

October 20, 2019
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
SON OF ANARCHY
Episode 4: Triangle Of Poison.
Pastor Adam Stadtmiller

2 Samuel 13:37-39, 14:1-3,21-24,28-33

13:37 Absalom fled and went to Talmai son of Ammihud, the king of Geshur. But King David mourned many days for his son. ³⁸After Absalom fled and went to Geshur, he stayed there for three years. ³⁹And King David longed to go to Absalom, for he was consoled concerning Amnon's death...

14:1 Joab son of Zeruiah knew that the king's heart longed for Absalom. ²So Joab sent someone to Tekoa and had a wise woman brought from there. He said to her, "Pretend you are in mourning. Dress in mourning clothes, and don't use any cosmetic lotions. Act like a woman who has spent many days grieving for the dead. ³Then go to the king and speak these words to him." And Joab put the words in her mouth...

²¹The king said to Joab, "Very well, I will do it. Go, bring back the young man Absalom." ²²Joab fell with his face to the ground to pay him honor, and he blessed the king. Joab said, "Today your servant knows that he has found favor in your eyes, my lord the king, because the king has granted his servant's request." ²³Then Joab went to Geshur and brought Absalom back to Jerusalem. ²⁴But the king said, "He must go to his own house; he must not see my face." So Absalom went to his own house and did not see the face of the king...

²⁸Absalom lived two years in Jerusalem without seeing the king's face. ²⁹Then Absalom sent for Joab in order to send him to the king, but Joab refused to come to him. So he sent a second time, but he refused to come. ³⁰Then he said to his servants, "Look, Joab's field is next to mine, and he has barley there. Go and set it on fire." So Absalom's servants set the field on fire.³¹ Then Joab did go to Absalom's house, and he said to him, "Why have your servants set my field on fire?"³² Absalom said to Joab, "Look, I sent word to you and said, 'Come here so I can send you to the king to ask, "Why have I come from Geshur? It would be better for me if I were still there!"' Now then, I want to see the king's face, and if I am guilty of anything, let him put me to death." ³³So Joab went to the king and told him this. Then the king summoned Absalom, and he came in and bowed down with his face to the ground before the king. And the king kissed Absalom.

King David was a man of many weapons, but lacked the tools to heal the emotional strife in his own family.

- **This is ultimately a failure of familial leadership.**
- When there is a failure of familial leadership, others will often rush in to fill that vacuum.
 - **The Triangulation Of Joab:** Joab was David's nephew who through valiant service in the military became the general of David's army. He is also the one who eventually kills Absalom. (2 Samuel 18:14)

Joab takes it upon himself to reconcile the relationship between David and Absalom. (2 Sam 14:1-3)

- **What was Joab's motive?**
 - The motive was made irrelevant due to the means of manipulation.
 - "Pretend" "Act like" "Joab put words in her mouth"

Few things have the power to destroy a family like the inability to communicate directly.

Triangulation is a manipulation tactic where one person will not communicate directly with another person, instead using a third person to relay communication to the second, thus forming a triangle. It also refers to a form of [splitting](#) in which one person [manipulates](#) a relationship between two parties by controlling communication between them.

Proverbs 26:17 *A person who is passing by and meddles in a quarrel that's not his is like one who grabs a dog by the ears.*

Counsel vs. Triangulation: **Proverbs 13:10** *Through insolence comes nothing but strife, But wisdom is with those who receive counsel.*

Wise counsel is often most effective from someone who has no stake in the relationship.

Practical Application:

1. **Identify triangulation** in your relationships and remove yourself from the triangle. Relationships work best when they are linear.
2. **Educate yourself** on how to have healthy communication void of manipulation.
3. **Take appropriate action.**

Food For The Journey: Use these questions and challenges to go deeper in personal reflection or small group discussion.

1. Joab meddled in the relationship between David and his son. When is it right, if ever to do this?
2. Joab used manipulation to control outcomes. It said he asked someone to “pretend”, “act like” and “put words in her mouth.” Why do you think people do this rather than just be honest with those they want to help?
3. Pastor Adam said that King David had a failure of familial leadership. What could he have done differently in this story?
4. How do we give counsel while staying away from triangulation?
5. How can we support relationships that are in trauma without getting burned ourselves?