

Daily Devotional, April 2, 2020

'God Devises Means' (2 Samuel 14:14)

“For we will surely die and become like water spilled on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again. Yet God does not take away a life; but He devises means, so that His banished ones are not expelled from Him” (2 Samuel 14:14, NKJV).

Because of all the strife in King David’s family, the king had not seen his son Absalom for three years. Joab apprehended this, and devised a plan with a certain wise woman from Tekoa in order to bring it to pass. These words in our text are the words of that wise woman of Tekoa, and God saw fit to include them in His Holy Book. There are many applications of spiritual truth that can be derived from them. Let us explore two of these.

The first relates to our mortality. Our physical bodies will one day cease to function, not to be **“gathered up again”** until Jesus returns. In the context of our text, this statement was made to drive home the point that we have limited time on earth, and estrangement within families should not be allowed to continue for a lifetime. Are there any close relations of yours that you have had a falling out with but not recently sought reconciliation with? Don’t wait a day longer. As much as it depends on you, be reconciled to your friend or relation.

The second relates to God’s salvation. We are all in a sense **“banished ones.”** For we have sinned and are therefore not fit to be in the holy presence of God. But God **“devises means”** to give us opportunity to enjoy a right relationship with Him nonetheless. This has always been God’s heart. Way back in the Garden of Eden, after Adam and Eve sinned, God provided animal skins to clothe them. They were expelled from the Garden of Eden, but they were not expelled from God Himself. Animal blood was shed to make those skins for a covering, for an atonement, and although their relationship with God would never quite be the same as it was before they had sinned, God had devised means to make a restored relationship possible for Adam and Eve (Cf. Genesis 3:21-24). He has devised the ultimate means to ensure that those who put their faith in Jesus Christ and His atoning shed blood as a covering will never be expelled from Him. If God had not devised means by sending His Son, God the Son, Jesus the Christ, to die for sinners, we would have no hope. **“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him” (Romans 5:8-9).**