

CENTERED**FALLOUT**

2 Samuel 13 – 18

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August 31/September 1, 2019

MESSAGE NOTES

David's palace was a perfect pandemonium of suspicion, and intrigue, and jealousy, and hatred all breaking out, now into incest and now into murder. And it was in such a household, if such a cesspool could be called a household, that Absalom, David's third son by his third living wife, was born and brought up. ... His children — all hateful and hating one another, collected round each one of David's wives. And it was in one of the worst of those wicked little rings that Absalom grew up and got his education. — Alexander Whyte, Whyte's Dictionary of Bible Characters

David's family in-fighting reads like a movie score...

1. Amnon rapes his half sister, Tamar (2 Samuel 13:1 – 15).
2. Absalom spends two years plotting revenge on Amnon and finally has him killed (13:22 – 29).
3. Absalom goes into exile for three years (13:38).
4. Absalom returns to Jerusalem and David refuses to see him out of resentment (Ch. 14).
5. Absalom spends another four years turning the people against David (Ch. 15).
6. David has to leave Jerusalem, running for his life, as Absalom usurps the throne (15:14).
7. David is betrayed by his trusted advisor, Ahithophel (15:31).
8. Absalom humiliates David by raping his concubines on the roof of the palace (16:22).
9. David's men hunt down the conspirators and Absalom is killed (18:9 – 15).
10. David cries out in total anguish (18:33).

What do we learn from all this?

1. Passing on faith and godly values is the primary job of Christian parents (Deuteronomy 6:6 – 7).
2. To neglect loving discipline leaves kids stranded without guidance or boundaries (Ephesians 6:4).

My son, keep your father's command and do not forsake your mother's teaching. Bind them always on your heart; fasten them around your neck. When you walk, they will guide you; when you sleep, they will watch over you; when you awake, they will speak to you. For this command is a lamp, this teaching is a light, and correction and instruction are the way to life. — Proverbs 6:20 – 23

*Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.
— Ephesians 6:4*

3. There is no human factor in parenting more powerful than example (2 Timothy 1:5).

*Make no mistake. Children will in some form reproduce our efforts to find significance and security. If we really believe that money and achievement bring significance or that compliments and attractive clothing bring security, we can preach all we want about the joys of knowing Jesus. Our kids will learn to depend on what we really are depending on for our satisfaction in life. No amount of teaching, family devotions, or trips to church will effectively counter the message we convey with our lives. — Larry Crabb, *Effective Biblical Counseling**

4. Being a success in any career is no substitute for being a success at home (Psalm 78:2 – 4).

I will open my mouth with a parable; I will utter hidden things, things from of old, things we have heard and known, things our ancestors have told us. We will not hide them from their descendants; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, His power, and the wonders He has done. — Psalm 78:2 – 4

5. God's grace is at work in our parenting, humbling us, shaping us, and encouraging us as parents (James 1:4 – 5).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What is one main idea that stood out to you from the weekend?
- How would you describe King David's family life?
- What are some of the factors that caused a lot of trouble in his family?
- What are factors creating real problems for kids and families in our culture today?
- What were some of the results of David's unwillingness to pursue reconciliation between his family members? What do we learn from that for our own family relationships?
- We focused on 5 very practical lessons we learn from David's life. Which of those feels especially true and/or useful to you at this point in your own growth?
- Why is passing on faith and values to our kids the most important part of parenting?
- What is the value of example in parenting and what are the problems that come from saying one thing but doing another?
- Since none of us are perfect parents, what should we be doing on a regular basis for and with our kids?
- How would you like to apply some aspect of this discussion in your life this week?