II Samuel 14-15

Review…

- **II Samuel 12 – Repentance and restoration…**
  - The prophet Nathan confronted David about his affair with Bathsheba…
  - David repented – and the Lord forgave him – but there would still be consequences…
  - God loved David enough to punish him so he would never forget / fall back into sin
- **II Samuel 13 – The lust of the heart…**
  - Amnon - the oldest son of David – had a crush on his half sister Tamar…
    - He fantasized and thought about her so much he could not eat / made himself sick…
    - His cousin Jonadab contrived a plan to get Amnon alone with Tamar
  - Amnon pretended to be sick – had Tamar come and cook for him…
    - When they were alone he grabbed her and raped her…
    - After his 'love' turned to hate – and he threw her out of his home!
  - When Absalom found out – he hated Amnon for raping his sister…
    - Absalom plotted his revenge for two years – then murdered his brother at a feast…
    - He then fled to his the house of his grandfather – the king of Geshur

The rebellion of Absalom … (*3 things*)

- **1st – The third option… vs. 1-24** Read: II Samuel 14:1-8
  - 1st - It had been three years since Absalom murdered Amnon… vs. 1-3
    - Although David was angry over Amnon's death – he missed his son Absalom…
      - But David did no want to have to enforce the Law on his son…
      - The Law required Absalom be put to death for murder…
      - David could only see two options for his beloved son – death or exile…
      - So David would rather keep his son in exile – then bring him home to die!
    - Joab – the commander of the army – stepped in to try and find a third option…
      - He sent for an old woman from Tekoa – a town about 12 miles from Jerusalem…
      - Far enough away that the King would not know her – or her history…
      - Joab gave her a story to tell David – a story meant to give the King perspective…
      - Ever gone looked for your glasses – only to have someone point their on your head!
      - The solution to your problem was right in front of you – but you could not see it…
      - It took someone else with a different perspective – to point out the obvious!
      - It is easy in life for us to be so focused on our circumstances we loose perspective…
      - We can be so caught up in our problem – we miss the obvious solution…

- It takes someone else willing to come along – to point out what we have missed!

- 2nd - The woman told David her husband died – leaving her with two sons… vs. 4-17
  - But the sons fought one day in a field – and the one son struck and killed the other…
    - Now her family was demanding the last remaining son be turned over…
      - In accordance to the Law – he was to be stoned to death – **Exodus 21:23**
      - But that would mean the woman would lose the 'last ember' of her family…
      - There would be no one left to pass on the family name – no heir!
    - David reassured the woman he would protect her remaining son…
      - In SPITE of what the law required – King David was willing to give Grace…
      - Having gotten the answer she was looking for – she asked one more thing…
      - If King David was willing to break the Law for a stranger to spare her son…
      - How much more should he be willing to break the Law for his OWN son!
      - The option that David missed – was to show Grace / rather than the Law…
  - We have all sinned against God – and there were only two apparent options…
    - Death if we came near to God / or permanent exile from the presence of God…
    - We deserve death cause we are sinners – wages of sin is death – **Romans 6:23**
    - But even though we have all earned death – God had a third option for us…
    - God wants to pour out His Grace upon us – He wants us to come home!
- 3rd - David had one question – 'Did Joab send you'… vs. 17-24
  - The King was quick to discern the origin of the 'parable' the woman gave…
    - But David also saw the truth in the story – and told Joab to send for Absalom…
    - Though Absalom was allowed to live in Jerusalem – he was forbidden to see David…
    - We do not read of Absalom having any remorse / asking for forgiveness…
    - David was willing to give Grace – but Absalom was not humble!
  - God wants to give us Grace – but ONLY if there is humility…
    - God gave us the Law – not so he could punish us – but to show us who we are…
      - **I Timothy 1:9** – "The law is not made for a righteous person, but for the lawless..."
      - Like a mirror that reflects the true appearance of the one looking into it…
      - The Law points out to us all our failures – showed us ALL of our flaws...
      - In spite of what we think – it reveals we are no good / dirty rotten / sinners!
    - Once the Law teaches us who we are – once we are humbled…
      - **I Peter 5:5** – "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."
      - Then we are ready to receive the Grace of God…
      - God does not sit up in heaven looking forward to judging us for our sin…
      - He wants to forgive us – He sent Jesus to take away our sin…
      - Yes we deserve the Law – but God loves to give us Grace / Salvation!

- **2ND – CAMPAIGNING FOR PRESIDENT… VS. 14:25 – 15:12** READ: II SAMUEL 14:25 – 15:6
  - 1st –Absalom was a very handsome man… vs. 25-33
    - From head to toe there was not a single blemish on his body – he was perfect…
      - He only cut his hair once a year – because it became too heavy (*over 2 kg*)…
      - He drove around in a new chariot with 50 horsemen – think 500hp Mustang Cobra…

- Israel began to fall in love with Absalom because of his outward appearance / wealth...

- Absalom lived in Jerusalem for 2 years without seeing King David…
  - He sent for Joab two times – but Joab refused to come and see him…
  - He had his servants burn Joab's field – and then a VERY upset Joan came to see him!
  - Absalom told Joab – if the King did not want to see me – why did he call me home…
  - When Joab told this to David – the King allowed Absalom back into the court

- The true nature of Absalom comes out – not a noble leader / but a spoiled brat!
  - Just because a leader is handsome - grabs your attention when they walk in...
  - Does not mean they are someone you should be listening too / following after…
  - Do not look at the outwards appearance – take a look at the heart…
  - If what the person is doing / saying contradicts the Word of God – stay away!

- 2nd – Absalom went out every day to the gate of the city… vs. 1-6

  - The gate of the city was where the King stood to judge the problem of the people…
    - But David was not always able to be there – busy overseeing a nation…
    - So when the people came - Absalom would ask them where they were from…
    - He would then offered to hear their problems – promise to help them out…
    - When they tried to bow – he would instead take them by the hand as equals!
    - In this way Absalom won the heart of the people of Israel!

  - Absalom was the first modern Politian…
    - He would do around from barangay to barangay campaigning…
    - Kiss all the babies – and pose for pictures with all the 'common people'…
    - Give the people grandiose promises – while taking side jabs at the current leaders…
    - When in truth he cared nothing for the people – he was only seeking the power!

- 3rd – After four years (*9 years after the death of Amnon*)… vs. 7-12

  - Absalom asked David for permission to go to Hebron and offer a sacrifice to God…
    - But as soon as he arrived – Absalom prepared to take the throne from David…
    - When they heard the trumpet – they were to proclaim Absalom as the new king!
    - There was likely a general frustration with the people of Israel towards the King…
    - And David's affair with Bathsheba – along with the sin of Amnon – did not help…

  - It is normal for people to become discontent with the government…
    - When a new leader comes into power – there is great expectation for change…
    - But often the expectations of people are unrealistic – they expect miracles…
    - The new mayor will give everyone daily rice / jobs / paved roads…
    - When the new leader does not live up to the expectations – people look for change
    - They look for a new leader – who makes great promises – to replace the old one…
    - But in the end the new leader - ends up being no different than the old one!
    - Cause no matter who is in power – they are still sinners – and will inevitably fail…
    - God does not want us trusting in governments / or the leadership of men…
    - He wants us to look to Jesus – and trust in the one who will never let us down!

- **3RD – PEACE IN THE STORM… VS. 13-** READ: II SAMUEL 15:13-16 / 23-34

- 1st – News soon reached David that Absalom was conspiring against the King… vs. 13-22
  - David immediately decided he had to leave Jerusalem – to spare the city…
    - David was trying to avoid open civil war – give time for another solution…
    - He understood a quick decision would be dangerous – better to wait on the Lord!
    - So he and those loyal to him left the City – and went east towards the wilderness…
    - People often make a quick decision they spend the rest of their life regretting...
    - Marry some guy – because you do not know if there will be another…
    - Do not rush to make decision – better to be patient and trust in God!
  - There were 600 foreign fighters who had just arrived from Gath…
    - David urged them to stay behind – but they insisted on going with the King!
    - It is thought their leader Ittai was the son of the King of the Philistines…
    - He had become a friend of David when he was hiding from king Saul…
    - His friendship had led to him being exiled when David became King of Israel…
    - So he and 600 of his soldiers left Philistia – and stayed loyal to David!
    - Too many people today are 'fair weather friends' – here only the good times…
    - But it is in the hard times you really find who your friends are!
- 2nd – The Priests Abiathar and Zadok - brought the Ark of the Covenant… vs. 23-30
  - But David asked them to go back the City of Jerusalem…
    - David realized that all of this was his consequence for his sin with Bathsheba…
    - If God wanted he would bring David back to Jerusalem – back to the Ark…
    - But if God chose to turn the kingdom over to his son Absalom – so be it…
  - As terrifying as things were – David was not afraid…
    - No matter what a happened David knew God was in complete control…
    - Too often rather than looking to the Lord – we are influenced by the world…
    - The world tells us to panic / borrow / even steal - when we have not money…
    - The world tell us to run the faith healer when we are sick…
    - **Jeremiah 15:19** – "You are to influence them; do not let them influence you!"
    - Rather than follow after the example of the world – set the example…
    - When we put our eyes on Jesus - we have peace in spite of our circumstances!
    - Because our circumstances – trials – difficulties –are no surprise to God...
    - They are not greater than God – and He is MORE than able to overcome them!
- 3rd – News reached David that Ahithophel was with Absalom… vs. 31-37
  - Ahithophel was one of the MOST trusted advisors of David …
    - His wisdom was unparalleled in Israel – and his counsel was always right…
    - His betrayal hurt almost as much as that of Absalom…
    - Not because he was such a trusted advisor – but because he was a good friend!
    - **Psalms 55:12-13** – "It is not an enemy who taunts me - I could bear that. It is not my foes who so arrogantly insult me - I could have hidden from them. Instead, it is you - my equal, my companion and close friend."
  - As David reached the top of the Mt. of Olives (*first mention in the Bible*)…
    - He met his good friend Hushai waiting there for him…

- David sent him back to Jerusalem – to be an advisor for Absalom…
- Not to help him – but to contradict the advice of Ahithophel!

▪ Why did Ahithophel - a close friend of David - turn his back on the King…
- Because Ahithophel was the grandfather of Bathsheba – **II Samuel 23:34 / 11:3**
  - We can only assume they never talked about / resolved what had happened…
  - And the bitterness in Ahithophel's heart had turned him against David!
  - Often when someone sins against us – we just want to walk away - simmering...
  - Our plan is to never talk to them again – ignore them - they are dead to us...
  - God calls us instead to confront - deal with the wrong/hurt...
- 1st – have the opportunity for restoration...
  - If there was just a misunderstanding - than there can be reconciliation
  - If we willing to talk to the one who hurt us – we can work things out
- 2nd – If there is sin there can be reproof...
  - Caring for someone does not mean you let them go on in their sin
  - Sin destroys lives – how loving is it to let someone destroy themselves
  - **Proverbs 27:6** – "Faithful are the wounds of a friend..."
  - A true friend is one loves you enough to tell you when you are wrong!