

2 Samuel 13-14 THE FAILURES OF A DAD

Good evening and thank you for joining us, would you please turn in your Bibles to 2 Samuel 13? We're now at the ½ way point of this book.

I've mentioned in the past that one of my favorite things about the Bible, and in fact, one of the proofs of the Bible's inspiration, is how it treats its subject matters.

Ancient writings rarely depicted the good guys in an unfavorable light. Historical touch-ups were commonplace. Become too honest about the king in power, and he might quickly silence the author.

The Bible is brutally honest with all its heroes... Moses, Abraham, Elijah, Peter... And of course, David – a man after God's own heart was also a flawed and sin-prone man. He was guilty of lust, deceit, adultery, manipulation, and murder... He could rule a kingdom and manage a victorious army, but as we're about to see he couldn't control his own children.

Last week we saw the power of lust drive David to commit shocking crimes, and we read the consequences of his sin with Bathsheba. But David did repent, and a son named Solomon was born.

Now the scene shifts and focuses on David's adult children.

In order to set the scene for what's about to shock us in chapter 13, remember David had many wives whom he had children with.

Like the Brady Bunch, David had a blended family, and there were problems.

What we're about to read is proof the only battle David failed to win was that of being a good Dad. Chapter 13 makes more sense with a refresher of David's family tree. **2 Samuel 3:2 Sons were**

born to David in Hebron: His firstborn was Amnon by Ahinoam the Jezreelitess; 3 his second, Chileab, by Abigail the widow of Nabal the Carmelite; the third, Absalom the son of Maacah, the daughter of Talmi, king of Geshur;

Everyone knew Amnon was the heir to David's throne. But he had two other children by a woman named Maacah – Absalom and his sister, Tamar...

The title of tonight's message is THE FAILURES OF A DAD

Let's pray

Chapter 13

1 After this Absalom the son of David had a lovely sister, whose name was Tamar; and Amnon the son of David loved her. 2 Amnon was so distressed over his sister Tamar that he became sick; for she was a virgin. And it was improper for Amnon to do anything to her. Amnon lusted for his half-sister Tamar so much that he became sick. It was even more difficult for him because she was a virgin — meaning that she was available for marriage, of course not to Amnon because marriage between half-brother and half-sister was forbidden by God in His law

3 But Amnon had a friend whose name was Jonadab the son of Shimeah, David's brother. Now Jonadab was a very crafty man. 4 And he said to him, "Why are you, the king's son, becoming thinner day after day? Will you not tell me?"

Amnon said to him, "I love Tamar, my brother Absalom's sister." As the story plays out, we'll see Amnon didn't love Tamar at all. Amnon lusted after Tamar and called it love. Of course Amnon isn't the last person to do this, because lust often masquerades itself as love.

In his lust, Amnon did not allow himself to call Tamar his sister — instead, she was Absalom's sister. The power of lust is strong enough to twist the way we see reality.

5-6

5 So Jonadab said to him, "Lie down on your bed and pretend to be ill. And when your father comes to see you, say to him, 'Please let my sister Tamar come and give me food, and prepare the food in my sight, that I may see it and eat it from her hand.'" 6 Then Amnon lay down and pretended to be ill; and when the king came to see him, Amnon said to the king, "Please let Tamar my sister come and make a couple of cakes for me in my sight, that I may eat from her hand." Amnon involves his father King David in his wicked plot. And it seems to be an indictment against David that no red flags went up. It shows how distant the King was from the heart of his children.

7 And David sent home to Tamar, saying, "Now go to your brother Amnon's house, and prepare food for him." David plays right into Amnon's deception.

8-13

8 So Tamar went to her brother Amnon's house; and he was lying down. Then she took flour and kneaded it, made cakes in his sight, and baked the cakes. 9 And she took the pan and placed them out before him, but he refused to eat. Then Amnon said, "Have everyone go out from me." And they all went out from him. 10 Then Amnon said to Tamar, "Bring the food into the bedroom, that I may eat from your hand." And Tamar took the cakes which she had made, and brought them to Amnon her brother in the bedroom. 11 Now when she had brought them to him to eat, he took hold of her and said to her, "Come, lie with me, my sister."

12 But she answered him, “No, my brother, do not force me, for no such thing should be done in Israel. Do not do this disgraceful thing! 13 And I, where could I take my shame? And as for you, you would be like one of the fools in Israel. Now therefore, please speak to the king; for he will not withhold me from you.” To avoid the horrors of rape, Tamar pleads for Amnon to ask David for her hand in marriage.

14 However, he would not heed her voice; and being stronger than she, he forced her and lay with her. Tamar tried to resist Amnon’s advances, but she was overpowered. And once he brutalizes his sister, his guilt manifests itself as anger, even hatred towards his victim.

15 Then Amnon hated her exceedingly, so that the hatred with which he hated her was greater than the love with which he had loved her. And Amnon said to her, “Arise, be gone!” Amnon uses Tamar to gratify his sexual appetites - then discards her like trash.

btw this hatred Amnon has towards her, is cleverly disguised self-hatred

This is often how the iniquity of the fathers is carried on by the children to the third and fourth generations **Exodus 20:5 you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me,**

A child will often copy a parent’s sinful behavior and will even go further in the direction of sin the parent is pointed towards.

So Amnon tells Tamar to leave

16-18

16 So she said to him, “No, indeed! This evil of sending me away is worse than the other that you did to me.” But he would not listen

to her. 17 Then he called his servant who attended him, and said, "Here! Put this woman out, away from me, and bolt the door behind her." 18 Now she had on a robe of many colors, for the king's virgin daughters wore such apparel. And his servant put her out and bolted the door behind her. Tamar's robe was the equivalent of a purity ring - a symbol and celebration of a young lady's virginity. Amnon uses her as if she's disposable.

The door slams, the bolt secured. The finality of it all

The pain and trauma are unimaginable.

19 Then Tamar put ashes on her head, and tore her robe of many colors that was on her, and laid her hand on her head and went away crying bitterly. Tamar is disgraced. What has been taken from her, can never be returned.

And when Tamar's brother, Absalom, saw the torn robe he knew what had happened. There was only one reason why his sister would tear her cherished robe.

20 And Absalom her brother said to her, "Has Amnon your brother been with you? But now hold your peace, my sister. He is your brother; do not take this thing to heart." So Tamar remained desolate in her brother Absalom's house. Absalom was trying to console his sister. Help her cope with the crime committed against her by bringing Tamar into his house.

But make no mistake, seeds of vengeance are planted in Absalom's heart.

21 But when King David heard of all these things, he was very angry. He got angry, but took no action. There's no record of David stepping in and punishing Amnon? David may have been hesitant to punish Amnon because he realized that he himself had been guilty of a similar crime.

22 And Absalom spoke to his brother Amnon neither good nor bad. For Absalom hated Amnon, because he had forced his sister Tamar. A deep-seated hatred of Amnon filled the heart of his half-brother, Absalom, and worse... a simmering, seething bitterness toward his own father King David also began to develop in Absalom.

23 And it came to pass, after two full years, that Absalom had sheepshearers in Baal Hazor, which is near Ephraim; so Absalom invited all the king's sons. David had two years to deal with Amnon, but nothing happened. It's a parent's job to provide spiritual and moral direction for the family. When a parent sends contradictory signals - or becomes paralyzed by their own guilt - or prioritizes the wrong things, you better believe chaos and confusion will reign among the kids, and resentment will form.

Now, after 2 years, Absalom's scheming will be set into motion

24 Then Absalom came to the king and said, "Kindly note, your servant has sheepshearers; please, let the king and his servants go with your servant." Sheep shearing was a festive time, and it was natural that Absalom had a great feast and invited everyone.

25 But the king said to Absalom, "No, my son, let us not all go now, lest we be a burden to you." Then he urged him, but he would not go; and he blessed him.

26 Then Absalom said, "If not, please let my brother Amnon go with us."

And the king said to him, "Why should he go with you?" 27 But Absalom urged him; so he let Amnon and all the king's sons go with him. Amnon duped David in his rape of Tamar. Now Absalom uses David to set up Amnon's murder. It's amazing to me that a man as wise and as sensitive to God as David was so blind to the problems in his own family... **1 Timothy 3:5 (for if a man does not**

know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?)

28 Now Absalom had commanded his servants, saying, "Watch now, when Amnon's heart is merry with wine, and when I say to you, 'Strike Amnon!' then kill him. Do not be afraid. Have I not commanded you? Be courageous and valiant." 29 So the servants of Absalom did to Amnon as Absalom had commanded. Then all the king's sons arose, and each one got on his mule and fled. Amnon probably came to the feast nervous about being with Absalom, but after a few cups of wine he was relaxed. Acting like a cold and calculated assassin, Absalom waited until Amnon was relaxed and vulnerable. At that moment, Absalom gave the order, and King David's oldest son is murdered by another son.

Remember last week we saw how God promised David that the sword would never depart from David's house.

30-33

30 And it came to pass, while they were on the way, that news came to David, saying, "Absalom has killed all the king's sons, and not one of them is left!" (not true-look how quickly fake news spread even 3k years ago) 31 So the king arose and tore his garments and lay on the ground, and all his servants stood by with their clothes torn. 32 Then Jonadab the son of Shimeah, David's brother, answered and said, "Let not my lord suppose they have killed all the young men, the king's sons, for only Amnon is dead. For by the command of Absalom this has been determined from the day that he forced his sister Tamar. 33 Now therefore, let not my lord the king take the thing to his heart, to think that all the king's sons are dead. For only Amnon is dead." Jonadab brought the "good" news to David that only Amnon is dead, and dead because he raped his sister Tamar. Jonadab probably hoped to gain favor with David by bringing this more

favorable news, but God knew that Jonadab set the whole course of events in motion with his wicked advice to Amnon earlier in the chapter.

34-36

34 Then Absalom fled. And the young man who was keeping watch lifted his eyes and looked, and there, many people were coming from the road on the hillside behind him.^[fn] 35 And Jonadab said to the king, “Look, the king’s sons are coming; as your servant said, so it is.” 36 So it was, as soon as he had finished speaking, that the king’s sons indeed came, and they lifted up their voice and wept. Also the king and all his servants wept very bitterly. David is rightly grieved at learning of the death of his eldest son Amnon. Yet David’s lack of correction against Amnon contributed to this murder. It’s not just what we do as parents that matters, it’s also what we don’t do...

37-39

37 But Absalom fled and went to Talmai the son of Ammihud, king of Geshur. And David mourned for his son every day. 38 So Absalom fled and went to Geshur, and was there three years. 39 And King David^[fn] longed to go to^[fn] Absalom. For he had been comforted concerning Amnon, because he was dead. Notice, verse 39 tells us, “King David longed to go to Absalom”... but he didn’t. But why didn’t he? David is the king! And the king can do whatever he likes.

David’s too weak to discipline his kids, but once they fail he’s too proud to forgive them.

Chapter 14

Joab is David’s general and long-time friend. He knows the king’s heart like few other people. Joab understands how much the king

loves his son Absalom – and desires to be reunited. Joab knows the two men need to be reconciled, so he comes up with a plan to soften David’s heart...

1-3

1 So Joab the son of Zeruiah perceived that the king’s heart was concerned about Absalom. 2 And Joab sent to Tekoa and brought from there a wise woman, and said to her, “Please pretend to be a mourner, and put on mourning apparel; do not anoint yourself with oil, but act like a woman who has been mourning a long time for the dead. 3 Go to the king and speak to him in this manner.” So Joab put the words in her mouth. Joab employs an actress who will give a similar story of estrangement from her son to break down the walls of David’s heart.

4-10

4 And when the woman of Tekoa spoke to the king, she fell on her face to the ground and prostrated herself, and said, “Help, O king!”

5 Then the king said to her, “What troubles you?”

And she answered, “Indeed I am a widow, my husband is dead. 6 Now your maidservant had two sons; and the two fought with each other in the field, and there was no one to part them, but the one struck the other and killed him. 7 And now the whole family has risen up against your maidservant, and they said, ‘Deliver him who struck his brother, that we may execute him for the life of his brother whom he killed; and we will destroy the heir also.’ So they would extinguish my ember that is left, and leave to my husband neither name nor remnant on the earth.”

8 Then the king said to the woman, “Go to your house, and I will give orders concerning you.”

9 And the woman of Tekoa said to the king, “My lord, O king, let the iniquity be on me and on my father’s house, and the king and his throne be guiltless.”

10 So the king said, “Whoever says anything to you, bring him to me, and he shall not touch you anymore.” There were people calling for justice, and her son’s punishment. But David believes in mercy, because he’s received mercy. And he’s willing to stand up for this woman’s guilty son, and have mercy upon him.

11 Then she said, “Please let the king remember the LORD your God, and do not permit the avenger of blood to destroy anymore, lest they destroy my son.”

And he said, “As the LORD lives, not one hair of your son shall fall to the ground.” David issues a royal pardon to the woman’s son on behalf of the pleas of his mother.

Remember, none of this is true-this is all a ploy to soften David’s heart. See if David starts showing mercy toward estranged sons he doesn’t know, then it shouldn’t be a big stretch to reconcile with his own son.

12 Therefore the woman said, “Please, let your maidservant speak another word to my lord the king.”

And he said, “Say on.” She must’ve gulped hard and mustered all the courage she could. She’s about to boldly confront the king of Israel.

13 So the woman said: “Why then have you schemed such a thing against the people of God? For the king speaks this thing as one who is guilty, in that the king does not bring his banished one home again. She asks David ‘Why are you willing to show mercy on my son and not on your own son?’ Verse 14 contains a profound truth.

14 For we will surely die and become like water spilled on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again. Yet God does not take away a life; but He devises means, so that His banished ones are not expelled from Him. She's speaking to David about the urgency of reconciliation. "David, we all die and then the opportunity for reconciliation is over. Do it now."

its important to know that reconciliation fills the heart of God. Reconciliation between man and God, and man with his fellow man – and God "devises means" to do both... The means by which He brings banished ones home to Himself is Jesus!

2 Corinthians 5 20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. 21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

when we share the gospel, we're reconciling people to God!

15-19

15 Now therefore, I have come to speak of this thing to my lord the king because the people have made me afraid. And your maidservant said, 'I will now speak to the king; it may be that the king will perform the request of his maidservant. 16 For the king will hear and deliver his maidservant from the hand of the man who would destroy me and my son together from the inheritance of God.' 17 Your maidservant said, 'The word of my lord the king will now be comforting; for as the angel of God, so is my lord the king in discerning good and evil. And may the LORD your God be with you.' "

18 Then the king answered and said to the woman, "Please do not hide from me anything that I ask you."

And the woman said, "Please, let my lord the king speak."

19 So the king said, "Is the hand of Joab with you in all this?" And the woman answered and said, "As you live, my lord the king, no one can turn to the right hand or to the left from anything that my lord the king has spoken. For your servant Joab commanded me, and he put all these words in the mouth of your maidservant.

David was blindsided once before by Nathan, he senses it's happening again this time with Joab.

20-24

20 To bring about this change of affairs your servant Joab has done this thing; but my lord is wise, according to the wisdom of the angel of God, to know everything that is in the earth."

21 And the king said to Joab, "All right, I have granted this thing. Go therefore, bring back the young man Absalom."it worked! or so it seems...

22 Then Joab fell to the ground on his face and bowed himself, and thanked the king. And Joab said, "Today your servant knows that I have found favor in your sight, my lord, O king, in that the king has fulfilled the request of his servant." 23 So Joab arose and went to Geshur, and brought Absalom to Jerusalem. 24 And the king said, "Let him return to his own house, but do not let him see my face." So Absalom returned to his own house, but did not see the king's face. This was a painful error, and eventually leads to Absalom's all-out rebellion. David never bothers to greet Absalom, or sit down and talk with him. For two years he ignores his son.

When parents don't discipline properly from the beginning, they tend to overcompensate later in the name of "toughness." This often provokes the children to wrath (Ephesians 6) and makes the parent-child relationship worse.

25 Now in all Israel there was no one who was praised as much as Absalom for his good looks. From the sole of his foot to the crown of his head there was no blemish in him. Absalom was a Hebrew hunk. This begins to explain why Absalom was popular in Israel. Israel was attracted to King Saul because he was a very good-looking man as we saw in 1 Samuel 9.

Absalom was also a man of political destiny. He was the third son of David. The firstborn Amnon was gone, and we hear nothing more of Chileab, the second born. It's quite likely Chileab had died, which meant that Absalom was the crown prince, next in line for the throne.

26 And when he cut the hair of his head—at the end of every year he cut it because it was heavy on him—when he cut it, he weighed the hair of his head at two hundred shekels according to the king's standard. 200 shekels weighed 6 pounds. That's a lot of hair! And this won't be the last time we read of Absalom's hair...

27 To Absalom were born three sons, and one daughter whose name was Tamar. She was a woman of beautiful appearance. Absalom memorialized his wronged sister Tamar by naming a daughter after her.

28 And Absalom dwelt two full years in Jerusalem, but did not see the king's face. Every son longs for his dad's acceptance. And the fact that David withholds it from Absalom - for no apparent reason - only pours fuel on the rage brewing in his son's heart. David is stoking Absalom's bitterness.

Notice David's example of how to be a terrible parent. 1st set a bad example.

2nd-fail to discipline the children as they sinfully follow in your footsteps.

3rd Then get angry at your child, and alienate yourself from them.
4th Ignore the problem and invite them back into your good graces.

5th Pretend to forgive them, yet continue to hold a grudge. Here's a surefire recipe for rebellion...

29 Therefore Absalom sent for Joab, to send him to the king, but he would not come to him. And when he sent again the second time, he would not come. 30 So he said to his servants, "See, Joab's field is near mine, and he has barley there; go and set it on fire." And Absalom's servants set the field on fire. Absalom is desperate to get Joab's attention...

31 Then Joab arose and came to Absalom's house, and said to him, "Why have your servants set my field on fire?"

32 And Absalom answered Joab, "Look, I sent to you, saying, 'Come here, so that I may send you to the king, to say, "Why have I come from Geshur? It would be better for me to be there still."' Now therefore, let me see the king's face; but if there is iniquity in me, let him execute me." Absalom is miserable living in limbo – not knowing where he stands. Notice Absalom is a grown man - an adult. But his relationship with his father still shapes who he is - how he feels.

33 So Joab went to the king and told him. And when he had called for Absalom, he came to the king and bowed himself on his face to the ground before the king. Then the king kissed Absalom. Father and son are finally reunited... But it was too little too late. David's delayed blessing doesn't uproot the seeds of rebellion already sown in Absalom's heart.

A confrontation between father and son is on the horizon that will draw the entire nation into a vicious and bloody civil war.

