

Privileged To Serve In Public Worship

Announcements: Jim Gammon

Scripture Reading: AM- Tyler Thomas PM- Brad Trull

Song Leader: Jess Leonard

Opening Prayer: AM- Scott Samford PM- Adam Dyer

Closing Prayer: AM- Blake Grimes PM- Larry Calvin

To Serve Communion: Chris Lowry Doug Guinn
Tom Trull Bob Patterson
Alan Haack John Dyer

Sermons: Anthony Scherffius

AM: "The Example of Abraham and Sarah" - Hebrews 11:8-22

PM: Questions/Answers (with Elders)

Sound: John Hamilton

Greet Visitors: Lawson Lovelady

Count Contribution: Kevin McCarley David Tapp

Attendance Cards: John Luke Graham Aiden Morton

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**Wednesday, June 3, 2026**

Scripture Reading: Keaton Dyer/II Corinthians 6:11-18

Devotional: Dennis Thomas

Bible Class: Doug Guinn  
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Records for week of May 24, 2026:

Attendance: Bible Class: 77 Worship PM: NC
Worship AM: 105 Wed 5/20: 89

Contribution: \$5647



May 31, 2026

Mabank Church of Christ

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Elders: Doug Guinn, Chris Lowry, Robert Osborne

Deacons: Seth Bolstad, Jim Gammon, Terry Littlejohn, Charlie Thomas,
Tyler Thomas, Tom Trull

Preacher: Anthony Scherffius

Bible Study & Worship

Sundays: Bible Class 9:00am
Worship 10:00am
Worship 5:00pm

Wednesdays: Bible Class 7:00

THE SIN OF ABSALOM (2 Samuel 13)

By Anthony Scherffius

There is something especially tragic about a broken relationship between a father and a son. It hits deeper than most conflicts—because it is not just disagreement, it is a fracture of identity, trust, and love. This is what we see in the account of Absalom, son of David. The historical account of Absalom is not just a record of a rebellious individual; it is a heart breaking account about unresolved hurt, silent bitterness, stolen loyalty, and a heart that *slowly* turns away from God. When you read about Absalom's life you may think, "How did David not see this and nip it in the bud?" But the key to Absalom's sin, found in 2 Samuel 13, is the speed and volume of his sin: slowly and quietly. If we are being honest with ourselves, our sin is the exact same way.

There is a story of a godly man who had a son who was very dear to him. His son was a good boy growing up, but over time as he matured into manhood, the boy fell away. When asked about his son and how a godly man could have a son that turned to the world in such a way, the man replied, "I did not lose my son in one big moment—I lost him in a thousand small ones." At first, it was little things: conversations that stopped happening, doors that stayed closed, attitudes that went uncorrected. Then one day, the son moved out—and cut off all contact. The father said something haunting: "Looking back, the rebellion did not start when he left... it started when we stopped dealing with what was going on in his heart."

When we consider the situation between David and Absalom, it is the exact same thing. When Absalom's sister Tamar is violated by Amnon (2 Samuel 13), his father David does nothing. Bitterness takes root in his heart, followed by revenge, and distance grew between the son and father, and eventually rebellion overtook him. Absalom did not just rebel against his father David; he positioned himself against God's anointed king. What began as hurt ended in

destruction. So what truly was the root problem or sin of Absalom?

Was what he wanted wrong? Absalom simply wanted justice for what had happened to his sister. Was what he felt unreasonable? He was hurt, angry, mournful, and betrayed. None of those things are inherently evil. The problem with Absalom was how he handled the situation. Rather than trusting in God to handle it, realizing vengeance is the LORD's, (Romans 12:19) being angry and sinning not (Ephesians 4:26), Absalom wanted to take God's position as avenger of blood when it was not his place. He questioned God's choice of His anointed king and wanted the crown for himself. Essentially, Absalom had a heart problem. His heart was broken, hurt, angry, and full of pain. When a heart is full of those things that are not dealt with, bitterness comes which leads to rebellion. As one once said, "A heart that is not healed will eventually become a heart that rebels." How then can one work towards healing their heart?

The Bible is very clear on the matter: Go to the Great Physician (Mark 2:17; Psalm 103:3; Matthew 11:28-29). The psalmist gives us the prescription when he says by inspiration, "Thy Word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against thee" (Psalm 119:11). If we have a heart problem—a heart full of hatred, pain, and betrayal—we should fill it with the Word of God. If we follow the prescription as given to us by the Great Physician, taking a healthy dose of the Word and casting all of our cares and worries upon Him, we need not worry about that which we have no control over. All too often we hold grudges against our fellow brothers and sisters as Absalom did with his. Is what Amnon did ok? Absolutely not! In fact, it is worthy of death (Leviticus 18:9; 20:17; Deuteronomy 22:25-27; Romans 6:23). Was it Absalom's place to exact justice? No, it was not. What was Absalom to do? He should have remembered what Abraham said: "That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be


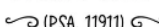

far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?" (Genesis 18:25).

Instead of relying on God's justice, and timing of judgment, Absalom desired instant gratification and, like Cain, allowed sin to crouch at the door and invited it in as a guest in his home (Genesis 4:7). What about us today? How do we handle the wickedness of this world when it mistreats us or our loved ones? Where are the "small moments" in your life that you are ignoring and allowing to fester? Is there hurt that is quietly turning into bitterness? Are you drifting before you are outright rebelling?

Perhaps we are not patient with God. Maybe we want the instant gratification and desire for it to be handled now. Remember how the psalmist deals with pain and unjust behavior towards himself. The psalmist David faced false accusations from one who once was an adversary without cause, and look how he handled it:

"O Lord my God, If I have done this; if there be iniquity in my hands; If I have rewarded evil unto him that was at peace with me... Let the enemy persecute my soul, and take it; yea, let him tread down my life upon the earth, and lay mine honour in the dust. Selah... The Lord shall judge the people: judge me, O Lord, according to my righteousness, and according to mine integrity that is in me. Oh let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end; but establish the just: for the righteous God trieth the hearts and reins. My defence is of God, which saveth the upright in heart. God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day (Psalm 7:3-11).

David examines himself first, and then He gives it over to God, and trusts that He is a righteous Judge. When we are faced with a hurting heart, remember the Great Physician has a cure for all heart problems—His Word.

"Thy word 
HAVE I HID IN MINE heart,
THAT I MIGHT NOT SIN
AGAINST THEE."
 (PSA. 119:11) 

Remember in Prayer

Loree Mixon had an echocardiogram on 5/26 and will meet with doctors on 6/9 for results.

Luanne Patterson met with surgeons 5/27 to check on progress.

Sharon McMillan will have a cat scan on her back on 5/29.

Remember Also:

Archie & Nancy Underwood,
Joy Tull, Judy Mitchell,
Alan Haack, Chris Calvin,
Rex Parker, Luanne Patterson,
Roger Elam, Scott Koeler,
Larry Calvin, Louis Thomas,
John Dyer, Trinity McCarley,
Sharon McMillan

IMPORTANT DATES

May 28- NH Birthday Party/2:00
May 31- 5th Sunday Q&A
June 14- NH Worship Svc./2:00
June 21- Elder/Deacon Mtg./4:00
June 22-26- Family Bible School
June 25- NH Birthday Party/2:00

FAMILY BIBLE SCHOOL

JUNE 22-26

**"God Wants You
To Know About..."**

TEACHERS NEEDED

**Sign-up sheets are in the
information room**