

DAVID FORGIVES ABSALOM (II Samuel 14)

Parts: Narrator
 Joab
 woman of Tekoa
 Absalom, Absalom's servant
 King David

Narrator:

[After killing his brother Amnon,] Absalom fled and went to Geshur, and was there three years. And King David longed to go to Absalom. For he had been comforted concerning Amnon, because he was dead.

And Joab the son of Zeruiah perceived that the king's heart was concerned about Absalom. And Joab sent to Tekoa and brought from there a wise woman.

Joab *(to the wise woman):*

"Please pretend to be a mourner, and put on mourning apparel; do not anoint yourself with oil, but act like a woman who has been mourning a long time for the dead. Go to the king and speak to him in this manner."

(Joab tells her what to say.)

Woman of Tekoa *(goes in to king, falls prostrate on the ground):*

"Help, O king!"

King David:

"What troubles you?"

Woman of Tekoa:

"Indeed I am a widow, my husband is dead. And your maidservant had two sons; and the two fought with each other in the field, and there was no one to part them, but the one struck the other and killed him.

And now the whole family has risen up against your maidservant and they said, "Deliver him who struck his brother, that we may execute him for the life of his brother whom he killed; and we will destroy the heir also."

So they would extinguish my ember that is left, and leave to my husband neither name nor remnant on the earth."

King David:

"Go to your house, and I will give orders concerning you."

Woman of Tekoa:

"My lord, O king, let the iniquity be on me and on my father's house, and the king and his throne be guiltless."

King David:

"Whoever says anything to you, bring him to me, and he shall not touch you anymore."

Woman of Tekoa:

"Please let the king remember Yehowah your God, and do not permit the avenger of blood to destroy anymore, lest they destroy my son."

King David:

"As Yehowah lives, not one hair of your son shall fall to the ground."

Woman of Tekoa:

"Please, let your maidservant speak another word to my lord the king."

King David:

"Say on."

Woman of Tekoa:

"Why then have you schemed such a thing against the people of God? For the king speaks this thing as one who is guilty, in that the king does not bring his banished one home again."

King David:

"Please do not hide from me anything that I ask you."

Woman of Tekoa:

"Please, let my lord the king speak."

King David:

"Is the hand of Joab with you in all this?"

Woman of Tekoa:

"As you live, my lord the king, no one can turn to the right hand or to the left from anything that my lord the king has spoken. For your servant Joab commanded me, and he put all these words in the mouth of your maidservant. To bring about this change of affairs your servant Joab has done this thing; but my lord is wise, according to the wisdom of the angel of God, to know all things that are in the earth."

King David (to Joab):

"All right, I have granted this thing. Go therefore, bring back the young man Absalom.

Narrator:

Then Joab fell to the ground on his face and bowed himself, and thanked the king.

Joab:

"Today your servant knows that I have found favor in your sight, my lord, O king, in that the king has fulfilled the request of his servant."

Narrator:

So Joab arose and went to Geshur, and brought Absalom to Jerusalem.

King David:

"Let him return to his own house, but do not let him see my face."

Narrator:

So Absalom returned to his own house, but did not see the king's face.... And Absalom dwelt two full years in Jerusalem, but did not see the king's face. Therefore Absalom sent for Joab, to send him to the king, but he would not come to him. And when he sent again the second time, he would not come.

Absalom *(to his servants)*:

"See, Joab's field is near mine, and he has barley there; go and set it on fire."

Narrator:

And Absalom's servants set the field on fire. Then Joab arose and came to Absalom's house.

Joab:

"Why have your servants set my field on fire?"

Absalom:

"Look, I sent to you saying 'Come here, so that I may send you to the king, to say, "Why have I come from Geshur? It would be better for me to be there still." ' Now therefore, let me see the king's face; but if there is any iniquity in me, let him execute me."

Narrator:

So Joab went to the king and told him. And when he had called for Absalom, he came to the king and bowed himself on his face to the ground before the king. Then the king kissed Absalom.

(The End)