



### 33: Sin's Price Tag (2 Samuel 12:16-13:38)

*Sin promises satisfaction, but the hidden price tag is often far greater than we ever imagined. Today we walk through one of the darkest chapters in David's family and discover how God's forgiveness is real, even while the scars of sin remind us why we desperately need Jesus.*

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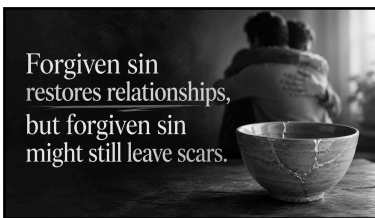
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## teachingnotes

\* All Scripture is from the Christian Standard Bible (CSB) unless otherwise noted.



### Catch the Context

After the wicked actions of David, Nathan the prophet came to confront him about it, saying...

#### 2 Samuel 12:9-13

Why then have **you despised the LORD's command by doing** what I consider **evil**? You struck down Uriah the Hethite with the sword and took his wife as your own wife—you murdered him with the Ammonite's sword. Now therefore, **the sword will never leave your house** because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hethite to be your own wife.'

"This is what the LORD says, **'I am** going to bring disaster on you from your own family: I will take your wives and give them to another before your very eyes, and he will sleep with them in broad daylight. You acted in secret, but **I will do this** before all Israel and in broad daylight.'"

David responded to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord." Then Nathan replied to David, "And **the LORD has taken away your sin; you will not die.**"

Throughout this story, David has blatantly disobeyed 3 of the 10 commandments - he has coveted his neighbor's wife, which led to adultery with her, which led to David's murdering her husband.

**The LORD has taken away your sin; you will not die.** That's GREAT NEWS, because the Scriptural standard for both adultery & murder...is DEATH! Yahweh will spare David, taking away his sin.

#### 2 Samuel 12:14-17

However, because you treated the LORD with such contempt in this matter, **the son born to you will die.**"

Then Nathan went home. The LORD struck the baby that Uriah's wife had borne to David, and he became deathly ill.

David pleaded with God for the boy. He fasted, went home, and spent the night lying on the ground. The elders of his house stood beside him to get him up from the ground, but he was unwilling and would not eat anything with them.

David is hurting over his infant son's sickness, fasting - refusing to eat, and spending a long time in prayer pleading for God to change His mind. Yet, after 7 days of this, God did NOT relent from the judgment handed down.

#### 2 Samuel 12:18-19

On the seventh day **the baby died.** But David's servants were afraid to tell him the baby was dead. They said, "Look, while the baby was alive, we spoke to him, and he wouldn't listen to us. So how can we tell him the baby is dead? He may do something desperate."

When David saw that his servants were whispering to each other, **he guessed that the baby was dead.**

So he asked his servants, "Is the baby dead?" "He is dead," they replied.

After 7 days of uninterrupted mourning, fasting, and praying, **David's servants were afraid** of how he was going to respond at the tragic news of the newborn's death. The baby's death reminds us of this reality, that...

***BIG TRUTH: Forgiven sin restores relationships, but forgiven sin might still leave scars.***

David is forgiven, but his sin has brought consequences that will sting for a long time.

## 2 Samuel 12:20a-23

Then David got up from the ground. He washed, anointed himself, changed his clothes, **went to the LORD's house, and worshiped.** Then he went home and requested something to eat. So they served him food, and he ate.

His servants asked him, "Why have you done this? While the baby was alive, you fasted and wept, but when he died, you got up and ate food." He answered, "While the baby was alive, I fasted and wept because I thought, 'Who knows?

The LORD may be gracious to me and let him live.' But now that he is dead, why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I'll go to him, but he will never return to me.

David, once super Godly, then super evil, has now been humbled, and after days of fasting and praying, asking God to heal his son - has received God's judgment for his sin. Rather than pout, rather than get mad at God and once again *run FROM God*, David cleans up and *runs TO God* and **worshiped. We must RIGHTSIZES our view of God.** He is not our buddy, or an old man upstairs. He is the CREATOR of all, the Provider, the One who gives & takes life, the One who will resurrect the people He has forgiven to eternal life! Even in the midst of tough times - **when we RIGHTSIZES our view of God - we can worship too.**

- Notice the order here - David went to worship Yahweh BEFORE he concluded his fast. He longed for God's Presence more than filling his belly.

**I'll go to him, but he will never return to me.** Many have used this text as evidence that the baby went to be with God and that's where David would go one day. There is good Scriptural evidence that all babies who die go to heaven, but it's not certain this was what David was saying. Instead, David notes that just as the baby has died and won't come back to him, so too David will die one day. David's fasting and prayer over his dead son does no more good as God's decision will not change. David and Bathsheba have to deal with the reality of mortality. Their newborn is gone. They are forgiven, but the scars remain.

## 2 Samuel 12:24-25

Then David comforted his wife Bathsheba; he went to her and slept with her. She gave birth to **a son** and named him **Solomon.** The LORD loved him, and he sent a message through the prophet Nathan, who named him **Jedidiah**, because of the LORD.

- **Solomon** means "His Peace", in the midst of the pain.
- **Jedidiah** means "beloved of Yahweh"

Solomon is the son that Yahweh said would become a great king and the one whom would build the temple for Yahweh (2 Sam 7:12-13).

David had been forgiven. Solomon had been born. And David's kingdom was still intact.

Now we see the final outcome of the place of battle where Uriah had been killed.

## 2 Samuel 12:26-28

Joab fought against Rabbah of the Ammonites and captured the royal fortress. Then Joab sent messengers to David to say, "I have fought against Rabbah and have also captured its water supply. Now therefore, assemble the rest of the troops, **lay siege to the city, and capture it.** Otherwise I will be the one to capture the city, and it will be named after me."

The hard work had been done for over a year. The most well fortified **fortress** had been taken, and now the **water supply** was **captured** as well. It wouldn't be long before the people inside the walls would be trying to get out to live. A short besiegement of the city and complete victory was all that was needed to cause this to happen.

## 2 Samuel 12:29-31

So David assembled all the troops and went to Rabbah; he fought against it and captured it. He took the crown from the head of their king, and it was placed on David's head. The crown weighed seventy-five pounds of gold, and it had a precious stone in it. In addition, David took away a large quantity of plunder from the city. He **removed the people** who were in the city and **put them to work** with saws, iron picks, and iron axes, and to labor at brickmaking. **He did the same to all the Ammonite cities.** Then he and all his troops returned to Jerusalem.

It's doubtful that **75-lb crown** was on David's head for very long! This crown likely sat on a statue of a former king or of their god.<sup>1</sup> Much of this **plunder** was later used to construct the temple in Jerusalem (cf. 2 Sam 8:11-12; 1 Chr 29:2-5).

The **people of the city** were **put to work** as prisoners of war. The once proud Ammonites who had fought against God's people had been soundly defeated.

David had sinned greatly. David had repented thoroughly. David is forgiven fully, and was even given victory by Yahweh, BUT... **sin's price tag is much more expensive than he ever thought it would be.** And the consequences of his sin are about to be felt.

☛ **"Sin will take you farther than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and cost you more than you want to pay."**

<sup>1</sup> Robert D. Bergen, 1, 2 Samuel, vol. 7, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1996), 377-378.

## 2 Samuel 13:1-2

Some time passed. David's son **Absalom** had a beautiful sister named **Tamar**, and David's son **Amnon was infatuated with her**. Amnon was frustrated to the point of making himself sick over his sister Tamar because she was a virgin, but it seemed impossible to do anything to her.

Remember that David had several wives at this point, and several children with them, hence, there were many half brothers and sisters in this family. From the time of Moses, it was Scripturally forbidden to have sexual relations and marriage with half-siblings, whether they share a father or mother (Lev 18:9; 20:17). With that background, we are introduced to **Absalom** and his full **sister, Tamar** (same father - David, and same mother). Their half-brother **Amnon** (same father - David, different mother), was **infatuated with Tamar**, and he wanted her as his own.

## 2 Samuel 13:3-5

Amnon had a friend named Jonadab, a son of David's brother Shimeah. Jonadab was a very shrewd man, and he asked Amnon, "Why are you, the king's son, so miserable every morning? Won't you tell me?"

Amnon replied, "**I'm in love with Tamar**, my brother Absalom's sister." Jonadab said to him, "Lie down on your bed and pretend you're sick. When your father comes to see you, say to him, 'Please let my sister Tamar come and give me something to eat. Let her prepare a meal in my presence so I can watch and eat from her hand.'"

**Jonadab** is Amnon's cousin. In fact, he is cousins with Absalom and Tamar as well. But *Jonadab sure sounds like the liar who talked Eve into eating the forbidden fruit*. Jonadab, *rather than speaking the truth to his cousin*, instead mimics the voice of the 'father of lies'. And Amnon takes a bite of the forbidden fruit.

## 2 Samuel 13:6-14

So **Amnon lay down and pretended to be sick**. When the king came to see him, Amnon said to him, "Please let my sister Tamar come and make a couple of cakes in my presence so I can eat from her hand."

David sent word to Tamar at the palace: "Please go to your brother Amnon's house and prepare a meal for him."

Then Tamar went to his house while Amnon was lying down. She took dough, kneaded it, made cakes in his presence, and baked them. She brought the pan and set it down in front of him, but he refused to eat. Amnon said, "Everyone leave me!"

And everyone left him. "Bring the meal to the bedroom," Amnon told Tamar, "so I can eat from your hand."

Tamar took the cakes she had made and went to her brother Amnon's bedroom.

When she brought them to him to eat, he grabbed her and said, "Come sleep with me, my sister!"

"Don't, my brother!" she cried. "Don't disgrace me, for such a thing should never be done in Israel. Don't commit this outrage! Where could I ever go with my humiliation? And you—you would be like one of the outrageous fools in Israel!

Please, speak to the king, for he won't keep me from you."

But he refused to listen to her, and because he was stronger than she was, **he disgraced her by raping her**.

Tamar may simply be trying to stop Amnon from doing this terrible act by appealing to any possible solution she can think of in the moment. But he doesn't stop and does the unthinkable **raping her**. ***The apple doesn't fall far from the tree***. Amnon takes a woman who was intended for another man, for a one-night stand. David's sexual sin is being repeated by his own son.

✗ David took another man's wife.

✗ Amnon took another man's future wife.

② *Had David known this was the result of his sin with Bathsheba, do you think he would have hit the brakes before it ever happened?*  
Sin's price tag was turning out to be far more expensive than what David wanted to pay.

## 2 Samuel 13:15-19

So **Amnon hated Tamar** with such intensity that the hatred he hated her with was greater than the love he had loved her with. "**Get out of here!**" he said. "No," she cried, "sending me away is much worse than the great wrong you've already done to me!" But he refused to listen to her. Instead, he called to the servant who waited on him, "**Get this away from me, throw her out**, and bolt the door behind her!" **Amnon's servant threw her out** and bolted the door behind her. Now Tamar was wearing a long-sleeved robe garment, because this is what the king's virgin daughters wore. **Tamar put ashes on her head** and tore the long-sleeved robe she was wearing. She put her hand on her head and went **away crying out**.

**What wickedness!** Amnon had previously said he **loved her!** But now, his **hatred** was **greater** than the 'love' he had for her. *That's NOT love...that's LUST!* He doesn't care about her - it was all about him!

Tamar is now expecting Amnon to treat her as his wife - which is what the Old Testament law demanded for a woman who was not yet engaged yet had sexual relations with a man (Deut 22:28-29). He was now to keep her in his home and provide for her, but he throws her out. What wickedness! *Amnon does what so many of us have done - treating Tamar like she's the problem instead of dealing with his own sin and shame*. Tamar cannot offer her sexual purity to a future husband because Amnon has taken that from her. Very few men would have married a non-virgin. And Tamar is deeply upset. The only man she has ever slept with doesn't want her any more.

## 2 Samuel 13:20-22

Her brother Absalom said to her, "Has your brother Amnon been with you? Be quiet for now, my sister. He is your brother. Don't take this thing to heart." So Tamar lived as a desolate woman in the house of her brother Absalom.

When **King David** heard about all these things, **he was furious**. **Absalom** didn't say anything to Amnon, either good or bad, because he **hated Amnon** since he disgraced his sister Tamar.

**Absalom** might seem like he's trying to brush it under the rug, but we are about to see that is NOT the case. He cares about his sister and brings her to live in his **house**.

Even though **David** was furious, there is NO MENTION of him disciplining Amnon for this wickedness. *Did David have trouble disciplining Amnon because HE had done something so similar?* Some commentators wonder if David's consciousness of his own guilt paralyzed him in this moment.<sup>2</sup>

✗ *David's fury without action seemed to create a vacuum that Absalom would fill with vengeance.*

## 2 Samuel 13:23-27

Two years later, Absalom's sheepshearers were at Baal-hazor near Ephraim, and Absalom invited all the king's sons. Then he went to the king and said, "Your servant has just hired sheepshearers. Will the king and his servants please come with your servant?" The king replied to Absalom, "No, my son, we should not all go, or we would be a burden to you." Although Absalom urged him, he wasn't willing to go, though he did bless him.

"If not," Absalom said, "please let my brother Amnon go with us." The king asked him, "Why should he go with you?" But Absalom urged him, so he sent Amnon and all the king's sons.

Why did Absalom pick Amnon out of the pack? Amnon was the 1st born of David - the crown prince - who should be next in line for the throne (2 Sam 3:2; 1 Chron 3:1). So, if David can't come, then maybe Amnon could come in his place. You can almost hear David thinking this one through, but he sent **Amnon** and his other **sons** along.

## 2 Samuel 13:28-29

Now Absalom commanded his young men, "Watch Amnon until he is in a good mood from the wine. When I order you to **strike Amnon**, then **kill him**. Don't be afraid. Am I not the one who has commanded you? Be strong and valiant!" So Absalom's young men did to Amnon just as Absalom had commanded. Then all the rest of the king's sons got up, and each fled on his mule.

For 2 years - as Tamar lives in his home - as he sees his 1/2 brother Amnon, the rage is boiling inside of him. David didn't do anything about it, so Absalom *WOULD!* When the other brothers saw what happened, they fled back to David!

## 2 Samuel 13:30-33

While they were on the way, a report reached David: "Absalom struck down all the king's sons; not even one of them survived!" In response **the king** stood up, **tore his clothes**, and **lay down on the ground**, and all his servants stood by with their clothes torn. But Jonadab, son of David's brother Shimeah, spoke up: "My lord must not think they have killed all the young men, the king's sons, because **only Amnon is dead**. In fact, Absalom has planned this ever since the day Amnon disgraced his sister Tamar. So now, my lord the king, don't take seriously the report that says all the king's sons are dead. **Only Amnon is dead.**"

**David is distraught!** Once again he has been tricked, just as he was used in sending Tamar to Amnon's house 2 years previous, David thinks he has now sent all his sons to be slaughtered!

The same **Jonadab** who was described as "a very shrewd man", leading Amnon to deceive his Dad (2 Sam 13:3-5), the nephew of David and now one of his advisors, is trying to comfort David.

## 2 Samuel 13:34-36

Meanwhile, **Absalom had fled**. When the young man who was standing watch looked up, there were many people coming from the road west of him from the side of the mountain. Jonadab said to the king, "Look, **the king's sons have come!** It's exactly like your servant said." Just as he finished speaking, the king's sons entered and wept loudly. Then the king and all his servants also wept very bitterly.

This **weeping** probably is due to the killing of Amnon AND the gratefulness that his other sons were not harmed.

## 2 Samuel 13:37-38

But Absalom fled and went to Talmai son of Ammihud, king of Geshur. And David mourned for his son every day. After Absalom had fled to Geshur and had been there three years...

**Talmai** - the **king of Geshur** - was Absalom's grandfather - the father of his mother (cf. 2 Sam 3:3; 1 Chr 3:2). Now Absalom was on the run for **3 years** - afraid for his life because of the king who sat on the throne of Israel - his father - King David.

- Amnon raped his half-sister, Tamar.
- Her future hopes were dashed to the ground.
- Amnon is not disciplined by David. Absalom takes revenge and kills Amnon.
- Absalom is running from his father, while David is mourning the loss of his firstborn son.

## ***BIG TRUTH: Forgiven sin restores relationships, but forgiven sin might still leave scars.***

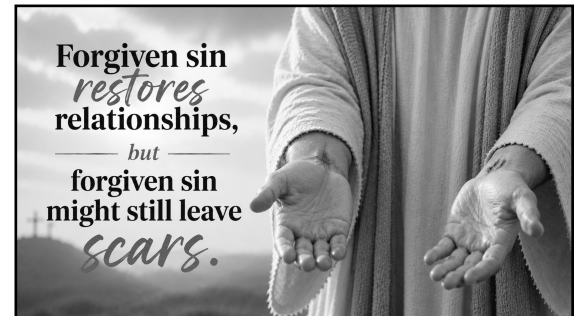
- David was forgiven in eternity, yet the judgment for his sin had spilled over into earthly life.
- Nathan's prophecy from Yahweh that ***the sword would not depart from his family*** (2 Sam 12:9-10) was now coming to fruition.
- David was forgiven. His relationship with Yahweh had been made right, but sin's price tag was going to leave scars.
- 🕒 Forgiveness & judgment are not mutually exclusive for us either. You may be forgiven for eternity, yet there may be consequences for our sin on earth - SCARS.

***Jesus ultimately offers us full forgiveness*** because the ultimate judgment for our sins was placed on HIM!  
And, in a very literal way...

## ***BIG TRUTH: Forgiven sin restores relationships, but forgiven sin might still leave scars.***

Jesus showed the scars to his 1st disciples (Jn 20:20). They knew in that moment, that their sin cost Jesus His life, but that He had paid for them - the scars were the receipt of the payment! The same is true for us!

- May we live each day remembering that we have been bought at a price and we are to honor Jesus with the time we have left (1 Cor 6:19-20).
- May we reason with ourselves about SIN'S PRICE TAG, *before* we give in to sin.
- And ***may we TRUST Jesus for His payment for our sins***, even while we struggle with the reality the the consequences of our sin might linger a little while longer, until Jesus makes all things new.



## **heretoseveyou**

Have questions and need some help? ...real soon...how about now? Please **call** or **text** us soon!

- \* Contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Christy** (850-673-9764), **Caleb** (864-315-8015), **Gary** (850-673-2507), **Betty** (850-973-3266), or another follower of Jesus soon!
- \* Or call our **deacons & wives: Alan & Christy Androski** (850-464-1428), **Noel & Patricia Barnes** (813-767-2881), **Derek & Emily Beaty** (813-763-4421), or **Chris & Caitlin Day** (850-673-7920), **Glen & Margie Peacock** (850-464-1484).

## **Discussion questions**

These questions are designed to help you LIVE what you LEARN with your family, friends, or small group.

1. Why do you think people often minimize the true “price tag” of sin before giving into temptation? How did David's private sin eventually impact his entire family?
2. Read 2 Samuel 12:16–23. What do we learn about God from the fact that David was both forgiven and disciplined? What stands out to you most about David worshiping God after the death of his child? What does this reveal about David's view of God?
3. Read 2 Samuel 12:13–15. Why is it important to understand that forgiveness and consequences are not mutually exclusive?
4. Read 2 Samuel 12:9–12 and Galatians 6:7–8. What are some ways sin's “price tag” is often much higher than people expect?
5. Read 2 Samuel 13:1–10. What warning signs do you see in Amnon's behavior before he assaulted Tamar?
6. Read 2 Samuel 13:15–19. How does Amnon's treatment of Tamar reveal the difference between lust and genuine love?
7. Read 2 Samuel 13:20–22. Why do you think David failed to discipline Amnon? How can unaddressed sin create even greater problems later?
8. Read 2 Samuel 13:23–29. How did bitterness and revenge continue the cycle of destruction within David's family?
9. Read James 1:14–15. How does this passage connect to what happened with David, Amnon, and Absalom?
10. Read John 20:24–29. Why do you think Jesus still had scars after His resurrection? How do the scars in Jesus' resurrected body give believers hope?
11. Read 1 Corinthians 6:19–20. What are some practical ways we can remember that we were “bought at a price” and redirect our thoughts before giving into temptation?
12. Read Romans 8:1. How does the gospel give hope to people who are still living with the earthly scars or consequences of past sin?
13. Is there an area where you need to trust Jesus not only for forgiveness, but also while dealing with lingering consequences?