

Pretending – Oct. 25, 2023

Story of King David – a servant/friend - a wise woman – estranged son.

Backstory - 2 Samuel 13. Absalom kills Amnon.

1 – Not every family is perfect. Even God-serving families have issues.

- Amnon rapes his ½ sister Tamar. Hated her more than loved her.

That is Lust, not love.

And this family does what many do – doesn't talk about it.

- Absalom never talks to Amnon about Tamar. David is furious, but does nothing. Absalom takes matters into his own hand. . . he orders his servants to kill Amnon.
- Recall: David had Bathsheba's husband Uriah killed. **Sins of the father.** "Molecular scars" ... we pass down what we don't deal with.
- **Pretending** nothing is wrong doesn't erase our sin/mistakes.
 - **Pretending we aren't in pain doesn't take it away**
 - Vs.39 – King David longed to go to Absalom... done grieving over Amnon's death... **but 3 years later** – nothing.

2 Samuel 14. Joab knows David's heart. . . his longing.

2 – **The Big Pretend Scheme: "wise woman from Tekoa"**

- She gets a pardon for her son. . . nobody will bother you. . . not a hair on son's head will be disturbed
- She continues . . . have you not considered your own guilt . . . don't you convict yourself? You haven't brought back your banished son.
 - **Vs. 14** – "All of us must die eventually. Our lives are like water spilled out on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again. But God does not just sweep life away; instead, he **devises ways** to bring us back when we have been separated from him."
 - If we are separate/distant from God . . . it's us who left.
 - God didn't banish us. . . we left. He wants us back.
 - We are never too far away... no matter where we go.
 - **Jer. 3:12** – God told Jeremiah to deliver this message to Israel. "This is what the LORD says: 'O Israel, my faithless people, come home to me again, for I am merciful. I will not be angry with you forever.'"

3. – God devises ways to reach us. Sometimes our circumstances . . .

- It took the **Prodigal Son** feeding pigs to see the light.
- Sometimes we need a push. Friends who can open our eyes. Joab enlists the wise woman pretending to be in mourning.
 - The longer we go. . . the more stubborn we get. Dig in heels.
 - The more we ignore the H.S. voice, harder it is to hear it.
- David “longed for” his son, 3 yrs, but refuses to reach out to Absalom
 - **Isaiah 55:7** – “Let the wicked one **abandon** his way & the sinful one his **thoughts**; let him return to the LORD, so he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will **freely forgive**.”
 - You can’t find the love you seek until you give up pride.
 - You can’t find peace until you abandon the anger.
 - You can’t have a relationship until you forgive the past.
 - Too many don’t want to give it up...surrender.
 - But what you hang onto is what you have.
- **God forgives** us – freely - and gives us a clean slate.
 - “Abundantly pardon” – God’s grace is greater than our sin.
 - We must do the same. Think about the future, not the past.
 - Nobody can become what you need today if you hold them to their past mistakes.

4. – If you go half way – like David – you get half a relationship.

- Absalom is brought back to Jerusalem. But not to the palace. **2 yrs**.
- Absalom questions why bring me here if he doesn’t want to see me.
 - Absalom sends for Joab, he doesn’t come. Arson.
 - Joab finally arrives, Absalom says: “I want to see the King and if I’m guilty of anything, let him put me to death.”
- Absalom never deals w/ past. No responsibility for his actions.
 - You can’t have peace / good relationship w/o owning your part.
 - Absalom wants everyone else to act . . . it doesn’t work.
 - Absalom is good looking, next-in-line, 4 kids, but **empty** inside.
 - Our relationships matter. Piece missing.
- David only went half way. Half-hearted. Distant relationship.
 - David calls for him/kisses him . . . but it’s superficial.
 - No discipline to Absalom. No lesson learned.

5. These are 2 people pretending . . .

- David is Pretending – b/c he doesn't show the love in his heart
- Absalom is Pretending – b/c he didn't feel loved, no respect for dad.
 - Pretend relationships aren't meaningful ones.
- To make our relationships the best – meaningful – beautiful:
- 1 – Communicate . . . talk. Take off the mask.
- 2 – Come back together . . . stop being distant.
- 3 – Lay down the burden. Say “I'm sorry” & “I forgive you”
 - **Daniel 9:9** – “The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against him;”
 - **Mercy & forgiveness** are the keys.
 - **God does not want us separate from Him, or each other.**

Song/week - “No More Pretending” – Scott Krippayne.