

The Wise Woman Of Tekoa

A story in the life of David involving the death of his son Amnon, and the subsequent separation that took place between the king and his son Absalom, demanded the intervention of a "wise woman" from the city of Tekoa. In 2 Samuel 14, Joab, David's friend and captain, sees the pain David is in due to his determination to be a king, and not allow his son Absalom return home. Three years earlier Absalom had his brother Amnon slain by his servants because Amnon had raped his sister, Tamar. The result was that Absalom had fallen from grace in the eyes of the king. Though Absalom's deeds may have been justified, it just would not do to have Absalom come home in view of all he did, at least in the thoughts of the king.

Though David is doing what he feels is necessary to save face, his heart longs for the presence of his son Absalom. Finally Joab contacts the "wise woman" of Tekoa devising a story so closely resembling that of Absalom's situation that the king will easily see what he needs to do in reuniting with his son Absalom.

Read the story in 2 Samuel 14! This woman comes into the presence of the most powerful man in the nation and acts as if she is a poor widow who is about to lose her only son and heir. She tells that her son had killed his brother as a result of a quarrel in a field, but that the people of her clan wanted vengeance. Her appeal is to preserve the life of her son. David is so moved with compassion, that he proclaims, "Not one hair of your son will fall to the ground," v.11. In other words, the king was going to see that her son was restored to her unharmed.

Now this is where things had the ability to get real sticky. In the following verses the wise woman of Tekoa then proceeds to make the application of the situation with David's son Absalom. It is not too long before David catches on and even says, "Did Joab put you up to this?" v.19 The masquerade and analogy brought about its intended result. Absalom was restored to his father.

But think about what this woman did. She took her life into her own hands by dressing up and fabricating a story in the presence of the king of Israel. Yet she shows no weakness, no stumbling, no fear! When Joab presents to her what seems to be a hopeless situation between the king and his son, she tackles the problem by stepping forward. What a message to the Christian concerning the need to stand up and do what is necessary when injustice prevails in the world. This woman is a model for women and men alike who need to actively seek ways to make a difference in the world when things are not right.

It is certain that some wrongs may never be righted by mortal man, yet some who are so overwhelmed at all the wrongs in the world, seem to be happy to just sit back and do nothing. This woman is a giant example to all who read of her, that you can make a difference if you will step forward.

Another powerful lesson to be noted is the ability wives have in helping their husbands make good decisions in the home. How strong the influence of the world is in a household. Sometimes in the course of life men allow themselves to take stands against their children who have made mistakes. Whether through pride or self will families can sometimes be torn asunder because of the unwillingness of parents to move beyond their pride. How important it is for wisdom to be utilized to help men see beyond their pride, and recognize that when children make mistakes, they need their parent's gentle and loving interaction more than ever. A wife can wisely help to encourage her husband in these matters. The same can be said of a husband to his wife, of a Christian to another Christian, or of a Christian to the world.

As with the wise woman of Tekoa, you can make a difference by stepping forward and bravely meet challenges, even if they seem insurmountable. Paul said, "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength," Philippians 4:13
—Scott