

## THEME: HEART

### PARENTAL MISTAKES AND CORRECTIONS

2 Samuel 14:21-15:37

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*“What mistakes do we need to acknowledge and corrections do we need to make to be a parent after God’s own heart?”*

**2 Samuel 14:21** Then the king said to Joab, “Behold now, I grant this; go, **bring back the young man Absalom.**” <sup>22</sup> And Joab fell on his face to the ground and paid homage and blessed the king. And Joab said, “Today your servant knows that I have found favor in your sight, my lord the king, in that the king has granted the request of his servant.” <sup>23</sup> So Joab arose and went to Geshur and brought Absalom to Jerusalem. <sup>24</sup> And the king said, “Let him dwell apart in his own house; he is not to come into my presence.” So Absalom lived apart in his own house and did not come into the king's presence.

<sup>25</sup> Now in all Israel there was no one so much to be praised for his handsome appearance as Absalom. From the sole of his foot to the crown of his head there was no blemish in him. <sup>26</sup> And when he cut the hair of his head (for at the end of every year he used to cut it; when it was heavy on him, he cut it), he weighed the hair of his head, two hundred shekels<sup>Ⓜ</sup> by the king's weight. <sup>27</sup> There were born to Absalom three sons, and one daughter whose name was Tamar. She was a beautiful woman.

<sup>28</sup> *So Absalom lived two full years in Jerusalem, without coming into the king's presence.*

#### PARENTAL MISTAKE #1: DETACHED FROM YOUR CHILD’S REALITY.

<sup>29</sup> Then Absalom sent for Joab, to send him to the king, but Joab would not come to him. And he sent a second time, but Joab would not come. <sup>30</sup> Then he said to his servants, “See, Joab's field is next to mine, and he has barley there; go and set it on fire.” So Absalom's servants set the field on fire.<sup>Ⓜ</sup><sup>31</sup> Then Joab arose and went to Absalom at his house and said to him, “Why have your servants set my field on fire?” <sup>32</sup> Absalom answered Joab, “Behold, I sent word to you, ‘Come here, that I may send you to the king, to ask, “Why have I come from Geshur? It would be better for me to be there still.” Now therefore let me go into the presence of the king, and if there is guilt in me, let him put me to death.’” <sup>33</sup> Then Joab went to the king and told him, and he summoned Absalom. So he came to the king and bowed himself on his face to the ground before the king, and *the king kissed Absalom.*

## PARENTAL MISTAKE #2: INTENTIONALLY IGNORING YOUR CHILD'S DESTRUCTIVE BEHAVIOR.

**2 Samuel 15:1** *After this* Absalom got himself a chariot and horses, and fifty men to run before him. <sup>2</sup> And Absalom used to rise early and stand beside the way of the gate. And when any man had a dispute to come before the king for judgment, Absalom would call to him and say, "From what city are you?" And when he said, "Your servant is of such and such a tribe in Israel," <sup>3</sup> **Absalom would say to him, "See, your claims are good and right, but there is no man designated by the king to hear you."** <sup>4</sup> Then **Absalom would say, "Oh that I were judge** in the land! Then every man with a dispute or cause might come to me, and I would give him justice." <sup>5</sup> And whenever a man came near to pay homage to him, he would put out his hand and take hold of him and kiss him. <sup>6</sup> Thus Absalom did to all of Israel who came to the king for judgment. So **Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel.**

<sup>7</sup> And **at the end of four<sup>sq</sup> years Absalom said to the king,** "Please let me go and pay my vow, which I have vowed to the Lord, in Hebron. <sup>8</sup> For your servant vowed a vow while I lived at Geshur in Aram, saying, '**If the Lord will indeed bring me back to Jerusalem, then I will offer worship to<sup>sq</sup> the Lord.**'"

<sup>9</sup> The king said to him, "**Go in peace.**" So he arose and went to Hebron.

## PARENTAL MISTAKE #3: NO PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY.

<sup>10</sup> **But Absalom sent secret messengers** throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, "As soon as you hear the sound of the trumpet, then say, 'Absalom is king at Hebron!'" <sup>11</sup> With Absalom went two hundred men from Jerusalem who were invited guests, and they went in their innocence and knew nothing. <sup>12</sup> And while Absalom was offering the sacrifices, he sent for<sup>sq</sup> Ahithophel the Gilonite, David's counselor, from his city Giloh. And the conspiracy grew strong, and the people with Absalom kept increasing.

<sup>13</sup> And a messenger came to David, saying, "The hearts of the men of Israel have gone after Absalom." <sup>14</sup> Then David said to all his servants who were with him at Jerusalem, "Arise, and let us flee, or else there will be no escape for us from Absalom. Go quickly, lest he overtake us quickly and bring down ruin on us and strike the city with the edge of the sword." <sup>15</sup> And the king's servants said to the king, "Behold, your servants are ready to do whatever my lord the king decides." <sup>16</sup> So the king went out, and all his household after him. And **the king left ten concubines to keep the house.** <sup>17</sup> And **the king went out,** and all the people after him. And they halted at the last house.

<sup>23</sup> And all the land wept aloud as all the people passed by, and the king crossed the brook Kidron, and all the people passed on **toward the wilderness.**

## PARENTAL MISTAKE #4: RUNNING FROM THE PROBLEMS YOUR CHILDREN CREATE FOR OTHERS.

<sup>29</sup> So Zadok and Abiathar carried the ark of God back to Jerusalem, and they remained there.

<sup>30</sup> But David went up the ascent of the Mount of Olives, weeping as he went, barefoot and with his head covered. And all the people who were with him covered their heads, and they went up, weeping as they went. <sup>31</sup> And it was told David, “Ahithophel is among the conspirators with Absalom.” And David said, “O Lord, ***please turn the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness.***”

**CONSTRUCTIVE PARENTAL ACTION STEP #1: PRAY AGAINST YOUR CHILD’S DESTRUCTIVE BEHAVIOR AND THOSE THAT ADVISE THEM.**

<sup>32</sup> While David was coming to the summit, where God was worshiped, behold, Hushai the Archite came to meet him with his coat torn and dirt on his head. <sup>33</sup> David said to him, “If you go on with me, you will be a burden to me. <sup>34</sup> But if you return to the city and say to Absalom, ‘I will be your servant, O king; as I have been your father’s servant in time past, so now I will be your servant,’ ***then you will defeat for me the counsel of Ahithophel.***

**CONSTRUCTIVE PARENTAL ACTION STEP #2: DEVISE A PLAN THAT DISRUPTS YOUR CHILD’S DESTRUCTIVE BEHAVIOR.**

<sup>35</sup> Are not Zadok and Abiathar the priests with you there? So whatever you hear from the king’s house, tell it to Zadok and Abiathar the priests. <sup>36</sup> Behold, their two sons are with them there, Ahimaaz, Zadok’s son, and Jonathan, Abiathar’s son, and by them you shall send to me everything you hear.” <sup>37</sup> So Hushai, David’s friend, came into the city, just as Absalom was entering Jerusalem.

**Luke 14:26** “If you want to be my disciple, you must, by comparison, hate everyone else—your father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even your own life. Otherwise, you cannot be my disciple.

**PARENTAL CORRECITON #3: LOVE JESUS MORE THAN YOU LOVE YOUR CHILDREN.**