



## WHEN FAMILY FALLS APART

### King David's Story Continues

Too often, like King David, we sacrifice our families on the altar of our own quest for success. What do we do when our children or grandkids go off the rails?

1. Early on, remember the old adage: **An ounce of prevention** is worth a pound of cure [2 Samuel 13:1; Proverbs 22:6]
  - The **sins of the Father**. God is not gender neutral here. The Bible always puts a priority on the responsibility of husbands and fathers. [Exodus 20:5; Numbers 14:18; Deuteronomy 5:9&10]

David had 15 wives, 11 living sons, a son who died in infancy, an unnamed infant, and only one daughter who Scripture names (Tamar), but probably more. He also had numerous concubines and, most likely, children by them. Here are the lists:

Ahinoam—Amnon  
Abigail—Daniel (Also known as Kileab)  
Maachah—Absalom, Tamar (only mentioned daughter)  
Haggith—Adonijah  
Abital—Shephatiah  
Eglah—Ithream

**Bathsheba—unnamed son who died at birth, Shammua, Shobab, Nathan, Jedidiah (also known as Solomon)**

**Other wives—Ibhar, Elishua, Eliphetet, Nogah, Japhia, and Elishama**

**There are also two other sons: Jerimoth, not mentioned in the genealogies, but mentioned as a son in 2 Chronicles 11:18. There is also another unnamed infant who died.**

**This list of David's harems does not include numerous and unnamed concubines or their offspring.**

**As a point of interest, Jesus Christ is a descendant of David by Mary who is descended through Bathsheba's son, Nathan. His stepfather, Joseph is descended from Solomon.**

- The **priorities of the Father**. Other than listing their births, there is no mention of these children until they are adults. It's as if, in the life of David, they had no significance until everything fell apart.
  - The **parenting style of the Father**. [2 Samuel 13:21-22] David got angry, but did nothing to solve the conflict.
2. Crown prince **Amnon acts like his father**, David. **Tamar suffers the same fate as Bathsheba**. [2 Samuel 13] What we say and do will always impact our children. There is no such thing as "it doesn't matter what I do in the privacy of my home, as long as it doesn't hurt anyone else."
  3. David's dysfunctional **family is disconnected** and **he is an absentee, clueless father**. [2 Samuel 13:4-8]
  4. David was **appropriately angry, but inappropriately passive**. He had the power, both as king and father, to do something, but did nothing. As a result, Tamar was left desolate and disgraced, Amnon was left

undisciplined, and Absalom was left angry and embittered. [2 Samuel 13:12-22; Ephesians 6:4] Why was David passive-aggressive or even paralyzed?

5. Present inaction sows the seeds of future disaster. [2 Samuel 13-18]
6. Continued **inaction by parents produces frustration in children**. [2 Samuel 13:22-25] Two years have passed, and still no justice. When leaders refuse to act, people take matters into their own hands.
7. When we don't **listen to our children** (especially to their heart cries), we become **clueless to the danger signals**. [2 Samuel 13:26&27]
8. At all cost **avoid the reality or appearance of favoritism** or sibling rivalry and family unity will be destroyed. [2 Samuel 13:28-38]
9. **Don't allow estrangement to continue**. Time does not heal all wounds. It only makes them fester and brings gangrene. It also has **a corrupting effect on others**. [2 Samuel 13:38-14:22; Matthew 5:23-24]
10. Do not hide **your face** from your children. **It is the key to their health**. [2 Samuel 14:23-33]
11. **Don't wait too long to kiss your children** or it may be too late. [2 Samuel 14:33; Ephesians 4:26&27]
12. The Absalom Conspiracy: **Beware of the Absalom Spirit**. [2 Samuel 15:1-12]

13. The key to the nation's health is in the health of the family. If we want to forge the future, we should put our first energies into building great children, not a great nation. [2 Samuel 15]
  
14. **We must not allow our family problems to sideline or paralyze us** from taking care of critical business at hand. [2 Samuel 15:15-37]
  
15. Allow the **consequences of your failures** to teach you **for future success**. [2 Samuel 16:1-14] Our Lord is the God of second chances. [Joel 2:25]
  
16. The Ahithophel Syndrome: **a good father is aware of those who are influencing his children**. Often, we are too trusting, especially of those who are closest to us. [2 Samuel 16:20-17:4]
  
17. The Hushai Remedy: good parents will **make sure to do whatever they can to counteract the bad influences in the family**. [2 Samuel 15:32-37; 17:5-27] **Grandparents must pray for the Lord's intervention**. [2 Samuel 17:14]
  
18. Though the consequences of early inaction may remain, it's never too late to take action to minimize the damage. [2 Samuel 17:24-18:18]
  
19. Don't allow your grief or guilt for the consequences of family failure to keep you from taking care of the family that's left—and their future. [2 Samuel 18:19-19:8]
  
20. Take heart! **Christ and his gospel can redeem our worst failures**. [18:33]