

February 22, 2004  
AM Service  
Patchogue Church of the Nazarene

“Reconciliation”  
2 Sam 14:1-14 NLT

*[David's son Absalom had a beautiful sister, Tamar (TAY mur). Their half - brother, Amnon, said he was in love with Tamar but it proved to be lust and not love. We know this because Amnon raped his half -sister, Tamar and then, after he got what he wanted, his feelings subsided and turned to hate. Don't confuse lust and love. Love always involves a commitment to the other person's welfare. Lust is committed to itself even if it hurts the person they say they love.*

*Absalom never spoke to Amnon about it, but he hated Amnon deeply because of what he had done to his sister.*

*Absalom waited 2 years and when Amnon would not expect any harm to come to him it was then that Absalom took out his revenge by having Amnon killed. Then he fled and did not see his father for 3 years. David wanted to see his son but knew that others would seek justice by killing Absalom if he came home.]*

Joab realized how much the king longed to see Absalom. 2 So he sent for a woman from Tekoa (tuh KOE uh) who had a reputation for great wisdom. He said to her, "Pretend you are in mourning; wear mourning clothes and don't bathe or wear any perfume. Act like a woman who has been in deep sorrow for a long time. 3 Then go to the king and tell him the story I am about to tell you." Then Joab told her what to say.

4 When the woman approached the king, she fell with her face down to the floor in front of him and cried out, "O king! Help me!"

5 "What's the trouble?" the king asked.

"I am a widow," she replied. 6 "My two sons had a fight out in the field. And since no one was there to stop it, one of them was killed. 7 Now the rest of the family is demanding, 'Let us have your son. We will execute him for murdering his brother. He doesn't deserve to inherit his family's property.' But if I do that, I will have no one left, and my husband's name and family will disappear from the face of the earth."

8 "Leave it to me," the king told her. "Go home, and I'll see to it that no one touches him."

9 "Oh, thank you, my lord," she replied. "And I'll take the responsibility if you are criticized for helping me like this."

10 "Don't worry about that!" the king said. "If anyone objects, bring them to me. I can assure you they will never complain!"

11 Then she said, "Please swear to me by the LORD your God that you won't let anyone take vengeance against my son. I want no more bloodshed."

"As surely as the LORD lives," he replied, "not a hair on your son's head will be disturbed!"

12 "Please let me ask one more thing of you!" she said.

"Go ahead," he urged. "Speak!"

13 She replied, "Why don't you do as much for all the people of God as you have promised to do for me? You have convicted yourself in making this decision, because you have refused to bring home your own banished son. 14 All of us must die eventually. Our lives are like water spilled out on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again. That is why God tries to bring us back when we have been separated from him. He does not sweep away the lives of those he cares about--and neither should you!

This very wise woman was used to help David see that life is too short to let family differences go on and on for years without reconciliation; That life is too short to let problems come between people and not make an effort to confront, settle the problem and make peace; That life is too short for a parent to be separated from his or her child and not make an effort to bring them back into the family. *And* too short to live a life separated from God.

**1. Life is Short:** (v14a) *All of us must die eventually. Our lives are like water spilled out on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again.* All of us must die eventually. It is difficult to face our own mortality. I remember being very sick and in the hospital and thinking, "I could die! This could be it. Me – I am actually dying." It was a very weird thought / experience. And once our earthly existence is over, that's it – there is no coming back to this earth again. We only go around once on this earth. There is no truth to reincarnation. Life is like water spilled out on the ground, which the soil soaks up and so the water cannot be gathered up again.

This Scripture is not saying that all we have is this life on earth and when it is over there is nothing else. On the contrary the Bible teaches that there is life after death. The Bible speaks of heaven and hell. By the way, it is incorrect to think that God sends people to heaven or hell. The truth is that we choose in this life if we want to be in heaven or hell. After death there is either separation from God, which is eternal punishment or there is fellowship with God, which is eternal life. Your status on earth will determine your status in the after life. The status of your relationship with God now, which is your choice, determines the status of your relationship with God in death. If you are separated from God in this life you will be separated from Him in death and if you are in fellowship with God in this life you will be in fellowship with Him in death. But either way your

existence will continue. I pray you will choose today to know God and enjoy Him forever.

David wrote most of the Book of Psalms. In the first and last line of his most famous psalm he wrote (Ps 23:1,6 NLT)  
The LORD is my shepherd... and I will live in the house of the LORD forever.

You are alive because God wanted to create you. You are not here by accident. There is a God who loves you and created you to be in fellowship with Him. He does not want you to be separated from Him.

**2. Be Reconciled to God:** (v14b) *That is why God tries to bring us back when we have been separated from him. He does not sweep away the lives of those he cares about--and neither should you!*

This life is not all there is...and you will spend much more time on the other side of death than on this side of it. Some people have the philosophy that: If you only live once you may as well live selfishly. They don't say it that way. They will say things like, "you might as well enjoy life," which really means. "you might as well do whatever you want no matter who you hurt." Not only does that philosophy hurt those we ought to love but it leaves us empty as well.

Did you see the interview with Mel Gibson this week by Diane Sawyer? He was interviewed because of the controversy over his new film, "The Passion of the Christ." At one point in the interview, Diane held up a magazine from 20 + years ago. On the cover was a picture of a young, up-and-coming actor, Mel Gibson, who had been voted "the sexiest man alive." Diane asked him if he remember "this guy." Mel Gibson said, he'd like to throw darts at that guy. "I never want to go back to that again," he said. Why? He said in his business everything the world has to offer; everything you could ever want is handed to you. It didn't fulfill him. Rather he struggled with alcohol, drugs and even considered suicide. Because of this he looked to God and God saved him. He said that is why he chose to make a movie about the suffering of Christ, because it is that suffering which brought Mel Gibson hope.

Isa 53: 6 NLT - All of us have strayed away like sheep. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the LORD laid on him the guilt and sins of us all.

(In our Alpha course Nicky Gumbel illustrates this.)

*We have left God's paths to follow our own (our sin separates us from God). Yet the LORD laid on him the guilt and sins of us all... God tries to bring us back when we have been separated from him. He does not sweep away the lives of those he cares about. He cares about you, He loves you and He would rather die than be apart from you forever... and that is exactly what He did. But we must accept His offer to bring us back through the substitute of Jesus taking the penalty of our sins for us. And it is on the basis of the faith and trust in Jesus that we can be reconciled to God and enjoy fellowship with Him now and forever.*

After a long illness, a woman died and arrived at the Gates of Heaven. While she was waiting for Saint Peter to greet her, she peeked through the Gates. She saw that it was so beautiful.

Saint Peter came by; the woman said to him "This is such a wonderful place! How do I get in?"

"You have to spell a word", Saint Peter told her.

"Which word?" the woman asked.

"Love."

The woman correctly spelled "Love" and Saint Peter welcomed her into Heaven.

About six months later, Saint Peter came to the woman and asked her to watch the Gates of Heaven for him that day. While the woman was guarding the Gates of Heaven, her husband arrived.

"I'm surprised to see you," the woman said. "How have you been?" "Oh, I've been doing pretty well since you died," her husband told her. "I married the beautiful young nurse who took care of you while you were ill. And then I won the lottery. I sold the little house you and I lived in and bought a big mansion. And my wife and I traveled all around the world. We were on vacation and I went water skiing today. I fell, the ski hit my head, and here I am. How do I get in?"

"You have to spell a word", the woman told him.

"Which word?" her husband asked.

"Czechoslovakia."

You will not get into heaven by being a good speller or by trying to be good. You just have to trust in Jesus. Of course when you trust in Jesus you will desire to do good. And this will include forgiving others just as in Christ God has forgiven you.

**3. Be Reconciled to Others:** (v14) *All of us must die eventually. Our lives are like water spilled out on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again. That is why God tries to bring us back when we have been separated from him. He does not sweep away the lives of those he cares about--and neither should you!*

In the prayer that Jesus taught, commonly called the "Our Father" there is that part that says: (Matt 6:12 NLT) "and forgive us our sins, just as we have forgiven those who have sinned against us."

Jesus goes on to explain this further in Matt 6:14-15 NIV)

"For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins."

Jesus gives this startling warning, that if we refuse to forgive others God will refuse to forgive us. If we refuse to show mercy to others God will not show mercy to us. The Bible instructs us to forgive anyone who asks us to forgive them and even when they don't ask we are still to treat them with kindness and love. This does not mean to say that what they did is ok but we are not going to hold a grudge or retaliate in any way. We are

not to treat others the way they are treating us (repaying evil with evil) but we are to treat them the way we would want to be treated (overcoming evil with good). Whenever there is a problem in a relationship ask your self this question before you do or say anything, “is the motive behind what I am going to do or say reconciliation?” God has forgiven us of so much how can we not forgive others. Let us follow the Lord’s example and forgive others just as in Christ God has forgiven us.

Life is short, be reconciled to God and, as far as it depends on you, be reconciled to others.