

# Apply The Word

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## Message Info

### Title:

God's Justice in a  
Messy World

### Speaker:

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### Date:

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### Scriptures:

2 Samuel 14-19

**Theme:** Seek first God's kingdom so you will honor him in this fallen world.

**Introduction:** Every day we are called upon to make moral judgments about many, many situations. How are we to think and act as Christians in those moments? It is very important that we have a biblical understanding of justice if we are going to behave righteously in this fallen, messy, and unjust world. We see all of these dynamics at play in the very messy story of David and Absalom.

We can see these themes in the story of Absalom in 3 movements;

### 1. A scorned son

This whole story is a fulfillment of 2 Sam 12:9-14 and God's judgment on David. After Tamar's rape, Absalom took vengeance on Amnon and went into exile. Ch. 14 tells of his return to Jerusalem.

Upon returning, Absalom works to undermine his father and to take the throne. He stole the hearts of the men of Israel.

### 2. A suffering father

David responds to this *coup* by fleeing. He entrusts himself and his reign to the Lord. But he also acts to do what he can to protect his men and to undermine Absalom.

Some come to David with support. Others come with curses and scorn. David handles some situations well (Shimei) and in others (Ziba) acts unjustly. Absalom enters Jerusalem and lies with David's 10 concubines. He also plots to kill David, but has his plans frustrated by the Lord (through Hushai).

### 3. A tragic ending

Absalom's troops lose the war and 20,000 die. Absalom is caught in a tree, killed, and buried outside the Promised Land.

David recovers the throne, but the kingdom is in chaos and more rebellion is on the way. The consequences of his sin are still coming.

### Questions:

1. How many accusations of injustice do you face daily? Do you have and employ a biblical understanding of justice?

2. How are you seeking first God's kingdom in this world?

3. How do you respond to injustice in your own life? Can you trust God when injustice is done to you?