



Lesson 91

Absalom's Restoration

Story Elements

- **Text:** 2 Samuel 14:1-33
- **Setting:** approx. 990 B.C.
- **Main Characters:** God, David, Absalom, Joab, and an unnamed woman of Tekoa
- **Plot:** Absalom is brought back to Jerusalem and feigns repentance in order to be restored as a prince.
- **Key word(s):** “they shall quench my coal which is left” (v 7)
- **Climax:** “*And the king said, Is not the hand of Joab with thee in all this?*” (v 19)

Review (2 Sam. 13:1-33)

1. Because of David's sin with Bathsheba, God said to David that he would “raise up evil against thee out of thine own house.” (2 Sam. 12:11) That evil began to boil over within David's family through Amnon's villainy against his half-sister Tamar, which fired the flames of hatred in the heart of Tamar's full brother Absalom. (13:22) That hatred erupted into murderous rage as Absalom orchestrated Amnon's death before fleeing to _____.

Reconciliation (2 Sam. 14:1-24)

2. For three years Absalom stayed in Geshur while David longed for _____, but anger (and perhaps fear of public opinion) inhibited him from seeking to restore their fellowship.
3. Joab took notice that David pined for Absalom and devised a plan to show the king what he must do:
 - (a) A woman was recruited from Tekoa to play the part of an old _____ seeking justice at the hand of the king. She would tell the story of her two sons that quarreled, the one killing the other, and that her village is demanding justice by seeking to execute her husband's last heir.
 - (b) Of course, David would pardon the fictitious son so that a family's line could continue, but then the widow would turn the tables and show the king why he should pardon Absalom so that the royal line would continue for the sake of all _____. If he would show such mercy on another family, he should show the same on his own. (14:12-15)
4. David soon realized that Joab had orchestrated the whole charade, but instead of wrath, he relented and sent Joab to Geshur to bring Absalom back to Jerusalem. But

to demonstrate his unabated disappointment in his son, Absalom was forbidden from seeing the king's _____. (14:24)

5. For two years, Absalom lived in his own house and was denied many of the privileges that attended royalty. During that time, he fathered three sons and one daughter, whom he named _____. (14:27)
6. Absalom's heart plotted conspiracy against David, but to carry out a coup, he needed to be restored to his princely position.
 - (a) He sent for Joab twice but was completely ignored. Not until Absalom _____ to Joab's barley field did he succeed in getting Joab's attention. (14:31-32)
 - (b) He knew Joab had David's ear, and if he could get Joab to ask for him he would be given an _____ with the king.
7. Absalom's plan succeeded. Joab interceded on his behalf, and Absalom was summoned before David. There, he feigned _____, and David kissed Absalom, signifying that all had been forgiven and he was once again restored to his princely position. (14:33)

Application

8. Why do you think Joab was so willing to bring Absalom back from exile? _____

9. Absalom was a spoiled, proud, insolent, ungrateful wretch of a man. Notice:
 - (a) He owed Joab a great debt of gratitude, but instead he paid it with _____.
 - (b) He should have been grateful for his situation, but instead he bemoaned his lack of _____. (v 32)
 - (c) He should have been repentant, but instead he denied his guilt and wickedly took advantage of his father's love knowing David would never seek full _____ against him.

Answer Key

Key word(s): coal • 1. Geshur • 2. reconciliation • 3. a) widow; b) Israel • 4. face • 5. Tamar • 6. a) did; b) audience • 7. repentance • 8. Joab was also guilty of revenge-murder, and his own guilt probably skewed his perspective of Absalom's treachery. Also, perhaps he saw an alliance with Absalom beneficial as David's own ability to reign waned with age. • 9. a) injury; b) privilege; c) justice