



November 2, 2025
A Man After God's Heart

A Failure

2 Samuel 13-19

1. Opening Discussion: (You will probably want to use only one of these openers)

- a. Probably, we have all heard “buyer’s remorse” used to describe the time when something is purchased but doesn’t end up providing the expected benefits. Have you ever bought something and later realized that it just wasn’t as important as you had thought, and maybe it didn’t accomplish what you had expected? Why do you think “buyer’s remorse” is so common in America?
- b. Most novels and movies have a villain of some sort. What makes a character the villain? Who is your favorite fictional villain? Why? Excluding anyone living, what historical figure most personifies the characteristics of a true villain?
- c. In our lifetime, we have heard of some truly horrific evil acts and sometimes some incredible acts of forgiveness that followed. Excluding anything from the Bible, what is the most amazing act of forgiveness you have personally witnessed? That you have read about?

2. Prayer:

- a. Adoration – Pray a Psalm or other Scripture to focus on praising God.
- b. Confession – Spend time confessing any known sins. 1 John 1:9
- c. Thanksgiving – Thank God for answered prayers, blessings, gifts, and opportunities to serve.
- d. Supplications
 - i. Pray for the activities of His Church locally and around the world.
 - ii. Pray for the spiritual and physical needs of others and yourself.
- e. **Least Reached People Group: Jibbali of Oman** (*from the IMB “Loving the Lost Through Prayer” guide.*)

“Pristine and isolated beaches lead to rugged mountains that rise over the coast of southern Arabia. This is home to 46,500 unengaged and unreached Jibbali (jih-BAH-lee) of Oman, independent and proud Muslims who have relied for centuries on tending camels, goats, and sheep to make a living. They speak South Arabian Shehri, known as Jibbali or “mountain language” in Arabic. There are no Scriptures written or recorded in this language. Very few outsiders speak it. Unless something changes, the Jibbali of Oman will continue facing each day without the comfort and guidance of God’s Word. Pray that God’s Word will be translated into Jibbali, recorded and heard by every Jibbali in Oman.”

3. Sermon Key Points:

- a. David's Evil Led to Years of Sin and Violence
 - i. David's sons learned from him how to commit the same kinds of sins.
 - ii. Later, David's son launched a coup against him.
 - iii. Even after winning the war, David struggled with right and wrong.
- b. Failing to Confront Sin Only Leads to More Sin
 - i. Much of the evil happened because David refused to confront his sons' sins.

- ii. We must confront sin in those close to us, for everyone's good.
- c. Failing to Fully Forgive Only Leads to More Sin
 - i. Much of the evil happened because David refused to forgive Absalom when he said he would.
 - ii. We must forgive like Jesus, for everyone's good.
- d. When You Fail, Ask the Lord to Restore You (Psalm 3)
 - i. David's later years were a disaster, but his failures weren't final.
 - ii. Jesus isn't done with you, even when you fail - turn to Him and He will lift your head.

4. Bible Study:

- a. *Sunday Afternoon* – As soon as possible after the sermon, make time to consider:
 - i. What stood out to you the most in this sermon?
 - ii. What new truth did you learn, or what truth were you reminded of?
 - iii. Is there a particular Scripture passage you feel God is leading you to meditate on or commit to memory?
 - iv. What is one thing God is leading you to do after hearing this message?
 - v. Did God convict you of a need to make any changes in your life and walk with Him?

NOTE: Pastor Brian's sermon this week encompasses an extended portion of 2 Samuel, which includes many significant and interrelated subplots. When combined they can teach us much about the consequences of sin, forgiveness, loyalty, and submission to God's will. Each day's reading will be a chapter or more, but to allow the devotional to be used in settings where time is limited, key verses that should be meditated on will be shown in parentheses following the more general reading assignment.

b. *Monday*:

- i. Read 2 Samuel 13 (verses 1-4, 8-15, 20-22, 28-29, and 36-39)
- ii. Who are the main characters in the events reported in this chapter? According to 2 Samuel 3:2-3 or 1 Chronicles 3:1-4, what would have been particularly important about Amnon? Chileab (or Kileab), the son of Abigail (called Daniel in 1 Chronicles), is never mentioned elsewhere, suggesting he probably died as a child. If so, what would that tell us about Absalom's status?
- iii. What was Amnon's first mistake (sin)? What practical lessons can we learn from his mistake? What does the New Testament teach us about this (see Philippians 4:18, 1 Corinthians 10:13-14, and 1 Corinthians 6:18)?
- iv. What was Amnon's explanation for his obsession with Tamar? How many different ways does 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 show us that Amnon clearly did not love Tamar?
- v. What was Absalom's reaction to his sister's rape, and why do you think he responded in such a manner?
- vi. What was King David's reaction, and why do you think he didn't do more? What is the penalty the Law prescribes for Amnon's sin (Deuteronomy 22:28)? What Law seems to prevent David from imposing the penalty (Leviticus 18:9 & 20:17)? What do you think David should have done? What did he do that he should not have done?

- vii. Where did Absalom first go wrong and sin (Leviticus 19:17-18)? How do hatred and revenge go hand-in-hand? What could Absalom have done that would have short-circuited this entire chain of events? How important does Jesus teach us this is to our lives as Christians (see Matthew 6:12-15 and 18:34-35)?
- c. **Tuesday:**
- i. Read 2 Samuel 14 (1-7, 11-13, 18-21, 24, 28, and 32-33)
 - ii. What facts do we learn about Joab and about David from verse 1? What can we conclude about their relationship? Why would such a relationship be absolutely essential for the job David had given Joab (see 2 Samuel 8:16)?
 - iii. What similarities are there between the story Joab has the wise woman tell David to the one that Nathan used to expose David's sin of adultery and murder in 2 Samuel 12:1-4? Why do you think Joab would resort to using this approach?
 - iv. According to the Law (Exodus 21:12 and Leviticus 24:17) what should happen to the surviving son? What is the mother asking (and eventually getting) the King to do in this fictitious case?
 - v. How does the woman use David's "verdict" in this fictitious case to convict David of how he is dealing with Absalom? What would seem to be David's real motive for allowing Absalom to remain in exile for 3 years?
 - vi. Once Absalom is returned to Jerusalem, what restrictions does David establish? Why do you think he does this?
 - vii. What do verses 32-33 show us about how Absalom viewed his actions and about David's willingness to deal with his son's sin? How did both of these attitudes/responses contribute to the rebellion that is about to occur?
- d. **Wednesday:**
- i. Read 2 Samuel 15:1 – 16:14 (15:1, 6-14, 24-26, 30-34 and 16:7-12)
 - ii. What is symbolic about Absalom's actions in 15:1 (compare this with 1 Kings 1:5-6)? How does David's unwillingness to rebuke Absalom contribute to the growing conspiracy?
 - iii. Why do you think Absalom selected Hebron as the site from which to launch his rebellion (see Genesis 13:18, 35:27, 2 Samuel 2:1-4, 5:5)?
 - iv. What lessons might we learn from the 200 men from Jerusalem who went with Absalom? What are some practical applications in our day?
 - v. Why did David send the ark back to Jerusalem? How do David's statements in 15:25-26 and 16:11-12 demonstrate that he truly was a "man after God's heart"?
 - vi. Why do you think David was so concerned about Ahithophel's advice?
- e. **Thursday:**
- i. Read 2 Samuel 16:15 – 17:23 (16:15-19, 23, 17:1-7, 11-14, 23).
 - ii. How was David's prayer in 2 Samuel 15:31 definitively answered?
 - iii. How/why is 2 Samuel 17:14b the pivotal passage in the entire account of Absalom's rebellion? Is it even necessary to read more to know the final outcome?

- iv. What do you think likely motivated Ahithophel to turn against David (see 2 Samuel 23:34 and 11:3)? How do you think David felt about the betrayal (see Psalms 41:9 and 55:12-15)?
- v. If Ahithophel had known Jesus' teaching in Matthew 5:43-44 and 6:14-15, how might the outcome have been different?
- vi. What comparisons do you see between David's betrayer and Jesus' betrayer?

f. **Friday:**

- i. Read 2 Samuel 17:24 – 19:8 (18:2-9, 14-15, 33, and 19:4-8).
- ii. Why did David not go into battle against Absalom's army? What happened the last time we saw David not going with his troops? Do you think God may have been using this to remind David of why these events were occurring?
- iii. In those days, most battles were fought with troops in formation, but this one is clearly different. Why do you think David chose a forest?
- iv. God not only spoiled the good advice of Ahithophel but how is His providence demonstrated in Absalom's death? What do Galatians 3:13 and Deuteronomy 21:22-23 suggest that God may have been saying symbolically in the way Absalom died?
- v. What was David's reaction to his son's death? In what way was it appropriate? Inappropriate?
- vi. How again is David demonstrating that he is a "man after God's own heart" in 2 Samuel 18:33 (compare Romans 5:7-10)?

g. **Saturday:**

- i. Read 2 Samuel 19:9-43 (13-14 & 18-23).
- ii. Why would David have placed Amasa (who had been the commander of Absalom's army) as commander of his army in place of Joab?
- iii. How is David's response to Shimei different from that we have seen by Absalom and Ahithophel?
- iv. By extending "pardon" to Amasa and Shimei (and thereby to all their followers), what was David accomplishing in his kingdom? How do Colossians 3:12-14 and Ephesians apply the same role to us all as Christians today?

5. **Application:**

- a. Sin, even when forgiven, has consequences in this life. When confronted by Nathan for his adultery and murder, David is told that "the Lord has taken away your sin. You are not going to die" (2 Samuel 12:13), but his own sentence that the perpetrator must "pay for the lamb four times over" seems to have been carried out. First, the child dies, Tamar is raped, Amnon is murdered, and Absalom dies. The events in David's life depicted in these chapters should make it clear that even though sin can be forgiven, it is never acceptable to violate God's law.
- b. Forgiveness is a foundational principle (along with love of our neighbor) of living the Christian life. As God forgives us, we must forgive others. Failure to do so will ultimately (if not immediately) lead to sin in our lives. One of the great benefits of praying our Lord's model prayer (Matthew 6:9-13 and Luke 11:2-4) often is that it provides a stark warning of the importance of forgiveness.