



Sermon Series Notes

“A Father & His Son” (II Samuel 13:1-15:12)

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Intro:

1. Article: A Father’s Legacy
2. David is one of my favorite Bible characters...summarize his life, Goliath, anointed as king, running from Saul, taking the throne, tremendous success; but as David got older, he made some pretty bad mistakes...Bathsheba...numbering the fighting men. But one of David’s greatest failures was a father. David had several wives (don’t ask me why God allowed it), so David’s family was what we would today call “blended.”

II Samuel 13

v.3 David had seven brothers (I Sam.16:10-11). Jonadab was Amnon’s cousin, and he was very “shrewd.”

v.4b II Sam.3: 2 Sons were born to David in Hebron: His firstborn was Amnon the son of Ahinoam of Jezreel; 3 his second, Kileab the son of Abigail the widow of Nabal of Carmel; the third, Absalom the son of Maacah daughter of Talmi king of Geshur;

v.5 Watch out for friends who encourage you in wicked schemes!

v.6 Amnon is David’s firstborn, and it seems like he has his father “wrapped around his finger.”

vv.12-13 Tamar is a young woman of very godly character.

v.14 While Amnon says he is “in love” with Tamar, his actions prove that it was nothing more than lust. Lust is the exact opposite of love.

vv.21-22 Do you notice what is missing in this family affair? A father who will take godly action to deal with the issues. David does not confront or discipline Amnon; does he seek to console Tamar? Does he make any effort to mediate the rift between Absalom and Amnon.

- Note: David knows what it’s like to take advantage of a woman sexually (Bathsheba). Is that perhaps one of the reasons he does not take any disciplinary action against Amnon? Whatever the reasons, David clearly fails here as a father. It seems that he does nothing in response to this whole incident.

vv.23-25 I believe Absalom knows that his dad was not going to come with him for sheep-shearing. And I also believe this is another “Father Flaw” in King David. He does not spend much time with his children. As a matter of fact, there is evidence in this story that David pretty much “kept to himself” at this point in his life.

- Note: The older your kids get, the less time they will want to spend with you! I’m told it comes back around when they have kids. I’m looking forward to that day! What an opportunity David misses here. And missing this opportunity would end up being more major than David could ever have imagined!

v.26 Is David really that naïve? Is he so ignorant regarding his children that he does not realize that Absalom has had an attitude against Amnon for two whole years!

v.27 Do I detect another “Father Flaw” in David here. It seems that he is a “permissive parent.”

- Four types of parents (see Gary Smalley notes).

vv.28-29 If David had been with Absalom, this probably would not have happened. Absalom may have found a time and opportunity to kill Amnon anyway, but you still can’t help but think that David should have been with his kids here. His being there would certainly have been a deterrent to this evil.

vv.32-33 To me, it’s almost as if Jonadab is saying, “You shouldn’t be surprised at this, because this has been Absalom’s intention for the past two years. But somehow it had escaped David’s notice!

v.37 Why would Absalom go to the king of Geshur?

- See II Samuel 3:3 (above); I Chron.3:2.

vv.38-39 So why didn’t David go to Absalom?

- Whatever reason we might suggest, there is none that would prevent David from going. And here we see another “Father Flaw” in the life of David. He fails to act toward his son the way God had acted toward him. When David was banished from his heavenly Father as a result of his sin, God sent for him through Nathan the prophet...and God told David that his sin had been forgiven, and he would not die. But there would be consequences to his actions.
- Note: Do you know what’s missing in this story? There is not one mention of David inquiring of the Lord in these troublesome times...

II Samuel 14

v.14a This is kind of like saying, “You shouldn’t cry over spilled milk.” The idea is, we cannot go back and change the past. All we can do is take the opportunity to do what is right NOW, before we die!

v.14b This is right in David's face – You are not acting toward your son the way God has acted toward you!

- Colossians 3: 13 Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

v.24 “TIME OUT!” (“Go to your room!”)

- What David does here is continue to punish his son...he fails to deal with Absalom in a godly manner...WHY?
- Of all the “Father Flaws” in David, this is perhaps the greatest. He will not forgive his son.
- I Cor.13: 5 It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

v.33 I have to conclude that, despite David's kissing Absalom here, David still has not really forgiven him. He also has not properly disciplined Absalom for his sin.

- Even godly discipline may not bring about the desired results, but David never gives godly discipline a chance!

II Samuel 15

vv.1-6 Stole their hearts from whom? From Absalom's own father!

v.7a For four years Absalom has been conspiring against his own father. And do you know what is truly amazing – David doesn't seem to have a clue!

- Does it appear that during this time in David's life, he is a bit “self-absorbed?”
- Absalom is wrong, and we could spend more time focusing on Absalom's rebellion, but the main thrust of the text seems to focus on David as a father...

vv.7b-12 Now this soap opera adds an incredible twist – Ahithophel takes sides with Absalom! Why would he do such a thing? He probably desires to keep his government position, knowing that Absalom will soon be king. But there is more to it than that.

- See II Sam.23:34, 39 ----- II Sam.11:3
- Ahithophel was the grandfather of Bathsheba, and Eliam (Ahithophel's son) was one of David's mighty men, along with Uriah the Hittite (Bathsheba's husband).
- This is one way that David's failure with Bathsheba followed him even years later, and how it affected not only his immediate family, but his co-workers as well.

Summarize how the story ends.

LESSONS

1. Realize the consequences of failure before you fail!
 - See II Sam.12:10; The problems in David's family were a result of his own sin. Don't misunderstand, Amnon was guilty for raping Tamar, Absalom was guilty for killing Amnon. But David's sin with Bathsheba, and his subsequent sin of having Bathsheba's husband killed, had a negative impact upon his family. And his failure as a father had a negative impact upon his family.

2. Seek the Lord for help in resolving family conflict
 - Note: No record of David inquiring of the Lord in this whole section.

3. Deal with your children (family) the way God has dealt with you
 - Rev.3: 19 Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline.
 - Col.3:13; I Cor.13:5

4. Forgive as the Lord has forgiven you.

5. We cannot change the past, but by changing in the present, the future can be different.
 - *"Today is the first day of the rest of your life."*