

## *Sermon Mid-week Advent December 14*

Absalom

Parents make many sacrifices for their children. When a baby comes along, the needs and desires of mom and dad take a back seat. Parents will sacrifice time, money, and sleep in order to provide the very best for their children.

Sacrifices come in all sizes. A dad might sacrifice the last bite of his favorite dessert and give it to his child who loves it just as much. A mom might give up a career because that is what is best for her children. And I don't know of any parent who would not be willing to sacrifice their own life in order to save the life of their child. Nearly every parent would be willing to take the place of their child if they are suffering.

But we don't always get that chance. David, the father of Absalom, wished that he could have died in his son's place.

But this story we are looking at this evening is of the love of David the father for his son. This ultimately points us to the father our heavenly Father and the ultimate sacrifice He made so that we can be saved from the curse of death.

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When a baby comes along, the needs and desires of mom and dad take a back seat. Parents will sacrifice time, money, and sleep in order to provide the very best for their children. Sacrifices come in all sizes.

Lets get into the story:

Now Absalom, David's son, had a beautiful sister, whose name was Tamar. And after a time, Amnon, David's son, loved her.

<sup>2</sup> And Amnon was so tormented that he made himself ill because of his sister Tamar, for she was a virgin, and it seemed impossible to Amnon to do anything to her. <sup>3</sup>

But Amnon had a friend, whose name was Jonadab, the son of Shimeah, David's brother. And Jonadab was a very crafty man. <sup>4</sup> And he said to him, "O son of the king, why are you so haggard morning after morning? Will you not tell me?"

Amnon said to him, "I love Tamar, my brother Absalom's sister." <sup>5</sup> Jonadab said to him, "Lie down on your bed and pretend to be ill.

And when your father comes to see you, say to him, 'Let my sister Tamar come and give me bread to eat, and prepare the food in my sight, that I may see it and eat it from her hand.'" <sup>6</sup> So Amnon lay down and pretended to be ill. And when the king came to see him, Amnon said to the king, "Please let my sister Tamar come and make a couple of cakes in my sight, that I may eat from her hand."

The rest of the story is of a crime that took place within the family of insist the rape of his own family member!

We then find out Absalom's hatred for Amnon, which eventually leads to his murder by Absalom's servants.

Absalom flees the kingdom and exiles himself, but "the spirit of the king longed to go out to Absalom, David was grieving the loss of two sons Amnon, since he was dead" And Absalom who fled from his father.

So, Absalom flees, and three years go by Joab the captain of King David's army convinces David to bring Absalom back he could see that David was heart broken for his wayward son. As a father would be but this story does not have a happy family ending. This is not the prodigal son in this sad story.

Absalom still harbors anger and does not forgive his Father King David not punishing Amnon. But Absalom agrees to return and begins to plot against his own father.

Several years of this plan to overthrow his own father and gain control of the kingdom and its army. His plan gains momentum and when the time was right, he begins a revolt that will leave his father no choice but to flee to avoid bloodshed of the son and the people of his kingdom he loved so much.

This shows the true loving character of King David. This also shows us in parallel the true love of the Father the God of our universe that is our God. As you see God also gave up his only Son to save us who he loves.

But David also gathered his loyal army together and mounts a counterattack, he gains back his kingdom and has his beloved son on the run. In the hunt for them King David gives a command to his army to not harm his son. But they ignore his order and find Absalom hanging by his hair trapped they kill him.

King David waits as an expective father to have his son returned to him, but is told he is dead.

The reporting of this news and David's response is what weas parents fear the worst, words we never ever want to hear.

When he heard of Absalom's death, David wept and said, "O Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would I had died instead of you, O Absalom, my son, my son!" Here ends this tragic father-son story.

The death of a child! (My story of Love from Strong)

God the father the maker of heaven and earth knows the feeling of loss and gave us Jesus as a baby to feel what we feel, suffer as we suffer and final die and this was the pain the torture the death he endured to save us and yes the pain of loss at the death of his son.

How do we began to see what God the father has done for us can we truly see how good he is to us this Christmas? We too are like Absalom not in his actions, but in our own doubts are own sinful ways of not believing that Jesus will get us thorough our own trials and our self-doubts in our little faith.

This Year may we give thanks for all we have been given and for the Son of God that came to us this Christmas !