### 2 Samuel

## Chapter 14

1Now, JoAb (son of ZeruJah) knew that the king [still loved] AbSalom. 2So he sent for a woman in Thecoe who was very wise, and he said to her:  
  
 ‘I want you to dress in mourning clothes [and pretend] to be in mourning... Don’t rub yourself with oil, for I want you to appear to be a woman who’s been mourning over her dead for many days.’  
  
3So she went to the king and said the words that JoAb told her to say… 4This ThecoEthite woman went in to the king, fell with her face to the ground bowing before him, and said:  
  
 ‘Save me, oh king! Save me!’  
  
5And the king asked her:  
  
 ‘What’s wrong?’  
  
Then she said:  
  
 ‘I’m now a widow, because my husband has just died!  
  
 6‘However, your servant had two sons who started arguing with each other while they were out in the fields where there was no one to break it up.  
  
 ‘Then the one hit the other and killed him!  
  
 7‘So now, {Look} the whole family is against your servant, because they’re telling me to hand over my son so they can kill him for murdering his brother.  
  
 ‘But if they do that, they’ll be taking away my only heir and they’ll extinguish the little spark [of hope] that remains for leaving my husband a name and property on the face of this land!’  
  
8So the king said to the woman:  
  
 ‘Don’t worry; just go back home and I’ll handle this matter for you.’  
  
9Then the ThecoEthite woman said to the king:  
  
 ‘O my lord the king; may this lawlessness be on me and on the house of my father, not on the king and on his throne.’  
  
10And the king said:  
  
 ‘Who was the one who spoke to you?  
  
 ‘Bring [your son] to me, and don’t let anyone touch him!’  
  
11Then the woman said:  
  
 ‘May Jehovah your God remind the king not to allow them to take away my son so that our family line [may continue].’  
  
And he said:  
  
 ‘As Jehovah lives; not a hair of your son’s head will fall on the ground.’  
  
12Then the woman asked:  
  
 ‘May your servant say one more thing to her lord the king?’  
  
And he said:  
  
 ‘Speak.’  
  
13Then the woman said:  
  
 ‘Why have you made such a decision for the people of God?  
  
 ‘For when you say such things, you’re finding yourself guilty, since the king hasn’t allowed the one whom he banished to return to him!  
  
 14‘Each of us is dying the death, and like water that’s being poured on the ground, we’re not returned to each other after that... Only God [has the right to] take a life, and only He has the means to drive someone away, if He wishes.  
  
 15‘Now, as to the thing I came to speak to my lord the king about, the people told your servant to speak to you, to see what you’d do for your servant.  
  
 16‘They said that you’d rescue your servant from the hands of the man who’s trying to take away my son and my inheritance from God... 17And they also told me that the words of my lord the king would be as good as a sacrifice.  
  
 ‘For my lord the king is like a messenger from God in that you listen to both the good and the bad. So, may Jehovah your God be with you.’  
  
18Well at that, the king said to the woman:  
  
 ‘I want to ask you something… And I want you to tell me the truth!’  
  
And the woman said:  
  
 ‘Please speak, my lord the king.’  
  
19And the king asked:  
  
 ‘Did JoAb put you up to this?’  
  
And the woman replied:  
  
 ‘As you are living, O my lord the king, doesn’t the king ever change his mind after he’s made a decision?  
  
 ‘Yes, JoAb is the one who put me up to this, and he put the words into my mouth.  
  
 20‘But your servant JoAb did this just to bring the matter to a head. For my lord the king has the wisdom of a messenger from God in that he understands everything on earth.’  
  
21And the king said to JoAb:  
  
 ‘Look, I’m going to do what you’re asking.  
  
 ‘So, go and bring back the young man AbSalom!’  
  
22Well at that, JoAb fell and bowed with his face to the ground.  
  
Then he praised the king, saying:  
  
 ‘Today your servant knows that he’s found favor in your eyes, O my lord the king; for you have handled this matter for your servant.’  
  
23So then JoAb got up and went to GedSur, and he brought AbSalom back to JeruSalem.  
  
24However, the king had said:  
  
 ‘Let him go back to his home… But I don’t want to see his face!’  
  
As a result, AbSalom returned home, but he wasn’t allowed to see the face of the king.  
  
  
25Now, there wasn’t a man in all IsraEl that was more admired than AbSalom. For from the sole of his feet to the top of his head, there wasn’t a blemish! 26And when it came to cutting his hair, it took so long that it became bothersome, because whenever he cut it and set it aside, it weighed as much as two royal coins!  
  
27AbSalom had three sons and a daughter whose name was Themar. She was a pretty woman, and she [later] married Solomon’s son RehoBoam, to whom she gave birth to AbiJah.  
  
28Well, during the next 2 years that AbSalom stayed in JeruSalem, he never saw the face of the king. 29But then he sent for JoAb, because he wanted to send him to the king. However, JoAb wouldn’t come to him.  
  
So he sent for him a second time, but he just didn’t want to come. 30As a result, AbSalom said to his servants:  
  
 ‘You know that field of JoAb’s next to mine where he’s growing barley?  
  
 ‘Go and burn it!’  
  
So AbSalom’s servants went and burned JoAb’s field!  
  
Well at that, JoAb’s servants went to him ripping their clothes, and said:  
  
 ‘The servants of AbSalom have burned your portion of the field!’  
  
31So JoAb got up and went to the house of AbSalom, and asked him:  
  
 ‘Why did your servants burn my field?’  
  
32And AbSalom replied:  
  
 ‘Look, I called for you and asked you to come here, because I wanted to send you to the king and ask:  
  
 ‘Why did you bring me from GedSur, since things were good for me there? However, {Look!} since then I haven’t seen the face of the king!  
  
 ‘If [you consider me so] unrighteous, why don’t you just kill me?’  
  
33So JoAb went to the king and spoke to him... Then [the king] called for AbSalom, and he went in to the king and bowed before him, falling with his face to the ground before him, and the king kissed AbSalom.