

## 2 Samuel 13 - Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015

- Chapter 12 ended with David hearing God speak through the prophet Nathan all the consequences for his adultery and murder.
- David has already tasted from the bitter cup of the first one, which was the death of his son that he conceived with Bathsheba.
- We pick it up now here with the rest of the consequences as they unfold related to his sons and daughters from his other wives.

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.

- So right out of the chute here, we have a huge problem, chief of which is that these are all half-brothers and sisters from David.
- In other words, they were all David's sons and daughters however they all had different mothers who were David's many wives.
- I would suggest that what we're about to see happen, is one of the main reasons God forbids the marrying of many women.

- I'll take it a step further and also suggest the consequences that will now ensue for David, are both natural and supernatural.
- Let me explain, the death of David's son was a supernatural consequence in that God struck the child and he died as a result.
- The death of David's other sons was a result of natural consequences in that he had many wives, and was an absent father.

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." 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.' "

- This is interesting for a number of reasons not the least of which is that it's evidence of the aforementioned absence of a father.
- I would venture to say had David been more involved in the lives of his children he wouldn't have been influenced by Jonadab.
- The reason being is this so-called friend, whose no friend at all, is the one having undue influence on Amnon instead of David.

- There's something else here that I'd like to point out before we move on and it has to do with how Amnon refers to Tamar.
- First, let's be clear here, he's not sick with love, he's sick with lust. Second, he refers to her as Absalom's sister and not his.
- I point this out is because it's textbook when it comes to lust in that one can become self-deceived so as to justify their sin.

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." 7 And David sent home to Tamar, saying, "Now go to your brother Amnon's house, and prepare food for him." 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 me, it seems Tamar is not only beautiful on the outside, but she possesses wisdom and a godly character on the inside.
- What she says here is nothing shy of good sound reason, however, the problem is, you can't reason with one given over to lust.
- Amnon is David's first-born son and as such is heir to the throne, but because he's so full of lust he isn't thinking he'll lose it all.

Adam Clarke - "There is something exceedingly tender and persuasive in this speech of Tamar; but Amnon was a mere brute, and it was all lost on him."

14 However, he would not heed her voice; and being stronger than she, he forced her and lay with her. 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!" 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. 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.

- I can't even begin to imagine how devastated Tamar was. Indeed, her life is essentially over, and will never be the same again.
- This because, she is no longer able to marry as a virgin, having been defiled in this way, not to mention her emotional trauma.
- Sadly, Amnon is alive and well today, and many an innocent victim has had their lives ruined all because of sinful, selfish lust.

- Dare I say that the proverbial apple doesn't fall too far from the tree, such that, when it came to lust, it was like father like son.
- While this does not excuse it in some way may explain it, when seen through the lens of what Amnon's father David also did.
- Though not as grievous its unbridled lust none-the-less that was modeled to Amnon by way of Bathsheba and all David's wives.

- Be that as it may, notice we're told how that Amnon hated her with a hatred that surpassed the lust that he had for her before.
- Again, this is textbook when it comes to lust, lust takes, and when it's finished taking, it will have nothing more to do with them.
- Woven into the fabric of this horrific account is perhaps the greatest lesson that can be learned by young women towards men.

Pastor Chuck said it best this way, "Let me give a friendly, fatherly tip unto all of you young girls, who may be in the position of Tamar, in that you have some fellow who is really pressing hard to have sex with you. He is the soul of kindness. He is very attentive. He calls all the time. He opens the door for you. He brings you flowers, but he's pushing hard for a sexual relationship. Don't give in. If you really love him, make him wait until you're married. If he really loves you, he will. Over, and over, time and again, the fellow will press and press until he has taken you to bed, and that's the last you see or hear from him. You're no longer a challenge. He's conquered, and he's off for new conquests. If you really love him and want him, make him wait. If you really love God, and love yourself, make him wait."

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. 21 But when King David heard of all these things, he was very angry.

- It's because of these verses that I believe David to have been a poor father. Notice that in David's anger, he does nothing.
- This begs the question of why, why doesn't David do anything? One thought is that David's voice has been muted by his sin.
- In other words, David was unable to discipline his son because he himself was guilty of this very sin of lust with Bathsheba.

F.B. Meyer of this said, "They say a man never hears his own voice till it comes back to him from the phonograph. Certainly a man never sees the worst of himself until it reappears in his child."

22 And Absalom spoke to his brother Amnon neither good nor bad. For Absalom hated Amnon, because he had forced his sister Tamar. 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. 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." 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. 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.

- Couple of thoughts here, the first of which has to do with Absalom doing nothing and saying nothing to Amnon for two full years.
- I'm of the belief that he was waiting for his father, to do something about what had been done to Tamar, as David's daughter.
- Then, ironically, when David does nothing, Absalom gets Amnon drunk during the sheep-shearing season and murders him.

One commentator captured the irony in this way, "As David had committed adultery, made Uriah drunk, and then murdered him: so Amnon committeth incest, is made drunk, and [is] then murdered."

F.B. Myer had this to say, "...[This] would never have taken place if David had taken instant measures to punish Amnon."

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!" 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." 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. 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. 37 But Absalom fled and went to Talmi 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 longed to go to Absalom. For he had been comforted concerning Amnon, because he was dead.

- I can't help but notice that running and hiding as Absalom does here, is the Adamic response when we have committed a sin.
- Perhaps better said, like Adam and Eve ran and hid after they sinned so is every son of Adam prone to do when we sin as well.
- The chapter and with it the Bible study ends with David repeating his parental folly, this time doing nothing concerning Absalom.