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## Sermon Discussion Questions: September 28, 2025

### When Family Falls Apart

#### Opening Songs

1. Noah said that one of the criteria for selecting the music was to help us, when tempted, flee from sin and praise God. If there is a song or verse that you call to mind when struggling with temptation, please share it.

#### Call to Worship: Psalm 133

2. *Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!* Give a happy scriptural example of sisters or brothers supporting each other.
3. David wrote this psalm. If there is any record of him experiencing this unity with his siblings, or seeing it in his family or inner circle, point out the story.

#### Sermon: 2 Samuel 13-14

##### **I. The Poison of Calculated Revenge – 2 Samuel 13:23-39**

4. Absalom was confronted with a problem: his sister's rapist suffered no consequences. Pastor Paul itemized some good and bad ways of resolving problems, specifically estrangements. What were two of the:
  - a. Bad ways?
  - b. Good ways?
5. After considering the options in question 4, what should Absalom have done in response to Tamar's rape?
6. When Pastor Paul spoke about the importance of overcoming sin, he also cautioned the congregation about the limits of will-power. What is the alternative to exercising will-power?
7. Jonadab was a bad counselor. What would have been good council for Amnon?

## II. The Flaw of Partial Reconciliation – 2 Samuel 14:1-24

8. Pastor Paul called partial reconciliation a "... hollow and dangerous solution."
  - a. Give another example from scripture.
  - b. Share an example from your personal life.
  - c. Are there times when partial reconciliation may be acceptable, albeit not ideal?
9. The story in chapter 14:12-17 is reminiscent of Nathan's strategy for confronting David regarding Uriah's murder. Do you see Joab's motivations as being as high-minded as Nathan's? Explain your reasoning.
10. What other biblical figures did a better job of discharging their political or religious responsibilities than discharging their parenting responsibilities?
11. What are at least two elements of authentic forgiveness?

## III. Ceremony Without Substance – 2 Samuel 14:25-33

12. What can we learn from this entire story about the benefits and blessings of a one-man/one woman marriage?
13. What are some principles for making blended families work? If possible, support your suggestions with scripture.
14. What do we do and think when dealing with repeat offenders who do apologize for their repeated offenses? If remaining passive or taking vengeance are both unhealthy reactions, what is the healthy reaction?
15. What curse proclaimed by Nathan is manifested in these chapters?

## AI Question of the Week

16. How does the treatment of Tamar reflect the culture and attitudes of her time? How does this compare to current day issues of violence against women?

## Prayer Points:

- Ask God to reveal any unchecked desires or hidden bitterness in your heart and to give you the strength to surrender them to Him before they lead to sin.
- Pray for wisdom and courage to address sin truthfully and justly within your family, refusing to settle for passivity or superficial solutions.
- Ask God to help you pursue true, wholehearted reconciliation in broken relationships, doing the hard work of forgiveness and repentance rather than ignoring the pain.