Pardoned Perpetrator

2 Samuel 14:1-33

* Ch. 13 – Absalom’s murder of Amnon
* Ch. 14-19 – Absalom’s rebellion against David
* Ch. 14 – Three people of interest in our study

**1. Woman – v. 1-17**

* Personal motivation: Absalom could ascend to throne, keep Joab around.
* Similar to parable/curse of Nathan: any wronged person can appeal to the king.
* 1: ASV *towards*, better translated *against* (13). Refusal to see for 2 yrs. indicates against
* 2: Joab reared near Tekoa (10mi S of Jerusalem); Amos also from Tekoa
* 3: entire story a clever fabrication
* 7: Barnes: indicates whole court & king’s sons were against Absalom; this knowledge hindered D from yielding to his affection & calling for him.
* 9: requesting of guilt so it would not rest upon D & his throne. Punishment is death but seeks pardon.
* 11: not satisfied with D’s mere promise, req’d and oath (D granted)
* Avenger of blood: nearest of kin to murdered man (outlined: Num. 35 & DT. 19). Forgiveness of a murderer a violation of God’s commandment.
* 12: D had already decided the case. Req’d permission to continue speaking; she has him
* 13: paraphrase: If you have done right as regards my son, how is it that you harbor vengeance against Absalom and keep him an outcast?
* 14: D proves this is a moment when he discerns concerning Joab in the woman’s appeal

**2. Joab – v. 18-24**

* 19: D suspects Joab’s hand in all of this; Joab might have tried to accomplish this in other ways previously.
* 20: woman made effective use of flattery – compliment upon compliment
* 21: apparently Joab is present for the whole meeting; “I grant this” not acting as king, fatherly feelings triumphed over kingly ones.
* 21: D was bound by God’s Law (Gen. 9:6, Num. 35:30-31, DT. 18:18, Joshua 1:8, 1 Sam. 10:25) to execute Absalom.
* D’s consenting was as stupid as it was sinful & contrary to God’s Law!
* 24: prohibition hard to explain: maybe Bathsheba exerted influence to keep Absalom in disgrace for Solomon’s sake(?)

**3. Absalom – v. 25-33**

* 25-27: background info for Absalom’s death > hair provided Joab the opportunity to kill him.
* Weight of hair? No one exactly knows the shekel [Payne 3.5lbs, Cook 6lbs, Josephus 5lbs, R.P. Smith: “Undoubtedly Absalom’s hair was something extraordinary.” Shekel may be price more than weight.
* 27: 3 sons: later [18:18] set up a pillar & stated he had no sons; no contradiction, all died in infancy [*Coffman*]; daughter Tamar shows the love for his sister, Tamar [may have also gone by Maachah – wife of Rehoboam]
* 28-31: 2-year confinement effective, even Joab is afraid to call on Joab; he was shunned, avoided, people refused to use him
* He would rather die than continue to live this way!
* Kiss indicates a restoration of trust & honor; shameful for D to do.
* Henry: 3 yrs. in Geshur + 2 yrs. in Jerusalem yet he is still not humbled, pride not diminished, not grateful his life has been spared!
* 32: 100% guilty – pre-meditated murder. D a fool to trust him; no feeling of shame – audacious arrogance!
* 33: kiss of treachery, Absalom never intended to keep peace.
* D is an OT type of Christ – Jesus was also betrayed by a kiss.

**Lessons:**

1. Sin must be punished. Absalom deserved the death penalty; today, Christ paid our ransom on the cross.
2. Lying is never the way to go about getting your way. Joab put the wise woman up to this, yet it was still a lie!
3. We need to be thankful. Of anyone in the story, Absalom should have been the most thankful – he deserved immediate death, yet it was not given. Christians should be the most thankful and happy people on earth because our sins are forgiven!

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