

Forgiving the Banished – Part 2

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 had 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

Second, because death is a reality - vs. 14

1. This lady told David, "David, you need to forgive him because we all must die, and our lives are like water spilt on the ground."
 - **Illustration:** When you spill water in your front yard, can you retrieve it and put it back in the glass? Of course not, because the ground soaks it up.
 - This is just like our life. Every day that goes by is like water spilt on the ground. You can never go back and retrieve it.

2. Every day that you hold bitterness, grudges, and unforgiveness in your heart - you can never go back and get those days back. One day you are going to die, and then it is too late to say, "I love you, I forgive you."
 - There are not too many people out there in the graveyard forgiving and confirming their love to each other. The graveyard is still and cold.
3. Many people are living with guilt because they were too stubborn and prideful to forgive, and the object of their unforgiveness died and it was too late.
 - I have seen two people estranged when one of them dies. One weeps at the coffin and tells the other, "I love you," but it is too late. Do it while there is time.
4. There are people who destroy any quality of life they might enjoy because of unforgiveness, and when death finally comes there are so many regrets.
5. If you are a believer and you are holding on to bitterness and grudges, when you get to heaven, you **will** forgive and get it right – it will be a non-issue. So, you might as well get it right **now** so that you can enjoy some peace, joy, and quality of life down here!
6. Have you ever met a miserable person who is rude, inconsiderate, and unhappy? Mark it down, there is a lack of forgiveness somewhere in his heart. Forgiveness is one of the keys to the Christian life. It is impossible to live the Christ-life and not forgive. Colossians 3:12-14
7. To have a forbearing and forgiving heart is one of the proofs that we are living the Christ-life, and allowing Christ to live through us. 2 Corinthians 2:9-10

Third, because of God's abundant mercy and forgiveness - vs. 14

1. The wise woman said, "God devises means to bring back to Him those who have been banished. So, David, you should do the same." David could associate with this. This resonated in his heart because it wasn't that long ago he committed some gross immoral sins and needed God's forgiveness.
2. I can associate with this too. I was once a slave to Satan and sin, banished from God's presence, and exiled in the land of sin, death, and degradation. I had no hope of ever being able to earn God's forgiveness.
3. My only hope was for Him to make the first move and make provision for my restoration to His divine favor. This is exactly what God did. God did not want mankind to have to be banished, expelled, and cast off forever. So, God devised the proper means to prevent it.
4. Do you know John 3:16? How about Romans 5:6, 8? God gave His Son (Jesus) to come to this earth, and Christ willingly gave His life to die for our sins and take the penalty that we deserve.
5. As Jesus died on the cross, what did He say to those who were killing Him? "*Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.*"
6. As Christ died, it was the Father echoing from the portals of glory, "I forgive you, I forgive you, if you will but accept my forgiveness." I remember the day I did. Every sin I had ever committed was forgiven and washed away by the blood of Jesus.

7. What should that motivate me to do (Ephesians 4:32)? How can I not forgive others when God has forgiven me so much? Wouldn't this be hypocritical? Remember the story of the unjust servant in Matthew 18:21-35?
8. David ended up forgiving his son Absalom, whom he had banished. Will you forgive that person that you have banished in your heart and mind?
9. Oh, the peace that comes when we choose the way of Christ, and forgive.