

REFLECTIONS

This week's Reflections is from a commentary I wrote for the on-line *Center for Congregational Ethics*, to go with the Revised Common Lectionary Reading for August 5, 2021, based on **2 Samuel 13:37-14:24**. It assumes the passage will be read before the article.

This Story Does Not Have a Happy Ending

Context matters. Beginning with chapter 11, the rest of the book of 2 Samuel reveals the dissolution of David's family and the political struggles for his throne. The death of Amnon, the heir-apparent, left the exiled Absalom next in line. For three years the nation had faced an uncertain future. David is brokenhearted, angry, and depressed. Joab stages an intervention.

The plot is to trick the king into doing something about his situation. The script is written by Joab, the king's harsh military general and confidant. An actress is enlisted to dramatically play the widow in distress: "Deliver us from the man who is trying to cut off both me and my son from God's inheritance." Coded language to make the point. As with Nathan the prophet, David is caught up in the tale, but then realizes the subtext. "Joab put you up to this," he says. "Very well, I will do it. Bring back Absalom, but he must not see my face." It may have been the ending Joab was hoping for, but today's audience is left unsatisfied. What about David's heartache and depression?

Joab uses the king's pain to his own advantage. All this elaborate subterfuge was to advance Absalom's quest for the throne rather than seeking to heal the king's heart and mind. In the end, there was no planned direct conversation between father and son, no opportunity for reconciliation, resolution, or forgiveness. No happy ending.

What are the ethical implications of this story for today? Are our political and personal conversations so filled with manipulation and coded language that we are missing the happy endings that honesty and truth afford?

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The Evangel

Braden Park Baptist Church
4739 East Fifth Street (5th & Yale)
Tulsa, OK 74112-2716

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday Morning
Continental Breakfast 9:20 a.m.
Worship 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School 11:15 a.m.

Sunday Evening
Sanctuary Choir 5:30 p.m.
Worship 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday Evening
Prayer Service 6:30 p.m.

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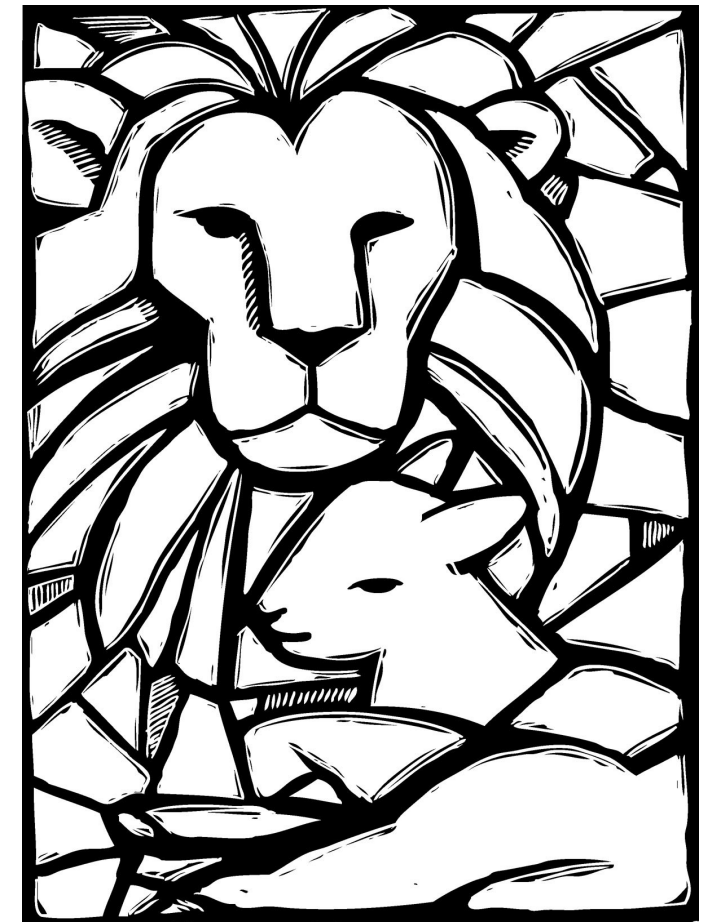


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Tulsa, Oklahoma

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“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,
to receive power and...
honor and glory and praise!”

Revelation 5:12, NIV

Our Church Family

LIVING CENTERS

Emerald Care Nursing Center #26 Gina Reynolds
Pawhuska Nursing Center Violet Crain
Zarrow Pointe Kaiser Health Center #214 Dorothy Lee

AT HOME

Alice and Bill Barrett	Bonnie Nutting
Elizabeth Burke	Waneta Reynolds
Berta Caldwell	Ben Shepard
Russell Ford	Margaret VanHorn
Gene Lessel	Leslie White

REHABILITATION CENTER

P J Shepard The Villages at Southern Hills

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

August

15 Wilma Connely
 Donelle Enos
 Dayna Avery

16 Roxie Jones

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

August

17 John and Candice Kuykendall 42 Years

Looking Ahead

SUNDAY, August 1

10:00 a.m. Thou Art Worthy!
 —Revelation 4—5

Spoiler Alert! This message contains material that reveals parts of the final story of the Kingdom of God since the creation of the worlds. Included may be insight into the ultimate fate of all people, including yourself and those you love. Join with us this Sunday, invite a guest, and be blessed.

11:15 a.m. Bible Study and Conversation
Ladies Bible Study Class
(Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal to follow)



The Online Sunday Bible Study
Tender Creation:
How the Gospel is the Heart of Creation
Moment 16—Incarnation

Led by Kevin Avery on Facebook
Braden Park Church Tulsa
Live discussion and prayer on Zoom
Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.



Wednesday, August 11

5:00 p.m. People's Pantry Ministry
Clothes Closet Ministry

6:30 p.m. Prayer Meeting

Behind the Scenes

LADIES BIBLE STUDY CLASS

The Ladies Sunday morning Bible Study Class meets at 11:15 each week. They are currently studying *Chasing Vines: Finding Your Way to an Immensely Fruitful Life*, by Beth Moore, based on John chapter 15. The class is led by *Connie Connely*.

THANK YOU

Dearest Kitchen Staff,

Thank you all for your kind service to our family at Homer's funeral lunch. Just one more thing I didn't have to be concerned about. I am grateful to you all for that.

Thanking you in Jesus name

—Sunni Wager

FALL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

The **Glenn and Joan McKinley Scholarship Fund** is available for students attending schools, colleges and universities other than Oklahoma Baptist University. Applications need to be returned to the White City Baptist Foundation Education Committee no later than **Sunday, August 15**.

FOR THE CHURCH RECORD

Weekly Budget Need	\$ 1,936.00
General Receipts Aug 1	\$ 1,596.00
Special Offerings Aug 1	\$ 100.00

Thank You to all who are providing sustaining tithes and offerings.