Misguided mercy for an arrogant man
2 Samuel 14:1-15:12

I. Misguided mercy – Joab prodded David to bring his son Absalom home from exile (2 Samuel 14:1-23).
   A. Joab recruited a woman to tell a story urging David to let Absalom return (14:1-17).
      1. Stirring sympathy in David (1-11)
      2. Misapplying God’s mercy to Absalom (12-17)
   B. David gave in, letting Absalom return (14:18-23).
      1. David realized Joab sent the woman (18-22).
      2. Absalom returned, but not to David (23).
         ➢ Can I discern when to pursue justice or mercy (Micah 6:8)?

II. Self-willed – Absalom returned arrogant and unrepentant (2 Samuel 14:24-33).
   A. Narcissistic and vain (24-27)
   B. Demanding and destructive (28-30)
   C. Resentful and self-righteous (31-32)
   D. Joab and David gave in to Absalom’s demand to be reinstated in the court (33).
      ➢ Where do I demonstrate self-will (Titus 1:7; Ephesians 5:21)?

III. Selfish ambition – Absalom began a subversive campaign against his father (2 Samuel 15:1-12).
   A. Political pandering to undermine David (15:1-6)
   B. Planning revolt to declare himself king (15:7-12)
      ➢ In what way am I driven by selfish ambition (Philippians 2:3-4)?