



YOU CAN

Live

...WITH IT

S E R M O N G U I D E

You Can Live...With It

2 Samuel 13:1-22

INTRODUCTION

NOTES

When we look at today’s key passage, we learn a lot about the life of Tamar. She suffered quite a bit, but her story is one of strength and hope, even in the midst of pain, loss, and struggle. She didn’t like that these things happened, she didn’t endorse them, but she didn’t let them keep her from living. Despite the succession of losses she sustained, she survived. Think about it—she lost her virginity, dignity, sense of decency, virtue, innocence, and confidence. She had been preserving herself for the distinct privilege of presenting herself as pure to the man of her dreams, and now all of that had been taken away. Yet, while life had robbed her, she wasn’t robbed of life. With everything that Amnon took from her, he didn’t take everything. She had lost a lot, but she also had a lot left. And the same is true for you. So in this message today, I want us to look closely at what we can learn from Tamar’s life so we can apply her example to our own experiences of suffering and loss.

KEY POINTS

1. Tamar mourned the vision that had died.

I believe Tamar has a particular vision for what her life was supposed to look like. And she believed that maintaining her virginity was a key part of that vision. But when Amnon took her virginity, she was unclean, unmarriageable, and therefore incapable of living out the life she envisioned herself living.

Losing her virginity like that was like a prison sentence. But in verse 19, she puts on the ashes and tears her clothes because she has to have a funeral for the vision she had for her life, and she has to bury the plan she had for the way things were supposed to work out. The only way she could get to verse 20 was by having a funeral in verse 19 for the way she thought her life would look.

Maybe you can identify with Tamar and you had a vision for how things were going to work out in your own life: school, happy marriage, healthy kids, successful career, money, nice things, and then the bottom falls out. The economy turned, you got fired, you got pregnant, someone cheated on you, you got divorced, or someone took your innocence. And now you have to readjust and reimagine what is possible for your life. As we take a page from Tamar’s story, we learn that the only way that we can be happy is by having a funeral for the vision we had for our lives.

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2. Tamar learned how to pivot.

What I find redeeming in this story is that while Tamar had one brother who hated her, she had another who helped her. She had one brother who lusted after her, but she had another, Absalom, who truly loved her. Her ability to survive in the midst of her suffering is that finds a person to protect her and a place to shelter her. Many people become paralyzed in life because they become so stuck on the person who mistreated them that they don't take the time to find someone who can treat them well. They languish in the pool of their pain and sorrow so long that they miss the people who want to help them and the places that are designed to shelter them. It was Satan who use that brother to take advantage of her, but God had another brother who would treat her right. Tamar was disrespected, discarded, and for a time left without a covering UNTIL another brother stepped up and did what he was supposed to do. From Tamar's story, we can learn to pivot from what Satan used to hurt us and face what God wants to use to heal us. We don't have to allow those who mishandled us to define us. We don't have to let those who didn't appreciate what they had cause us to conclude that we're not worthy of being loved. All we've got to do is to find the people who genuinely care about us and find the places that can nurture and protect us.

3. Tamar held onto her faith.

As a woman of faith, Tamar's commitment to Yahweh still appears intact. By tearing her clothes and putting ashes on her head, Tamar is fulfilling the requirements of her faith tradition. Even though she is angry with her attacker, there is no evidence that she has given up on God. She is emotionally hurt and psychologically scarred, but spiritually her faith in the God who created her has not wavered. I note that because many people find in life's tragedies an occasion to distance themselves from their faith and to give up on God, but not this sister! Despite her fate, she holds on to her faith. She understands that people will disappoint you and they will inevitably let you down, but God will never fail you. He promised never to "...leave nor forsake you..." (Hebrew 13:5).

Yes, God could have prevented what happened, and yes, He could have caused things to go in a different direction, but just because He didn't does not mean that He doesn't love you. In fact, Tamar discovered that she may not have been delivered from it, but she was preserved in it. And that's what I think fueled her faith in knowing that God does not have to deliver us from it, but that He can preserve us in it.

NOTES

No Limits with Pastor Delman

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. Do you have a vision for your life that hasn't come to fruition that you need to mourn? If so, what is it?
2. Who is someone God has placed in your life to show you His love, grace, and protection?
3. When was a time in your life that God preserved you in the midst of something tough, even though He didn't deliver you from it? What can you learn from that experience?
