

**Sermon Series: “Bible-based Father-figures”—Lord of Life Lutheran, Westfield, IN—6/25/2006**

**Title: “A broken father”**

**Text: 2 Samuel 19: 1-8**

**Intro.: Illus.: Wasted Day**

**Theme:** When struggling to deal with sinfully broken earthly fathers, we can rely upon our heavenly Father to intervene and be our source of grace and mercy to carry us through those times of need.

**When your dad’s brokenness is impacting your life (Print and read 2 Samuel 19: 1-4)**

- The background to King David’s broken fathering
  1. Downward spiral with the fall into sin with Bathsheba (“*the sword will never depart from your house*” 2 Sam 12: 9)
  2. Absenteeism in parenting his children (Amon, Tamar, Absalom)
    - a. *Amon alone is dead because Absalom intended this since the day he violated his sister Tamar. 2 Sam 13: 32*
    - b. *Absalom fled. . . and was there three years 2 Sam 13: 38*
    - c. *Now Absalom lived two full years in Jerusalem and did not see the king’s face. 2 Sam. 14: 28*
  3. Unwilling to put down Absalom’s rebellion(*So Absalom stole away the hearts of the men of Israel. 2 Samuel 15: 6*)
    - a. **Ills.: Betrayed by the need to be wanted**
  4. Dysfunctional when Absalom’s rebellion is put down
    - a. Mourns to the extent of ingratitude for those who risked their lives for him (vs. 1-2)
    - b. Allowed depression to humiliate the people (*stole into the city..as men...ashamed when they flee from battle. 3*)
- All of our life is contextual...recognize it and live it out from God’s perspective
  1. So your earthly father was. . . **absent, abusive, apathetic**... you still have a good Father—a Heavenly One
  2. Your Heavenly Father was and is still engaged in your life
    - a. Contrasting himself to your earthly father
      - i. *Though my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will receive me. Psalm 27:10*
      - ii. *If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! Matt 7:11*
    - b. Committing himself to you like no earthly father could
      - i. *For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Rom 8: 38-39*

**Confronting, confessing, and committing to reconcile the broken relationships (Print 2 Sam 19: 5-8)**

- Confronting past and present behavior with God’s will to heal the wounds
  2. Be the first to cross the line of reconciliation
    - a. Joab had to risk to be the first to cross the line with the King because family, friend and nation wouldn’t (vss. 5,6)
    - b. *“If you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift. Mat 5: 23-24*
  3. Speak the truth in love (Eph. 4: 15)
    - a. Love without truth is not love (vs. 5-6) and truth without love is not care (vs. 7)
- Confessing the sins of the past
  1. *Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. James 5:16*
  2. Fathers admitting and seeking reconciliation for the past
    - a. *So the king got up and took his seat in the gateway...they all came before him. vs. 8*
    - b. **Ills.: Unopened Letters**
  3. Children confessing anger and bitterness
    - a. *Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephes. 4:31-32*
- Committing to a future relationship with one another
  1. The saddest part of this story is — “*Meanwhile, the Israelites had fled, each to his own home.*” vs. 8
  2. Don’t compound the sin by never reconciling with one another
  3. *God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. 2 Cor. 5: 19-20*

## Wasted Day

Charles Francis Adams, the 19th century political figure and diplomat, kept a diary. One day he entered: "Went fishing with my son today—a day wasted." His son, Brook Adams, also kept a diary, which is still in existence. On that same day, Brook Adams made this entry: "Went fishing with my father—the most wonderful day of my life!" The father thought he was wasting his time while fishing with his son, but his son saw it as an investment of time. The only way to tell the difference between wasting and investing is to know one's ultimate purpose in life and to judge accordingly. **Silas**

## **Shotwell, in September, 1987, Homemade**

### Betrayed by need to be wanted

In *SPY: The Inside Story of How the FBI's Robert Hanssen Betrayed America*, author David Wise tells of his exclusive meetings with Dr. David Charney, the psychiatrist who evaluated Hanssen. During his years of spying, Hanssen received \$1.4 million from the Russians. Of the possible motives for betraying his country, Hanssen pointed to "financial pressure." According to Charney, Hanssen wanted money for one reason: to assure his wife that he was not a failure. Dr. Charney commented: Bonnie [Hanssen's wife] was the one person who brought life into his life. She was the last person he would want to think he was a failure. He reached to prove to her he was a good provider and good husband. So that when she would express wishes for various things, he would always buy them for her. He felt it was necessary to sustain his image in her eyes as successful. That put him into a financial corner, because he agreed to take on various financial burdens, by buying a house out of his reach financially, in Scarsdale. It's not that it's wrong to say that he did it for the money; you have to go deeper and ask why he wanted the money. Why did Bob Hanssen get into a corner financially? Because he had to keep up his reputation with his wife. Because that was the one person in the world whose opinion mattered. Ironically, Bonnie was not the sort to place burdensome financial demands on her husband. According to Charney, Hanssen did not blame her; he blamed himself. **David Wise, *SPY : The Inside Story of How The FBI's Robert Hanssen Betrayed America* (Random House, 2002); submitted by Van Morri**

### Unopened Letters

A childhood accident caused poet Elizabeth Barrett to lead a life of semi-invalidism before she married Robert Browning in 1846. There's more to the story. In her youth, Elizabeth had been watched over by her tyrannical father. When she and Robert were married, their wedding was held in secret because of her father's disapproval. After the wedding the Brownings sailed for Italy, where they lived for the rest of their lives. But even though her parents had disowned her, Elizabeth never gave up on the relationship. Almost weekly she wrote them letters. Not once did they reply. After 10 years, she received a large box in the mail. Inside, Elizabeth found all of her letters; not one had been opened! Today those letters are among the most beautiful in classical English literature. Had her parents only read a few of them, their relationship with Elizabeth might have been restored. **Daily Walk, May 30, 1992**

## **2 Samuel 19:1-8**

<sup>1</sup>Joab was told, "The king is weeping and mourning for Absalom." <sup>2</sup>And for the whole army the victory that day was turned into mourning, because on that day the troops heard it said, "The king is grieving for his son." <sup>3</sup>The men stole into the city that day as men act who are humiliated when they flee from battle. <sup>4</sup>The king covered his face and cried aloud, "O my son Absalom! O Absalom, my son, my son!"

<sup>5</sup>Then Joab went into the house to the king and said, "Today you have humiliated all your men, who have just saved your life and the lives of your sons and daughters and the lives of your wives and concubines. <sup>6</sup>You love those who hate you and hate those who love you. You have made it clear today that the commanders and their men mean nothing to you. I see that you would be pleased if Absalom were alive today and all of us were dead. <sup>7</sup>Now go out and encourage your men. I swear by the Lord that if you don't go out, not a man will be left with you by nightfall. This will be worse for you than all the calamities that have come upon you from your youth till now."

<sup>8</sup>So the king got up and took his seat in the gateway. When the men were told, "The king is sitting in the gateway," they all came before him. Meanwhile, the Israelites had fled, each to his own tent.