

Reconciliation

2 Samuel 14:1-33

February 7, 2010

Intro

As I mentioned last week, God does not gloss over the failures of the people we study in God's Word. David is certainly no exception. What God gives us is a portrait of David, "warts and all."

That phrase, "warts and all," it's actually attributed to Oliver Cromwell who was Lord Protector of England in the 1600s and had hired the king's artist, Lely, to paint a portrait of him. It was common practice at the time for an artist to flatter the one being painted. Royalty, in particular, expected portraits to show them in the best possible light, even to the point of being outright fanciful if necessary; kind of like a modern day, "Glamour shots."

But when Cromwell sat down to be painted he said famously, "Mr. Lely, I desire you would use all your skill to paint my picture truly like me, and not flatter me at all; but remark all these roughnesses, pimples, warts and everything as you see me, otherwise I will never pay a farthing for it."

As the king of Israel, David's flaws and failures would become inextricably linked to his reign as king. David had committed adultery with Bathsheba, arranged for her husband to be killed in battle, and then took her as his own life.

Yes, God would forgive him, but there would still be consequences, and that itself is a lesson for all of us. David would see the consequences in his own life and in the lives of his children.

The background of the story is that one of David's sons, Amnon, had desire sexually for his half-sister Tamar. He then pretended to be sick as a ruse to get her to come to him. He then forced himself on her against her strong protest. Afterward, he despised her and sent her away in disgrace. When Absalom her brother found out what had happened, he brought Tamar into his own care and waited for David to take action.

After two full years, Absalom took matters into his own hands and had Amnon killed. Afterwards, he fled to Geshur, the home of his mother's family. He was banished there for three years.

I. Don't Stay Spiritually Stuck

- 1 When you step back and look at this story the problems in David's heart begin to reveal themselves.
- 2 The great man of action, David, was spiritually stuck. His lack of action, his lack of leadership, his lack of decision-making, was allowing the situation to get out of

control.

- 3 Joab saw that something must be done, so he came up with a plan on how to confront David. The prophet Nathan had confronted David by using the story of a rich man with many sheep who took the only lamb of a poor man to feed a guest.
- 4 Perhaps this would be a good time to use the same approach. So Joab brought an old woman and told her to pretend to be a widow and gave her the words to speak to David.
- 5 But why was David stuck?

A. Sin weakens the soul

- 6 David was paralyzed by his own sin. He was guilty himself of adultery, and even murder because he arranged for the death of Uriah, Bathsheba's husband, by placing them into the thick of battle.
- 7 So how could he then take action against his son Amnon when he was guilty himself? David's soul was weakened because of His sin.

Psalm 38:3, There is no soundness in my flesh because of Your indignation; There is no health in my bones because of my sin.

Psalm 40:12, My iniquities have overtaken me, so that I am not able to see; they are more numerous than the hairs of my head, and my heart has failed me.

Illus - Many parents struggle with this. Some fail to discipline their children because of what they did when they were young. But that's all the more reason to discipline our children; we know what bad consequences came into our lives, so therefore we should try to spare our children from such pain.

- 8 David was paralyzed because of sin and he also had no moral authority, because he had no ground to stand on for himself, or did he?
- 9 What he should have done was to have treated his son, Amnon, the same way that God treated him. He should have brought mercy to Amnon. He should have forgiven him because that's what God did to David.
- 10 But then David should have also brought consequences, for that is also what God did for David.

Hebrews 12:6-7, For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines... God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline?

B. God desires mercy more than sacrifice

- 1 David took no action in regard to his son Amnon and for two full years Absalom waited and waited while nothing was done; and all the while, his heart grew more and more bitter.
- 2 Absalom took matters into his own hands and arranged for Amnon's death. He then fled to Geshur to escape with his life.
- 3 Here again, David was spiritually stuck. As the king, he wanted to uphold the just demands of the law, yet as Absalom's father, he loved his son and his heart was longing for him.
- 4 There are many people today that are also spiritually stuck. Perhaps they have been hurt by someone; their heart may long for that person, but they also insist that justice be done.
- 5 It occurs to me that God is in the same dilemma. He is our King that stands for righteousness and justice, and he is also our Father whose heart longs for us.

Romans 3:26, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

- 1 But Jesus demonstrates the heart of God for us in this. His example speaks volumes as to how God deals with us and how we should deal with others also.

Matthew 9:9-13 God desires mercy and not sacrifice...

II. God Has a Plan that You Might be Near

- 1 That brings us back to 2 Samuel 14 and the message that was brought to David through this woman of Tekoa.
- 2 David promised mercy for her supposed son, even saying, "As the Lord lives, not one hair of your son shall fall to the ground."
- 3 She then brought it home to David when she said, "Why is it then that the king does not bring back his banished son?"
- 4 In other words, "You show mercy to someone you do not know, but not to your own son."

A. Life is short, value relationships

- 1 Life is short, the woman said. We are like water spilled on the ground that cannot be taken up again.

Psalm 39:4-5, "Lord, make me to know my end and what is the extent of my days; let me know how transient I am."

- 2 There are so many people with broken relationships, but life is short and relationships are a great treasure. What a waste not to seek reconciliation.

Romans 12:18, If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.

Illus – One of those family divisions came to my wife’s family and we were the ones banished for many years because we wouldn’t participate in banishing someone else. What a waste. But reconciliation finally came, love finally won the day.

- 3 We often think in terms of justice. They did this to me so I’m going to do that to them.

Illus - One day I was driving Jacob to the airport and someone tried to cut me off from my exit. But just because they have a bad heart doesn’t mean that I should have a bad heart.

B. God has devised a plan for us to come home

- 4 This is a very powerful line that the woman says. This is one of the best gospel texts in the Old Testament.
- 5 God has devised a plan for us to be reconciled to God and that is found in Christ Jesus.
- 6 There is an amazing study from comparing Genesis to Revelation. Man has been banished from God’s presence because of the sin of Adam in the Garden of Eden.
- 7 But then in Revelation, there is the restored relationship and even the Tree of Life.

Revelation 22:1-2, Then he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, in the middle of its street. On either side of the river was the tree of life... and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

- 8 And God uses many ways to reach you with the good news of God’s plan for reconciliation.
- 9 There are many examples of God using His Word to reach people.

Isaiah 55:11, So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.

Illus – The Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8 was reading Isaiah 53 and the Lord used to open his

eyes. Saul was blinded by light and knocked off his horse. Peter had disowned Jesus and Jesus reached out to him to bring him back.

Illus – Sometimes God uses sickness, or hardship, or the words of a child, “Aunt May, are you going to heaven? Do you have Jesus in your heart?”

Illus – Sometimes God uses our folly to show us our need for Him. Charles Spurgeon told the story of a friend, Pastor Thorpe who came to the Lord because he was mimicking Whitfield and when he came to the verse, “Repent or should likewise perish.” He came to faith right there.

10 But God’s plan that He has devised is both just and loving. He takes our sin upon Himself and pays the penalty for that sin on the cross of Calvary. That is the justice. And he does this because of His great love with which He has loved us.

C. God’s heart is that we truly draw near

11 When David agreed to bring Absalom home to Jerusalem, that sounded like reconciliation. But this really wasn’t reconciliation at all. David refused to see him.

12 It wasn’t until Absalom had waited two more years and yet had not seen David’s face that he appealed to Joab for help.

13 God reconciles us by the blood of Jesus so that we would have true intimacy with God through the cross of Christ.

14 There are too many people who accept the offer of reconciliation but stay too far from the presence of God. He reconciled us that we should be very near, that is what He desires.

John 17:26, “and I have made Your name known to them, and will make it known, so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.”