

"Failed Reconciliation"

2 Samuel 14

Introduction: I'd like to divide this chapter into three sections: Joab's clever scheme (2 Samuel 14:1-20); David's foolish scheme (2 Samuel 14:21-24); Absalom's determined scheme (2 Samuel 14:25-33).

Joab's clever Scheme - 2 Samuel 14:1-20

Precept: When we are appealing to someone in authority it is important that we communicate two things: first, there may be a better way to get what you want or what is needed, please hear me out; this will take humility and confidence; and second, whatever is decided I will abide by your decision. (Daniel 1:9-16).

David's foolish Scheme - 2 Samuel 14:21-24

Concept: In one sense David brings his son home to the same city where he lived but in a relational sense he remained distant from his son and as we will see that did not sit well with Absalom—he was 'forgiven, restored, reconciled' in a shallow sense of those words, but not in a true sense. The relationship was still strained and there was no true reconciliation. (Genesis 50:17-21, Romans 12:17-21)

Absalom's determined scheme - 2 Samuel 14:25-33

Precept: There are statements in scripture that should lead us to a definite conclusion and that conclusion comes from Deuteronomy 5:16; 28:18. When children dishonor their parents they risk their future in ways that they do not expect. As hard as some parents can be God chose them for each of us. Absalom will dishonor his father and that never goes well.

Conclusion: 2 Samuel 7 is the high point of David's reign and then he sets up his government and expands Israel's territory from the new capital city, Jerusalem. We can never really know the extent of our misery when we choose sin and walk in the works and ways of Satan.

Good intentions will only get me so far, it is important that I act properly as well. It takes grace and maturity to know both.

In 1 Samuel 16:7 God helped Samuel see things properly. We need to see others through the eyes of God; we need God's help to see the character of a person rather than their external descriptors. Absalom had serious character issues and they were all masked by his good looks; his heart was devious and evil.

Question: When two people are at odds should they reconcile; should someone care enough to compel or at least nurture reconciliation? (Joab) Reconciliation is of the Lord and he longs for relational reconciliation and restoration of lost relationship. Did the final goal happen in this story? NO! I conclude that reconciliation failed; why? Reconciliation is the divine effort, God's will, and it should be our longing as we make our way through this very transitory life. Am I satisfied with external peace, implied restoration; superficial comments of congeniality and token appreciation? NO! Neither is God—he did all the work and stands ready to restore and reconcile; all we have to do is step up and fess up to what we have done and rest in his grace and goodness.

