

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF DAVID

PART III

STUDY NUMBER SEVENTEEN - 2 Samuel 14:1-15:37

In our last study, Amnon hopelessly falls in love with his half-sister Tamar and ends up raping her.

David does not do anything about that but get mad.

Absalom, her real brother, gets so mad at Amnon that he makes arrangements and has him murdered.

So we have a desolate young daughter and we have a dead first-born son.

The little baby also died that was born to David and Bathsheba.

David, today, is probably somewhere around 54-55 years of age.

As the scene of today's study opens, things have not gotten any better.

Absalom, because he is a murderer, is guilty by the law and should be stoned to death. So the only thing he could do was flee to grandpa's and grandma's house.

Micah was the daughter of the king of Geshur.

Micah had Absalom and Tamar, two beautiful children, to David.

So today as the scene of the study opens, if you can put Absalom up at grandma's house, thirty-five miles to the north, and you have David having waited for three years and do nothing about it, is here in Jerusalem. That is the picture.

For five long years David has done nothing about dealing with this problem in his family and it is beginning to fall apart.

Proverbs 6:27-33

²⁷ Can a man scoop fire into his lap without his clothes being burned?

²⁸ Can a man walk on hot coals without his feet being scorched?

²⁹ So is he who sleeps with another man's wife; no one who touches her will go unpunished.

³⁰ Men do not despise a thief if he steals to satisfy his hunger when he is starving.

³¹ Yet if he is caught, he must pay sevenfold, though it costs him all the wealth of his house.

³² But a man who commits adultery lacks judgment; whoever does so destroys himself.

³³ Blows and disgrace are his lot, and his shame will never be wiped away;"

Why is it that we resist involvement

in the lives of our family?

Why is it that husbands abdicate all the discipline to the wives?

Why don't we function and take care of these things?

How can a man as great as David administer so successfully a gigantic nation, extend the kingdom and do all of this, but when he comes home he can not even face a crisis in his own house and deal with his children?

That is where we are today.

Chap. 14:v. 1 Joab, son of Zeruah, knew that the king's heart longed for Absalom.

Joab is David's nephew; he is his military commander in chief. He has been with him the whole time, through the whole administration.

He loves David and has been loyal and honest in the kingdom with him. They have been very close.

He knows that David's heart longs for Absalom.

What keeps David from doing anything about it? Pride.

So as the scene of the study opens, we have a man who is longing for his son but he is not willing to long hard enough to do anything about it.

Joab is a great activist.

Joab never waits for anything to happen.

He just does not sit around.

He immediately gets something going.

Verse 2 gives us the result of Joab's knowledge about David's heart longing for Absalom.

v. 2 So Joab sent to Tekoa and had a wise woman brought from there. He said to her, "Pretend you are in mourning. Dress in mourning clothes, and don't use any cosmetic lotions. Act like a woman who has spent many days grieving for the dead."

Joab sends someone from the staff 10 miles south of Jerusalem to the city of Tekoa which is famous because Amos the minor prophet was born there to locate this wise woman who is going to pretend mourning as she comes into the presence of the king.

v. 3 Then go to the king and speak these words to him." And Joab put the words in her mouth.

Joab is setting up a situation similar to what David experienced with Nathan the prophet when he was confronted with the parable that Nathan told which in the end

condemned David.

Joab prepared a little speech for her to give when she came into the presence of the king pretending that she was in mourning.

v. 4 When the woman from Tekoa went to the king, she fell with her face to the ground to pay him honor, and she said, "Help me, O king!"

v. 5 The king asked her, "What is troubling you?" "She said, 'I am indeed a widow; my husband is dead.'

v. 6 I your servant had two sons. They got into a fight with each other in the field, and no one was there to separate them. One struck the other and killed him.

David is so dumb.

It takes him a long time to catch on.

He can not see himself in the story.

Look what she says:

v. 7 Now the whole clan has risen up against your servant; they say, 'Hand over the one who struck his brother down, so that we may put him to death for the life of his brother who he killed; then we will get rid of the heir as well.' They would put out the only burning coal I have left,

leaving my husband neither name nor descendant on the face of the earth.”

What is the story?

The story is, the law says that one son dies. If the one son dies, the name of the family is discontinued.

So she is saying, “Look the whole clan wants to execute him, because he is a murderer, he deserves to die. And my husband won’t have a name left on the earth if that happens.”

Now watch the king operate, would you:

v. 8 The king said to the woman, “Go home, and I will issue an order in your behalf.”

David has immediately gotten involved in the situation and commands the woman to go back to Tekoa and he will issue an order on her behalf that will protect her only remaining son.

I think David felt like this was a very short interview however the women continues.

v. 9 But the woman from Tekoa said to him, “My lord the king, let the blame rest on me and on my father’s family and let the king and his throne be without guilt.”

What is she saying?

So in essence, she is saying, "I know you are making an exception for me. Please, if you get into trouble over this thing, let the blame fall on me for what you are getting ready to do."

Now watch David in the very next verse:

v. 10 The king replied, "If anyone says anything to you, bring him to me, and he will not bother you again."

v. 11 She said, "Then let the king invoke the Lord his God to prevent the avenger of blood from adding to the destruction, so that my son will not be destroyed." "As surely as the Lord lives," he said, "not one hair of your son's head will fall to the ground."

David has gotten deeply and emotionally involved in this situation and now makes a commitment by an oath to the woman, "As surely as the Lord lives, not one hair of your son's head will fall to the ground."

v. 12 Then the woman said, "Let your servant speak a word to my lord the king." "Speak," he replied.

Now the woman begins to reveal to David the real purpose in coming into his presence.

v. 13 The woman said, "Why then have you devised a thing like this against the people of God? When the king says

this, does he not convict himself for the king has not brought back his banished son?

David, why is it that you've worked out this situation against the people of God for the protection of my son, and do you not convict yourself, for you have not made arrangements to bring back your own banished son?

v. 14 Like water spilled on the ground, which cannot be recovered, so we must die. But God does not take away life; instead, he devises ways so that a banished person may not remain estranged from him.

"You are God's man on that throne and you sure are not acting like God! When somebody has offended God, instead of destroying them, He tries to find a way for reconciliation for the banished person." That is the gospel friends!

v. 15 And now I have come to say this to my lord the king because the people have made me afraid. Your servant thought, 'I will speak to the king; perhaps he will do what his servant asks.'

Here the woman of Tekoa now returns to her own situation and plight.

v. 16 Perhaps the king will agree to deliver his servant from the hand of the man who is trying to cut off both me and my son from the inheritance God gave us.'

v. 17 And now your servant says, ‘May the word of my lord the king bring me rest, for my lord the king is like an angel of God in discerning good and evil. May the Lord your God be with you.’”

What is she trying to do?

She is trying to cover it up and get out of there without getting caught.

However she says a whole bunch more here that she needs to say. She should have just packed it and mailed it and got out of there.

v. 18 Then the king said to the woman, “Do not keep from me the answer to what I am going to ask you.” “Let my lord the king speak,” the woman said.

She is so transparently honest, I love it.

David smells a skunk in the woodpile!

v. 19 The king asked, “Isn’t the hand of Joab with you in all this?” The woman answered, “As surely as you live, my lord the king, no one can turn to the right or to the left from anything my lord the king says. Yes, it was your servant Joab who instructed me to do this and who put all these words into the mouth of your servant.

We have confession & transparent truthfulness!

v. 20 Your servant Joab did this to change the present situation. My lord has wisdom like that of an angel of God—he knows everything that happens in the land.”

Now, what does David do?

He dismisses the woman and he sends a text message and says, “Joab, get over here!”

v. 21 The king said to Joab, “Very well, I will do it. Go, bring ~~me~~ back the young man Absalom.”

What I want you to do is think with me for a minute before we read on.

What do you think should happen?

Here’s the king of the land, he has been reproached, and challenged.

It should be unconditional, complete forgiveness and reconciliation.

After all, he is a godly man, he is a man after God’s own heart.

God loves and forgives unconditionally,
totally and completely.
Shouldn’t David do that? Yes!

v. 22 Joab fell with his face to the ground to pay him honor, and blessed the king. Joab said, “Today your servant

knows that he has found favor in your eyes, my lord the king, because the king has granted his servant's request."

Joab is just beside himself.

He just can not think that this is really true, that David is really saying, "Go get Absalom."

v. 23 Then Joab went to Geshur and brought Absalom back to Jerusalem.

This is a 70 mile round trip!

All the way back Joab is thinking, "This is wonderful!"

But as soon as they get to town, there is an executive order that is issued in verse 24.

v. 24 But the king said, "He must go to his own house, he must not see my face." So Absalom went to his own house and did not see the face of the king.

It is really unfortunate that David doesn't want to see his son.

It actually sets the stage for Absalom's rebellion which takes place in the next chapter.

It is also interesting to note that there is no evidence of any penitence or sorrow on the part of Absalom, either.

David didn't forgive his son, like God had forgiven David.

It is hard for us to understand because David knew the forgiveness of God and he still was a man after the heart of God.

God did not forgive David half-heartedly.

When God forgives, he forgives completely.

v. 25 In all Israel there was not a man so highly praised for his handsome appearance as Absalom. From the top of his head to the sole of his foot there was no blemish in him.

v. 26 Whenever he cut the hair of his head—he used to cut his hair from time to time when it became too heavy for him—he would weigh it, and its weight was two hundred shekels by the royal standard.

These verses draw a picture of Absalom so we can fully appreciate what a fine specimen he was, that is, externally.

He was really very good looking.
From the top of his head to the sole of his foot there was no blemish in him.

I think these verses are included so that we can see that he was a boy that David could have really been proud of.

v. 27 Three sons and daughters were born to Absalom. The daughter's name was Tamar, and she became a beautiful woman.

Absalom married somebody I think while he was up at grandma's house. And he has had four kids. He has three boys and a daughter.

But the thing that really is the clincher, look what he named his daughter. Tamar. In honor of his dear sister, that he really loved who was decimated by a rape from Amnon.

That tells you something about the heart of this guy and what he has longed for.

v. 28 Absalom lived two years in Jerusalem without seeing the king's face.

That has been seven years since the rape of Tamar. David did nothing but get mad.

So after two years Absalom kills Amnon. He flees for three years to grandma's house, comes back to town and he is two years in Jerusalem without seeing his father's face.

It has been seven years and nothing has been done in their relationship.

David is probably, at this point, getting very close to sixty years of age.

v. 29 Then Absalom sent for Joab in order to send him to the king, but Joab refused to come to him. So he sent a second time, but he refused to come.

Joab has had just about enough of this family stuff, and does not want to be involved, so he refuses to come to Absalom when he makes two separate requests.

v. 30 Then he said to his servants, "Look, 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.

That will get Joab's attention!

v. 31 Then Joab did go to Absalom's house and he said to him, "Why have your servants set my field on fire?"

"What in the world are you doing man!
You burned up my barley!"

v. 32 Absalom said to Joab, "Look, I sent word to you and said, 'Come here so I can send you to the king and ask, "Why have I come from Geshur? It would be better for me if I

were still there!” Now then, I want to see the king’s face, and if I am guilty of anything, let him put me to death.”

v. 33 So Joab went to the king and told him this. Then the king summoned Absalom, and he came in and bowed down with his face to the ground before the king. And the king kissed Absalom.

And everybody lived happily ever after.
I don’t think so!

Things will never really be right between Absalom and his father.

David, I am sure, had a lot of bitterness inside because of what Absalom had done to Amnon.

And Absalom had built up a lot of bitterness over the fact that David did not do anything to Amnon in disciplinary action for what he had done to his sister Tamar.

Let me share a Principle: Partial forgiveness will always lead to bitterness and bondage.

It will get worse instead of better if you do not really deal with it in a real way.

Now what does Absalom decide when he walks out of there?

I think he decides, “I am going to take over my dad’s kingdom!

I am sick of this!

I have had all I can take!

This is it! This is the final reproach!

I have had it up to here and I am taking my dad’s kingdom!”

Well, how do you do that?

You start by politicking.

Chap. 15:v. 1 In the course of time, Absalom provided himself with a chariot and horses and with fifty men to run ahead of him.

What does a rich kid do when he has everything given to him but love?

Well, he gets given more material things.

Give him a Mustang or a BMW or something like that.

Here is a kid from a rich royal family with a Mustang and his own private 50 man pit crew.

Living in luxury, leisure, laxity, and loving every minute of it!

An unhappy home breeds unbalanced children. His home was unhappy.

David handled the kingdom but he couldn’t handle his family.

He failed miserably with his home.

The only difference between Absalom and most kids today is he would get up early.

He was not sleeping in the sack all day.

v. 2 He would get up early and stand by the side of the road leading to the city gate. Whenever anyone came with a complaint to be placed before the king for a decision, Absalom would call out to him, "What town are you from?" He would answer, "Your servant is from one of the tribes of Israel."

v. 3 Then Absalom would say to him, "Look, your claims are valid and proper, but there is no representative of the king to hear you."

"Why, I'm the king's son and I was here for 24 months and I never received an audience with the king!"

v. 4 And Absalom would add, "If only I were appointed judge in the land! Then everyone who has a complaint or case could come to me and I would see that he gets justice."

v. 5 Also, whenever anyone approached him to bow down before him, Absalom would reach out his hand, take hold of him and kiss him.

v. 6 Absalom behaved in this way toward all the Israelites who came to the king asking for Justice, and so he stole the hearts of the men of Israel.

You can see him, he is shaking hands, hugging, and kissing babies. He is just politicking like crazy.

Look how long he does that!

v. 7 At the end of four years, Absalom said to the king, “Let me go to Hebron and fulfill a vow I made to the Lord.

After four years Absalom is now ready to strike.
“Let me go to Hebron and fulfill a vow
I made to the Lord.”

What is David thinking? “Wow!
This is an answer to prayer!
My kid’s got religion!
He wants to go to Hebron, and fulfill a vow
to the Lord!”

v. 8 While your servant was living at Geshur in Aram, I made this vow: ‘If the Lord takes me back to Jerusalem, I will worship the Lord in Hebron.’”

v. 9 The king said to him, “Go in peace.” So he went to Hebron.

You can just see David, he is so excited!

v. 10 Then Absalom sent secret messengers throughout the tribes of Israel to say, “As soon as you hear the sound of the trumpets, then say, ‘Absalom is king in Hebron.’”

v. 11 Two hundred men from Jerusalem had accompanied Absalom. They had been invited as guests and went quite innocently, knowing nothing about the matter.

v. 12 While Absalom was offering sacrifices, he also sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David's counselor, to come from Giloh, his home town. And so the conspiracy gained strength, and Absalom's following kept increasing.

Who is Ahithophel?

He is David's press secretary.

He is the fellow with the wisest counsel in the administration.

He has been as close to David as any body could be.

He is also Bathsheba's granddaddy.

He probably held a grudge against David about her, but he did serve in David's cabinet.

v. 13 A messenger came and told David, "The hearts of the men of Israel are with Absalom."

Then David said to all his officials who were with him in Jerusalem, "Let us inquire of the Lord."

Is that what verse 14 says?

You never flee into the will of God.

You never run into the will of God.

When you are the most eager to act, is when you make the most pitiful mistakes.

David hits the panic button.
It is panic city all around the palace.

v. 14 Then David said to all his officials who were with him in Jerusalem, "Come! We must flee, or none of us will escape from Absalom. We must leave immediately, or he will move quickly to overtake us and bring ruin upon us and put the city to the sword."

Absalom is eighteen miles to the south, he is coming this way, we have got to get out or he is going to kill us.

David didn't inquire of the Lord or ask to bring the ephod.

v. 15 The king's officials answered him, "Your servants are ready to do whatever our lord the king chooses."

Once again you have the loyalty of David's administrative staff.

They are totally available and completely obedient.

v. 16 The king set out, with his entire household following him; but he left ten concubines to take care of the palace.

We will meet them later in the study.

v. 17 So the king set out, with all the people following him, and they halted at a place some distance away.

This leaving of Jerusalem is one of the saddest episodes in the whole Bible, one of the most tragic moments in David's life.

His very own son was causing him to run away.

v. 18 All his men marched past him, along with all the Kerethites and Pelethites; and all the six hundred Gittites who had accompanied him from Gath marched before the king.

v. 19 The king said to Ittai the Gittite, "Why should you come along with us? Go back and stay with King Absalom. You are a foreigner, an exile from your homeland.

v. 20 You came only yesterday. And today shall I make you wander about with us, when I do not know where I am going? Go back, and take your countrymen. May kindness and faithfulness be with you."

v. 21 But Ittai replied to the king, "As surely as the Lord lives, and as my lord the king lives, wherever my lord the king may be, whether it means life or death, there will your servant be."

Alan Redpath points out, "This little band of foreign men whose hearts had felt the warmth of David's presence, who had seen his patience in the time of suffering, who had walked with him in the days of his rejection, these men who were

close to David loved him. Living so close to him made them conscious of his greatness, and his love broke up hardness of their hearts. So in the day of crisis, while other people who were what you might call fair-weather followers, were deserting him, this group of men followed him and shared the fellowship of his sufferings.”

v. 22 David said to Ittai, “Go ahead, march on.” So Ittai the Gittite marched on with all his men and the families that were with him.

David provided Ittai with the freedom to depart and go back to be a follower of King Absalom, but he refused to do so, with a life and death commitment to David; David then tells him to “Go ahead, and march on with him.”

v. 23 The whole countryside wept aloud as all the people passed by. The king also crossed the Kidron Valley, and all the people moved on toward the desert.

They are really upset about this.

v. 24 Zadok was there, too, and all the Levites who were with him were carrying the ark of the covenant of God. They set down the ark of God, and Abiathar offered sacrifices until all the people had finished leaving the city.

This causes David to fall apart.

v. 25 Then the king said to Zadok, “Take the ark of God back into the city. If I find favor in the Lord’s eyes, he will bring me back and let me see it and his dwelling place again.

v. 26 But if he says, ‘I am not pleased with you,’ then I am ready; let him do to me whatever seems good to him.”

Never lose your confidence in the love of God when it is rough. Keep on praising Him.

David says, “He knows what is best.

God is going to work this all together for good. Whether I come back or I don’t, I am ready for God to do whatever He needs to do in my life.”

v. 27 The king also said to Zadok the priests. Aren’t you a seer? Go back to the city in peace, with your son Ahimaaz and Jonathan son of Abiathar. You and Abiathar take your two sons with you.

v. 28 I will wait at the fords in the desert until word comes from you to inform me.”

David is setting up his own secret intelligence here.

v. 29 So Zadok and Abiathar took the ark of God back to Jerusalem and stayed there.

v. 30 But David continued up the Mount of Olives, weeping as he went; his head was covered and he was barefoot. All

the people with him covered their heads too and were weeping as they went up.

Here we witness David as a very broken man.

v. 31 Now David had been told, “Ahithophel is among the conspirators with Absalom.” So David prayed, “O Lord, turn Ahithophel’s counsel into foolishness.”

v. 32 When David arrived at the summit, where people used to worship God, Hushai the Arkite was there to meet him, his robe torn and dust on his head.

v. 33 David said to him, “If you go with me, you will be a burden to me.

v. 34 But if you return to the city and say to Absalom, ‘I will be your servant, O King; I was your father’s servant in the past, but now I will be your servant,’ then you can help me by frustrating Ahithophel’s advice.

David prays in verse 31 that the Lord would turn Ahithophel’s counsel into foolishness. Now we read in verse 34 David is sending Hushai the Arkite back for this purpose of frustrating Ahithophel’s advice.

v. 35 Won’t the priests Zadok and Abiathar be there with you? Tell them anything you hear in the king’s palace.

v. 36 Their two sons, Ahimaaz son of Zadok and Jonathan son of Abiathar, are there with them. Send them to me with anything you hear.”

v. 37 So David’s friend Hushai arrived at Jerusalem as Absalom was entering the city.

Hushai was to get messages to David where he was camped.

There was a whole line of communications that led to the overthrow of Absalom.

Hushai, Zadok, Abiathar, Jonathan, Ahimaaz, and others.

What are some of the lessons that we can learn from this particular study?

Lesson #1: Satisfying every material need and abundant love without discipline will lead to disaster.

Lesson #2: Partial forgiveness leads to bondage and bitterness.

Lesson #3: David never functions with his kids except in a crisis situation.

Lesson #4: David and Absalom are never reconciled in their relationship.

Lesson #5: Absalom was a bitter young man looking for a father.

Lesson #6: In the midst of a crisis you will always find your true friends.

They just come out of the woodwork. They say,
“I love you. I know you are having a rough time and I am here
and I will always be here.
That had to mean a lot to David.

Lesson #7: David submits himself to God's sovereign purpose in this situation.

I don't know what is going on in your life.

Maybe you are having a pretty rough time right now.

Have you turned it over to the Lord
and have you submitted to it?

Are you still saying,
“Why me? Why this? Why now?”

He is waiting for you to say,
“What can I learn, from what You have allowed
so that I might be a better person?”

That is submission to it.

Psalm 3

“O Lord, how my adversaries have increased!

Many are rising up against me.
Many are saying of my soul,
“There is no deliverance for him in God.”
But Thou, O Lord, art a shield about me,
My glory, and the One who lifts my head.
I was crying to the Lord with my voice,
And He answered me from His holy mountain.
I lay down and slept;
I awoke, for the Lord sustains me.
I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people
Who have set themselves against me round about.”

Psalm 4

“Many are saying, ‘Who will show us any good?’
Lift up the light of Thy countenance upon us, O Lord!
Thou hast put gladness in my heart,
More than when their grain and new wine abound.
In peace I will both lie down and sleep,
For Thou alone, O Lord, dost make me to dwell in safety.”

Psalm 25

“To Thee, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
O my God, in Thee I trust,
Do not let me be ashamed;
Do not let my enemies exult over me.
Indeed, none of those who wait for Thee will be ashamed;
Those who deal treacherously without cause will be
ashamed.
Make me know Thy ways, O Lord;

Teach me Thy paths.
Lead me in Thy truth and teach me,
For Thou art the God of my salvation;
For Thee I wait all the day.
Turn to me and be gracious to me,
For I am lonely and afflicted.
The troubles of my heart are enlarged;
Bring me out of my distresses.
Look upon my affliction and my trouble,
And forgive all my sins.
Look upon my enemies, for they are many,
And they hate me with violent hatred.
Guard my soul and deliver me;
Do not let me be ashamed, for I take refuge in Thee.”

Psalm 28

“Blessed be the Lord,
Because He has heard the voice of my supplication.
The Lord is my strength and my shield;
My heart trusts in Him, and I am helped;
Therefore my heart exults,
And with my song I shall thank Him.
The Lord is their strength,
And He is a saving defense to His anointed.
Save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance;
Be their shepherd also, and carry them forever.”

Psalm 58

“The righteous will rejoice when he sees the vengeance;

He will wash his feet in the blood of the wicked.
And men will say, "Surely there is a reward for the
righteous;
Surely there is a God who judges on earth!"

Psalm 61

"Hear my cry, O God;
Give heed to my prayer.
From the end of the earth I call to Thee, when my heart is
faint;
Lead me to the rock that is higher than I.
For Thou hast been a refuge for me,
A tower of strength against the enemy.
Let me dwell in Thy tent forever;
Let me take refuge in the shelter of Thy wings.

Psalm 62

"My soul waits in silence for God only;
From Him is my salvation.
He only is my rock and my salvation,
My stronghold; I shall not be greatly shaken.
My soul, wait in silence for God only,
For my hope is from Him.
He only in my rock and my salvation,
My stronghold; I shall not be shaken.
On God my salvation and my glory rest;
The rock of my strength, my refuge is in God.
Trust in Him at all times, O people;
Pour out your heart before Him;

God is a refuge for us.”

Psalm 63

“O God, Thou art my God, I shall seek Thee earnestly;
My soul thirsts for Thee, my flesh yearns for Thee,
In a dry and weary land where there is no water.
Thus I have beheld Thee in the sanctuary,
To see Thy power and Thy glory.
Because Thy lovingkindness is better than life,
My lips will praise Thee.
When I remember Thee on my bed.
I meditate on Thee in the night watches.
For Thou has been my help,
And in the shadow of Thy wings I sing for joy.
My soul clings to Thee;
Thy right hand upholds me.
But those who seek life, to destroy it,
Will go into the depths of the earth.
They will be delivered over to the power of the sword;
They will be a prey for foxes.

Psalm 109

“But Thou, O God, the Lord, deal kindly with me for Thy
name's sake;
Because Thy lovingkindness is good, deliver me;
For I am afflicted and needy,
And my heart is wounded within me.
I am passing like a shadow when it lengthens;
I am shaken off like the locust.

My knees are weak from fasting;
And my flesh has grown lean, without fatness.
I also have become a reproach to them;
When they see me, they wag their head.
Help my, O Lord my God;
Save me according to Thy lovingkindness.
And let them know that this is Thy hand;
Thou, Lord, hast done it.
With my mouth I will give thanks abundantly to the Lord;
And in the midst of many I will praise Him.
For He stands at the right hand of the needy,
To save him from those who judge his soul.”

Psalm 143

“Hear my prayer, O Lord,
Give ear to my supplications!
Answer me in Thy faithfulness, in Thy righteousness!
And do not enter into judgment with Thy servant,
For in Thy sight no man living is righteous.
For the enemy has persecuted my soul;
He has crushed my life to the ground;
He has made me dwell in dark places, like those who have
long been dead.
Therefore my spirit is overwhelmed within me;
My heart is appalled within me.
I remember the days of old;
I meditate on all Thy doings;
I muse on the work of Thy hands.
I stretch out my hands to Thee;
My soul longs for Thee, as a parched land.

Answer me quickly, O Lord, my spirit fails;
Do not hide Thy face from me,
Lest I become like those who go down to the pit.
Let me hear Thy lovingkindness in the morning;
For I trust in Thee;
Teach me the way in which I should walk;
For Thee I lift up my soul.
Deliver me, O Lord, from my enemies;
I take refuge in Thee.
Teach me to do Thy will,
For Thou art my God;
Let Thy good Spirit lead me on level ground.”

Lessons Learned In The Life of David

PART III

STUDY NUMBER SEVENTEEN - 2 Samuel 14:1-15:37

14:v. 1 Joab son of Zeruiah knew that the king's heart longed for Absalom.

v. 2 So Joab sent someone to Tekoa and had a wise woman brought from there. He said to her, "Pretend you are in mourning. Dress in mourning clothes, and don't use any cosmetic lotions. Act like a woman who has

spent many days grieving for the dead.

v. 3 Then go to the king and speak these words to him." And Joab put the words in her mouth.

v. 4 When the woman from Tekoa went to the king, she fell with her face to the ground to pay him honor, and she said, "Help me, O king!"

v. 5 The king asked her, "What is troubling you?" She said, "I am indeed a widow; my husband is dead.

v. 6 I your servant had two sons. They got into a fight with each other in the field, and no one was there to separate them. One struck the other and killed him.

v. 7 Now the whole clan has risen up against your servant; they say, 'Hand over the one who struck his brother down, so that we may put him to death for the life of his brother whom he killed; then we will get rid of the heir as well.' They would put out the only burning coal I have left, leaving my husband neither name nor descendant on the face of the earth."

v. 8 The king said to the woman, "Go home, and I will issue an order in your behalf."

v. 9 But the woman from Tekoa said to him, "My lord the king, let the blame rest on me and on my father's family, and let the king and his throne be without guilt."

v.10 The king replied, "If anyone says anything to you, bring him to me, and he will not bother you again."

v.11 She said, "Then let the king invoke the Lord his God to prevent the avenger of blood from adding to the destruction, so that my son will not be destroyed." "As surely as the Lord lives," he said, "not one hair of your son's head will fall to the ground."

v.12 Then the woman said, "Let your servant speak a word to my lord the king." "Speak," he replied.

v.13 The woman said, "Why then have you devised a thing like this against the people of God? When the king says this, does he not convict himself, for the king has not brought back his banished son?"

v.14 Like water spilled on the ground, which cannot be recovered, so we must die. But God does not take away life; instead, he devises ways so that a banished person may not remain estranged from him.

v.15 And now I have come to say this to my lord the king because the people have made me afraid. Your servant thought, 'I will speak to the king; perhaps he will do what his servant asks.

v.16 Perhaps the king will agree to deliver his servant from the hand of the man who is trying to cut off both me and my son from the inheritance God gave us.'

v.17 And now your servant says, 'May the word of my lord the king bring me rest, for my lord the king is like an angel of God in discerning good and evil. May the Lord your God be with you.'

v.18 Then the king said to the woman, "Do not keep from me the answer to what I am going to ask you." "Let my lord the king speak," the woman said.

v.19 The king asked, "Isn't the hand of Joab with you in all this?" The woman answered, "As surely as you live, my lord the king, no one can turn to the right or to the left from anything my lord the king says. Yes, it was your servant Joab who instructed me to do this and who put all these words into the mouth of your servant.

v.20 Your servant Joab did this to change the present situation. My lord has wisdom like that of an angel of God--he knows everything that happens in the land."

v.21 The king said to Joab, "Very well, I will do it. Go, bring back the young man Absalom."

v.22 Joab fell with his face to the ground to pay him honor, and he blessed the king. Joab said, "Today your servant knows that he has found favor in your eyes, my lord the king, because the king has granted his servant's request."

v.23 Then Joab went to Geshur and brought Absalom back to Jerusalem.

v.24 But the king said, "He must go to his own house; he must not see my face." So Absalom went to his own house and did not see the face of the king.

v.25 In all Israel there was not a man so highly praised for his handsome appearance as Absalom. From the top of his head to the sole of his foot there was no blemish in him.

v.26 Whenever he cut the hair of his head--he used to cut his hair from time to time when it became too heavy for him--he would weigh it, and its weight was two hundred shekels by the royal standard.

v.27 Three sons and a daughter were born to Absalom. The daughter's name was Tamar, and she became a beautiful woman.

v.28 Absalom lived two years in Jerusalem without seeing the king's face.

v.29 Then Absalom sent for Joab in order to send him to the king, but Joab refused to come to him. So he sent a second time, but he refused to come.

v.30 Then he said to his servants, "Look, 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.

v.31 Then Joab did go to Absalom's house and he said to him, "Why have your servants set my field on fire?"

v.32 Absalom said to Joab, "Look, I sent word to you and said, 'Come here so I can send you to the king to ask, 'Why have I come from Geshur? It would be better for me if I were still there!'" Now then, I want to see the king's face, and if I am guilty of anything, let him put me to death."

v.33 So Joab went to the king and told him this. Then the king summoned Absalom, and he came in and bowed down with his face to the ground before the king. And the king kissed Absalom.

15:v. 1 In the course of time, Absalom provided himself with a chariot and horses and with fifty men to run ahead of him.

v. 2 He would get up early and stand by the side of the road leading to the city gate. Whenever anyone came with a complaint to be placed before the king for a decision, Absalom would call out to him, "What town are you from?" He would answer, "Your servant is from one of the tribes of Israel."

v. 3 Then Absalom would say to him, "Look, your claims are valid and proper, but there is no representative of the king to hear you."

v. 4 And Absalom would add, "If only I were appointed judge in the land! Then everyone who has a complaint or case could come to me and I would see that he gets justice."

v. 5 Also, whenever anyone approached him to bow down before him, Absalom would reach out his hand, take hold of him and kiss him.

v. 6 Absalom behaved in this way toward all the Israelites who came to the king asking for justice, and so he stole the hearts of the men of Israel.

v. 7 At the end of four years, Absalom said to the king, "Let me go to Hebron and fulfill a vow I made to the Lord.

v. 8 While your servant was living at Geshur in Aram, I made this vow: 'If the Lord takes me back to Jerusalem, I will worship the Lord in Hebron.'"

v. 9 The king said to him, "Go in peace." So he went to Hebron.

v.10 Then Absalom sent secret messengers throughout the tribes of Israel to say, "As soon as you hear the sound of the trumpets, then say, 'Absalom

is king in Hebron."

v.11 Two hundred men from Jerusalem had accompanied Absalom. They had been invited as guests and went quite innocently, knowing nothing about the matter.

v.12 While Absalom was offering sacrifices, he also sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David's counselor, to come from Giloh, his hometown. And so the conspiracy gained strength, and Absalom's following kept on increasing.

v.13 A messenger came and told David, "The hearts of the men of Israel are with Absalom."

v.14 Then David said to all his officials who were with him in Jerusalem, "Come! We must flee, or none of us will escape from Absalom. We must leave immediately, or he will move quickly to overtake us and bring ruin upon us and put the city to the sword."

v.15 The king's officials answered him, "Your servants are ready to do whatever our lord the king chooses."

v.16 The king set out, with his entire household following him; but he left ten concubines to take care of the palace.

v.17 So the king set out, with all the people following him, and they halted at a place some distance away.

v.18 All his men marched past him, along with all the Kerethites and Pelethites; and all the six hundred Gittites who had accompanied him from Gath marched before the king.

v.19 The king said to Ittai the Gittite, "Why should you come along with us? Go back and stay with King Absalom. You are a foreigner, an exile from your homeland.

v.20 You came only yesterday. And today shall I make you wander about with us, when I do not know where I am going? Go back, and take your countrymen. May kindness and faithfulness be with you."

v.21 But Ittai replied to the king, "As surely as the Lord lives, and as my lord the king lives, wherever my lord the king may be, whether it means life or death, there will your servant be."

v.22 David said to Ittai, "Go ahead, march on." So Ittai the Gittite marched on with all his men and the families that were with him.

v.23 The whole countryside wept aloud as all the people passed by. The king also crossed the Kidron Valley, and all the people moved on toward the desert.

v.24 Zadok was there, too, and all the Levites who were with him were carrying the ark of the covenant of God. They set down the ark of God, and Abiathar offered sacrifices until all the people had finished leaving the city.

v.25 Then the king said to Zadok, "Take the ark of God back into the city. If I find favor in the Lord's eyes, he will bring me back and let me see it and his dwelling place again.

v.26 But if he says, 'I am not pleased with you,' then I am ready; let him do to me whatever seems good to him."

v.27 The king also said to Zadok the priest, "Aren't you a seer? Go back to the city in peace, with your son Ahimaaz and Jonathan son of Abiathar. You and Abiathar take your two sons with you.

v.28 I will wait at the fords in the desert until word comes from you to inform me."

v.29 So Zadok and Abiathar took the ark of God back to Jerusalem and stayed there.

v.30 But David continued up the Mount of Olives, weeping as he went; his head was covered and he was barefoot. All the people with him covered their heads too and were weeping as they went up.

v.31 Now David had been told, "Ahithophel is among the conspirators with Absalom." So David prayed, "O Lord, turn Ahithophel's counsel into foolishness."

v.32 When David arrived at the summit, where people used to worship God, Hushai the Arkite was there to meet him, his robe torn and dust on his head.

v.33 David said to him, "If you go with me, you will be a burden to me.

v.34 But if you return to the city and say to Absalom, 'I will be your servant, O king; I was your father's servant in the past, but now I will be your servant,' then you can help me by frustrating Ahithophel's advice.

v.35 Won't the priests Zadok and Abiathar be there with you? Tell them anything you hear in the king's palace.

v.36 Their two sons, Ahimaaz son of Zadok and Jonathan son of Abiathar, are there with them. Send them to me with anything you hear."

v.37 So David's friend Hushai arrived at Jerusalem as Absalom was entering the city.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read 2 Samuel 14:1-15:37 several times and in your own words outline what is happening in the life of David.
2. How does Joab try to work out a plan of reconciliation between Absalom and David in the first part of chapter 14?
3. What graphic illustration does the woman from Tekoa use to make her point to David in verse 14?
4. What is the king's question in verse 19?
5. How is Absalom described in verses 25 & 26?
6. What does Absalom do in 15:1-12?

7. How does David respond to Absalom's rebellion according to verse 14?
8. What is the picture of David in verses 30 & 31?
9. Which verse in the study has meant the most to you?
10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

Lessons Learned In The Life Of David:

STUDY NUMBER SEVENTEEN - 2 Samuel 14:1-15:37

LESSON #1: Satisfying every material need and abundant love without discipline will lead to disaster.

LESSON #2: Partial forgiveness leads to bondage and bitterness.

LESSON #3: David never functions with his kids except in a crisis situation.

LESSON #4: David and Absalom are never reconciled in their relationship.

LESSON #5: Absalom was a bitter young man looking for a father.

LESSON #6: In the midst of a crisis you will always find your true friends.

LESSON #7: David submits himself to God's sovereign purpose in this situation.