

GAME OF THRONES

THE REIGN OF DAVID

The Indecisive King

Key idea:

Unlike Jesus and His Gospel, David's indecisive actions provided neither full justice or restoration, and thus provided the seeds for future troubles in his kingdom.

Key text:

2 Samuel 13:20–22, 37–39; 14:1

Her brother Absalom said to her, “Has that Amnon, your brother, been with you? Be quiet now, my sister; he is your brother. Don't take this thing to heart.” And Tamar lived in her brother Absalom's house, a desolate woman. ²¹ When King David heard all this, he was furious. ²² Absalom never said a word to Amnon, either good or bad; he hated Amnon because he had disgraced his sister Tamar.

³⁷ Absalom fled and went to Talmai son of Ammihud, the king of Geshur. But King David mourned for his son every day. ³⁸ After Absalom fled and went to Geshur, he stayed there three years. ³⁹ And the spirit of the king longed to go to Absalom, for he was consoled concerning Amnon's death. ¹ Joab son of Zeruah knew that the king's heart longed for Absalom.

Key points:

1. 2 Samuel 13-14 records Absalom's murder of his brother Amnon for the rape of his sister Tamar, Absalom's subsequent flight and exile, and his ultimate return to Jerusalem.
2. Throughout 2 Samuel 13-14 David appears to be indecisive, unable to determine how to meet the demands of justice and love towards the actions of his sons.
3. David's indecisiveness appears to provide fertile soil for anger and sin to grow in Absalom's heart.
4. When David is convinced to allow Absalom to return to Jerusalem, he does not allow the relationship between father and son to be restored. The lack of full restoration allows Absalom's frustration to continue to grow.
5. In the Gospel, God has perfectly reconciled justice and love and fully restored our relationship to Himself.

Questions for discussion/application:

1. What part of Sunday's text and teaching stood out most to you? Why?
2. Why do you think David found it so hard to take decisive actions toward either Amnon or Absalom in these chapters? Do you find it difficult to answer the need for justice with the call of love?
3. If you were in Absalom's place, how would you have responded towards David's indecision and inactivity towards Amnon following the rape of your sister?
4. Why does the failure of leaders to act with justice and love tend to promote sinful attitudes and actions among the people under their care? Have you ever experienced this in your own life?
5. How should we respond to the failure of leaders? How do we prevent sin from growing in our own hearts as we consider the failure of leaders?
6. Why is David able to see the right course of action via the parables of Nathan and the wise woman of Tekoa, but not in the actual situation in his own life? What does this tell us about the illuminating power of story?
7. Why is it wrong for David to bring Absalom back from exile, but not restore the personal relationship? What effect does this have on Absalom? Have you experienced something similar in your own life?
8. How does the Gospel fully satisfy both justice and love? Are we restored to full relationship with God through the Gospel?
9. Can you think of someone with whom you can share what you have learned this week? Pray for them and ask God to open a door for you to share His Word this week.