

2 Samuel 14:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then the woman said, Let thine handmaid, I pray thee, speak one word unto my lord the king. And he said, Say on.

Analysis

Then the woman said, Let thine handmaid, I pray thee, speak one word unto my lord the king. And he said, Say on.

This verse contributes to the narrative of Absalom's Return, emphasizing incomplete reconciliation. Joab's elaborate scheme to restore Absalom demonstrates human wisdom that undermines divine purposes. The partial reconciliation (Absalom returns but doesn't see David's face) proves insufficient for genuine restoration. Theological themes include the inadequacy of human reconciliation methods apart from genuine repentance, the danger of manipulation even for apparently good ends, and the necessity of complete rather than partial restoration.

Historical Context

The historical setting of 2 Samuel 14 occurs during David's reign (circa 1010-970 BCE) over Israel's united monarchy. Archaeological discoveries, including the Tel Dan inscription mentioning the 'House of David,' corroborate biblical historicity. Ancient Near Eastern customs regarding incomplete reconciliation provide crucial background. The geopolitical situation involved regional powers—Philistines, Ammonites, Arameans, Moabites, Edomites—as David consolidated and expanded Israel's territory. Cultural practices concerning kingship, warfare, covenant relationships, family dynamics, and religious observance differed significantly from modern Western contexts, requiring careful attention to avoid anachronistic

interpretation while extracting timeless theological principles applicable across cultures and eras.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does this passage deepen your understanding of incomplete reconciliation?
2. What does this verse reveal about God's character, and how should that shape your worship and obedience?
3. In what specific ways can you apply this truth to your current circumstances and relationships this week?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר	בַּאֲשֶׁר	הָיָה	לְבָרִרִים	נִאֵן	שְׁפֵטָתְךָ	אֶל
And he said	Then the woman	I pray thee speak		H4994	Let thine handmaid	H413
H559	H802	H1696			H8198	

וְאֶלְעָדָנִי	לְבָרִרִים	וְאָמַר	בְּרִרְתָּךְ	לְבָרִרִים	וְאָמַר	בְּרִרְתָּךְ
unto my lord	the king	one word	And he said	I pray thee speak		
H113	H4428	H1697	H559	H1696		

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