



A House Divided: **Trouble in David's Family**

Sermon Focus: 2 Sam 13-19

Notes: Week Nine

As far as discipline was concerned, he (King David) was incapable of exercising any. How could he rebuke his son for the crime against a sister when the memory of Bathsheba was in his own heart?

How could he possibly discipline Absalom for murder when the death of Uriah was on his own conscience? David faced the humiliation of seeing his house divided. Alan Redpath

Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, 'Any kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and a house divided against itself will fall'. (Luke 11:17)

Sermon Outline: David's Dysfunctional Family Dynamics

1. Dirty Family Secrets (13:20 - 23)

2. Disabled Fatherly Discipline (13:36 - 38; 14:13 - 14, 23 - 28)

3. Deceitful Defiant Schemes (15:1 - 12)

4. Difficulty Discerning God's Will (15:25 - 26; 16:10 - 12)

Questions for Reflection / Discussion:

When you read David's exile Psalms you can't help but see his trust in God and his conviction that no matter how disordered and disturbed everything was, the Lord was still on His throne. (W. Wierbe)

- Some of David's Psalms of Exile include: Psalms 3, 4, 5, 6, 39, 41, 55, 61, 62, 63.
- Take one or two of these Psalms and read them over quietly. Then write your own Psalm.
- What do you learn about David's faith at this time in his life? Where is David's heart?
- Write a Psalm to the Lord reflecting the reality of your family concerns in light of faith in God.



Personal Study Notes

Scripture Focus: 2 Samuel 17-18

The Lord Judges David (starting at 11:1)

Ahithophel's Advice to Absalom (16:15-17:29)

Absalom's Death (18:1-18)

David's Dilemma:

The kingdom hangs in the balance. It seems I have two choices: to lose everything, or to be a Saul. I can stop Absalom. I need only to be a Saul. In my old age shall I now become a Saul? And if I stop him, will I still be a David?

Dear King, Saul was a bad king. Absalom is in some ways, a youthful reincarnation of Saul. You only are constant. You are forever the broken-hearted shepherd boy.

In my old age, I intend to be a David still. Even if it costs me a throne, a kingdom and perhaps my head. It is better I be defeated, even killed than to learn the ways of a Saul, or the ways of an Absalom. The kingdom is not that valuable. Let me have it, if that be the Lord's will. God put me here. It is not my responsibility to take, or to keep authority.

(Gene Edwards, *A Tale of Three Kings*, p. 72ff)

David Mourns for Absalom (18:19-33)

Questions or Insights for Discussion:

1)

2)

