situation festers. ESV Study Bible.
  + Did David take any action to hold Absalom responsible for Amnon’s death? Why or why not?
* 2 Sam. 14:25–27 These verses prepare readers for what is told later about Absalom, especially how he “stole the hearts of the men of Israel” (15:6) by his personal charms. The reference to his abundant hair looks ahead to his manner of death, i.e., by being caught by his head in a tree (see 18:9). The king’s weight indicates that there was a royal standard at the Israelite court. ESV Study Bible.
  + How would the world judge a man?
  + How would GOD judge a man?
* 2 Sam. 14:27 Since the three sons are unnamed and Absalom says he had no sons (18:18), these sons probably died young. His daughter, Tamar, was probably named for his sister.
* 2 Sam. 14:33 the king kissed Absalom. The kiss points to Absalom’s restoration and closes the section consisting of chs. 13–14, which is a prologue to the revolt of Absalom in chs. 15–19. ESV Study Bible.
* Discussion
  + How did Joab persuade David to let Absalom return?
  + What was Joab’s reaction after David allowed Absalom to return? What can we learn from Joab when God grants our prayer which aligns with His desire?
  + After Absalom got back to Jerusalem, why didn’t David take care of issues in a timely manner?
  + What are the most important things in bringing up our children?
    - Bring them to God. Serve ourselves as examples.
    - Handle things in a fair way and in a timely manner.

**Wrapping up**

* What are the messages that you learned tonight?
* What are your favorite verses?

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