

# 2 Samuel 14:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Joab sent to Tekoah, and fetched thence a wise woman, and said unto her, I pray thee, feign thyself to be a mourner, and put on now mourning apparel, and anoint not thyself with oil, but be as a woman that had a long time mourned for the dead:

## Analysis

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**And Joab sent to Tekoah, and fetched thence a wise woman, and said unto her, I pray thee, feign thyself to be a mourner, and put on now mourning apparel, and anoint not thyself with oil, but be as a woman that had a long time mourned for the dead:**

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

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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

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

## Study Questions

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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

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וְשָׁלַח יוֹאָב תֵּקַע וְעָה וַיֵּקֶחַ מִשָּׁם כְּאִשָּׁה הַ  
sent And Joab to Tekoah and fetched H8033 but be as a woman  
H7971 H3097 H8620 H3947 H802

וַיֵּקֶחַ מִשָּׁם כְּאִשָּׁה הַ  
thence a wise and said H413 mourned H4994 and put on H4994  
H2450 H559 H56 H3847

וַיֵּקֶחַ מִשָּׁם כְּאִשָּׁה הַ  
apparel now mourning H408 and anoint not thyself with oil H1961  
H899 H60 H5480 H8081

וַיֵּקֶחַ מִשָּׁם כְּאִשָּׁה הַ  
but be as a woman H2088 time that had a long mourned H5921  
H802 H3117 H7227 H56

מָתָּה:  
for the dead  
H4191

## Additional Cross-References

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**2 Chronicles 11:6** (Parallel theme): He built even Beth-lehem, and Etam, and Tekoa,

**Amos 1:1** (Parallel theme): The words of Amos, who was among the herdmen of Tekoa, which he saw concerning Israel in the days of Uzziah king of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash king of Israel, two years before the earthquake.

**Ruth 3:3** (Parallel theme): Wash thyself therefore, and anoint thee, and put thy raiment upon thee, and get thee down to the floor: but make not thyself known unto the man, until he shall have done eating and drinking.

**Jeremiah 6:1** (Parallel theme): O ye children of Benjamin, gather yourselves to flee out of the midst of Jerusalem, and blow the trumpet in Tekoa, and set up a sign of fire in Beth-haccerem: for evil appeareth out of the north, and great destruction.

**Nehemiah 3:5** (Parallel theme): And next unto them the Tekoites repaired; but their nobles put not their necks to the work of their Lord.

**2 Chronicles 20:20** (Parallel theme): And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa: and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper.

**2 Samuel 12:20** (Parallel theme): Then David arose from the earth, and washed, and anointed himself, and changed his apparel, and came into the house of the LORD, and worshipped: then he came to his own house; and when he required, they set bread before him, and he did eat.