

Forgiving the Banished **2 Samuel 14**

Introduction:

1. Families have problems – that is a fact of life. I don't care if it is a Christian family or a lost family; they are both going to have problems to work through from time to time.
2. In chapter 13, King David's family was ripped apart. David's son raped his step-sister. Absalom, David's other son, sought revenge on his perverted brother and killed him. And you thought your family had problems?
3. After this turn of events, Absalom fled (13:34). He fled to the land of Geshur, where his wife's family was from. He was there for three years.
 - David had a daughter that has been sexually assaulted, a son that was dead, and another son that he had no communication with at all.
4. David still loved Absalom, but there was obviously some bitterness and unforgiveness in David's heart that wouldn't allow David to send for Absalom, and reconcile with him. 13:37-39
5. Joab (David's general) perceived this (vs. 1), and devised a plan to convince David to forgive Absalom, and bring him back home (vs. 2-3). Joab had a wise woman help him tell David a fictitious story about her supposed two sons. vs. 4-11
6. After David basically cornered himself, the woman began to explain to David why he needed to forgive his son (vs. 12-14). Finally David conceded and brought Absalom back home (vs. 21), but still didn't fully forgive him until the end of this chapter. vs. 33
7. Forgiveness can be a very difficult thing to do, yet it is so needed.
8. Absalom had been banished (pushed off) for three years, and desperately needed his dad's forgiveness. Is there somebody that you have banished from your heart, or from your presence, and refuse to forgive?
 - Maybe your heart is not in a state of readiness to forgive. Hopefully this message will be like a soaking rain on your heart, and soften your heart to forgive.
9. Let's examine what this woman told David about why he needed to forgive Absalom, and apply it to our lives. Why should you forgive?

First, because our unforgiveness hurts others – vs. 13

1. She said, "David, you are hurting the people of God by not fetching home again your banished son and forgiving him."
2. Sometimes believers mistakenly think that they aren't hurting anybody but the person they won't forgive when they hold on to bitterness. But this simply isn't true.
3. The Bible likens believers to a body (1 Corinthians 12:27). We are all members of that body. Could you imagine if the members of your body had the ability to hold grudges against each other?

- **Illustration:** The legs hold a grudge against the toe because it is broken, and the legs refuse to walk. The ear causes the head to hurt, so the head holds a grudge against the ear. The tooth causes the jaw to hurt, so the jaw refuses to move so you can't talk.
 - When you are out of sorts with another person in the body of Christ, it is like an ear that is out of sorts with a head, or a toe with a foot, or a finger with a hand. 1 Corinthians 12:14-16, 20-21
4. You need to forgive so that the body of Christ can function effectively and efficiently. You hinder the cause of Christ when you harbor unforgiveness.
 - This is such a bad testimony to the lost world that does not know Christ. Philippians 1:27
 5. I wonder how many members of the body are sitting at home this morning instead of functioning as useful members in the body of Christ. Why? Because years ago, they messed up and somebody wouldn't forgive them, and it destroyed them. Or, somebody else hurt them and they refused to forgive.
 6. This can happen! In fact, in the church at Corinth, there was a young man that had gotten involved in sexual sin. It was bringing shame upon the church. The church had come down hard on him (which they should have), but the boy had repented of his sin.
 - The church was obviously having a hard time forgiving this young man, so notice what Paul says in 2 Corinthians 2:6-8:
 - Paul said to forgive him and comfort him – “*confirm your love toward him.*” Why? Lest he “*be swallowed up (akin to drowning) with overmuch sorrow.*”
 - Paul said, “You are going to discourage and destroy that young man. He is going to drown in sorrow.”
 7. There may be people in this condition today. They can't get over the fact that they hurt you. They are hungry for your forgiveness, and comfort, and love.
 - The word “comfort” means “to call near; invite; invoke.” It is the idea of putting your arms around them and saying, “I know you didn't mean it, and even if you did, I forgive you.”
 - This is the way the body of supposed to work. If the head hurts, the legs carry the body to the store, the arm and hands grab the medicine, the eyes read the dosage, the fingers open the package and put it in your mouth, etc.
 - But the shame of it is that this doesn't always happen in the body of Christ. Our attitude is, “They hurt me and disappointed me. They can beg for forgiveness and desire restoration all they want to, but they aren't getting it.” This is so diametrically opposite of the way grace teaches us to act. Ephesians 4:32
 8. Sometimes we will offer a half-hearted forgiveness. This is what David did to Absalom at first (vs. 23-24). Forgiveness that does not comfort and love the other person is not a true forgiveness.
 9. Do you know what this does? It opens the door to Satan. Notice Paul's admonition in 2 Corinthians 2:10-11. cf. Ephesians 4:27

- Many marriages have dissolved because of this issue of unforgiveness. One or both spouses simply won't forgive. Colossians 3:19
 - As one frustrated husband said, "Every time my wife and I get in a spat, she gets historical." His friend said, "Don't you mean hysterical." The husband said, "No historical – she is always bringing up the past and holding it against me."
 - Many times, that husband or wife is drowning in sorrow, and then Satan sends some other person to try to take away their sorrow. This is how marital infidelity can take place.
- Many children simply can't deal with the fact that they have hurt their parents and desperately need the forgiveness of their parents. Many children have been hurt by their parents deeply, and simply will not forgive them.
- Many friendships have been fractured because of unforgiveness or half-hearted forgiveness, which is not forgiveness at all.

In Conclusion:

1. Unforgiveness hurts others. That is what this wise woman told David, and how true it is!
2. You don't just hurt yourself and the person you are bitter at, but you hurt others, and you hurt the church and the cause of Christ as a whole when you harbor an unforgiving spirit.
3. Are there grudges that you need to let go of today? Just as Absalom was banished from his dad's presence, are there people you have banished from your presence, or maybe banished in your heart and spirit?
4. Let's end with Colossians 3:12-13. "*As Christ forgave you, so also do ye.*"

Next week – Part 2 of this message!