

David
Part 20
"Amnon's Unbridled Passion"

- In (2 Samuel 12:6) David demanded four-fold restitution for the man in Nathan's parable. That's exactly what God required; a four-fold restitution from David for Uriah, this is seen in the four sons of David: with Bathsheba's child, Amnon, Absalom, and Adonijah.

The Four-fold restitution for David looks like this:

- David takes the life of Uriah; the life of his firstborn child with Bathsheba is taken.
- David displays unbridled lust towards Bathsheba; David later suffers the result of Amnon's unbridled lust with Tamar.
- David greatly betrays Uriah; David suffers betrayal from Absalom.
- David undermined Uriah; David at the end of his life is undermined by Adonijah.

We will see in the story of David's that even though he is forgiven this doesn't pardon him from the consequence of his decision with Bathsheba. Just as the Prophet Nathan told him.

2 Samuel 12:10,11

10 Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.'

11 "This is what the Lord says: 'Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity on you.

2 Samuel 13 NIV

1 In the course of time, Amnon son of David fell in love with Tamar, the beautiful sister of Absalom son of David.

2 Amnon became so obsessed with his sister Tamar that he made himself ill. She was a virgin, and it seemed impossible for him to do anything to her.

3 Now Amnon had an adviser named Jonadab son of Shimeah, David's brother. Jonadab was a very shrewd man. **4** He asked Amnon, "Why do you, the king's son, look so haggard morning after morning? Won't you tell me?"

Amnon said to him, "I'm in love with Tamar, my brother Absalom's sister."

5 "Go to bed and pretend to be ill," Jonadab said. "When your father comes to see you, say to him, 'I would like my sister Tamar to come and give me something to eat. Let her prepare the food in my sight so I may watch her and then eat it from her hand.'"

- **Absalom and Tamar** were the children of David through his wife Maacah, who was the daughter of the king of Geshur
- **Amnon** was David's first-born son, born from his wife Ahinoam the Jezreelitess (2 Samuel 3:2). Being the first-born, Amnon was the crown prince – first in line for the throne of Israel.

Vs. 2 Amnon became so obsessed with his sister Tamar that he made himself ill. She was a virgin, and it seemed impossible for him to do anything to her.

- It seemed impossible for him because the virgin daughters of the king dressed a certain way. It would be obvious to all if she changed the way she dressed. She was also his half sister and marriage between half-brother and half-sister was forbidden.

Vs. 3 Now Amnon had an adviser named Jonadab son of Shimeah, David's brother. Jonadab was a very shrewd man.

- **Shrewd**: having or showing a very sharp power of judgment. Indeed he did, but it was not in a Godly judgement. His wicked advice to Amnon began a disastrous chain of events.

Vs. 4b Amnon said to him, “I’m in love with Tamar, my brother Absalom’s sister.”

“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.” **Guzik**

Vs. 6-10

6 So Amnon lay down and pretended to be ill. When the king came to see him, Amnon said to him, “I would like my sister Tamar to come and make some special bread in my sight, so I may eat from her hand.”

7 David sent word to Tamar at the palace: “Go to the house of your brother Amnon and prepare some food for him.” **8** So Tamar went to the house of her brother Amnon, who was lying down. She took some dough, kneaded it, made the bread in his sight and baked it. **9** Then she took the pan and served him the bread, but he refused to eat.

“Send everyone out of here,” Amnon said. So everyone left him.

10 Then Amnon said to Tamar, “Bring the food here into my bedroom so I may eat from your hand.” And Tamar took the bread she had prepared and brought it to her brother Amnon in his bedroom.

- Amnon took Jonadab’s wicked advice quickly and completely. It’s a clear sign that Amnon’s heart was wicked because he was so quick to act upon his advice. Makes me wonder if he would have even listened to Godly advice at all.
- Amnon’s plot and behavior was clearly questionable, and David allowed it. David was quick to discern the strategy of the enemy on the battle field, yet he failed to do so in his own home.

“it appears that David was generally indulgent towards his children. This may be because he felt guilty that in having so many wives, children, and responsibilities of state, he didn’t take the time to be a true father to his children. He dealt with the guilt by being soft and indulgent with his children.” **Guzik**

- Even though David modeled a determination to serve God with a right heart, in many cases he failed to require the same of his children.
- David may have neglected his responsibility in this area because he felt like he failed himself in other areas. Even in our failures it should never be an excuse to allow ungodly behavior in our family. It should give a greater resolve to not allow them to fail in the areas we have.
- The Devil prays upon and takes full advantage of the naive parenting styles, but nosey parents are from the Lord.
- If there is ever a time to walk in discernment may it begin in our own homes, with our own children.

Vs. 11-22

11 But when she took it to him to eat, he grabbed her and said, “Come to bed with me, my sister.”

12 “No, my brother!” she said to him. “Don’t force me! Such a thing should not be done in Israel! Don’t do this wicked thing. **13** What about me? Where could I get rid of my disgrace? And what about you? You would be like one of the wicked fools in Israel. Please speak to the king; he will not keep me from being married to you.” **14** But he refused to listen to her, and since he was stronger than she, he raped her.

15 Then Amnon hated her with intense hatred. In fact, he hated her more than he had loved her. Amnon said to her, “Get up and get out!”

16 “No!” she said to him. “Sending me away would be a greater wrong than what you have already done to me.”

But he refused to listen to her. **17** He called his personal servant and said, “Get this woman out of my sight and bolt the door after her.”

18 So his servant put her out and bolted the door after her. She was wearing an ornate robe, for this was the kind of garment the virgin daughters of the king wore. **19** Tamar put ashes on her head and tore the ornate robe she was wearing. She put her hands on her head and went away, weeping aloud as she went.

20 Her brother Absalom said to her, “Has that Amnon, your brother, been with you? Be quiet for now, my sister; he is your brother. Don’t take this thing to heart.” And Tamar lived in her brother Absalom’s house, a desolate woman.

21 When King David heard all this, he was furious. **22** And Absalom never said a word to Amnon, either good or bad; he hated Amnon because he had disgraced his sister Tamar.

- Here Amnon the prince reveals his spoiled wicked nature. Even in the midst of Tamar’s pleading he is unwilling to listen or yield.

Vs. 14,15

14 But he refused to listen to her, and since he was stronger than she, he raped her.

15 Then Amnon hated her with intense hatred. In fact, he hated her more than he had loved her. Amnon said to her, “Get up and get out!”

“This revealed Amnon’s attraction for Tamar for what it was – lust, not love. Amnon was attracted to Tamar for what he could get from her, not out of concern for her. In many lustful relationships there is a combination of both love and lust but in Amnon’s attraction there was only lust.” **Guzik**

Vs. 18,19 So his servant put her out and bolted the door after her. She was wearing an ornate robe, for this was the kind of garment the virgin daughters of the king wore. **19** Tamar put ashes on her head and tore the ornate robe she was wearing. She put her hands on her head and went away, weeping aloud as she went.

- My father heart breaks when I read this. This has to be on the list as one of the saddest moments in the Bible. No wonder scripture goes on to say, David was furious and Absalom hated Amnon. This sweet willing half sister was willing to do something good and what was done to her was truly evil.
- The fact is Tamar was a daughter of the King, in every meaning of the word she was a true princess, but now she doesn't feel like a princess at all, only shame. It's just like the plan of the Devil to want to steal a royal sense of belonging, leaving her in ashes and a torn robe.

“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.” (Chuck Smith)

Vs. 23-29

23 Two years later, when Absalom's sheepshearers were at Baal Hazor near the border of Ephraim, he invited all the king's sons to come

there. **24** Absalom went to the king and said, “Your servant has had shearers come. Will the king and his attendants please join me?”

25 “No, my son,” the king replied. “All of us should not go; we would only be a burden to you.” Although Absalom urged him, he still refused to go but gave him his blessing.

26 Then Absalom said, “If not, please let my brother Amnon come with us.”

The king asked him, “Why should he go with you?” **27** But Absalom urged him, so he sent with him Amnon and the rest of the king’s sons.

28 Absalom ordered his men, “Listen! When Amnon is in high spirits from drinking wine and I say to you, ‘Strike Amnon down,’ then kill him. Don’t be afraid. Haven’t I given you this order? Be strong and brave.”

29 So Absalom’s men did to Amnon what Absalom had ordered. Then all the king’s sons got up, mounted their mules and fled.

- The fact that this happened two years later tells us Absalom didn’t forget or forgiven his brother, quite the opposite he plotted in his heart to kill him.
- Absalom’s strategy was much like Amnon’s. He first went to his father asking for his assistance. He made everything look innocent. Then he created a vulnerable situation before struck.
- Consider the full circle nature of what has happened. Just as David had committed adultery, made Uriah drunk, and then murdered: so Amnon committed incest, is made drunk, and is then murdered.
- God told David in judgment of his sin “the sword shall never depart from your house”. This is a partial fulfillment of that promise.

Vs. 30-39

30 While they were on their way, the report came to David: “Absalom has struck down all the king’s sons; not one of them is left.” **31** The king stood up, tore his clothes and lay down on the ground; and all his attendants stood by with their clothes torn.

32 But Jonadab son of Shimeah, David’s brother, said, “My lord should not think that they killed all the princes; only Amnon is dead. This has been Absalom’s express intention ever since the day Amnon raped his sister Tamar. **33** My lord the king should not be concerned about the report that all the king’s sons are dead. Only Amnon is dead.”

34 Meanwhile, Absalom had fled.

Now the man standing watch looked up and saw many people on the road west of him, coming down the side of the hill. The watchman went and told the king, “I see men in the direction of Horonaim, on the side of the hill.”

35 Jonadab said to the king, “See, the king’s sons have come; it has happened just as your servant said.”

36 As he finished speaking, the king’s sons came in, wailing loudly. The king, too, and all his attendants wept very bitterly.

37 Absalom fled and went to Talmai son of Ammihud, the king of Geshur. But King David mourned many days for his son.

38 After Absalom fled and went to Geshur, he stayed there three years. **39** And King David longed to go to Absalom, for he was consoled concerning Amnon’s death.

How this ends is very interesting to me:

#1. In studying this it is believed by commentators and scholars that if David had imposed the law of God on Amnon, it would have brought some justice and possibly avoided such a situation. The law spoken of in (Exodus 22:16-17, Deut. 22:28-29) it says if a man entices a virgin or forces himself upon her he must pay the bride-price for her and take her as his wife.

#2. As a result of Absalom killing his brother he flees to Geshur. This seems to indicate that Absalom fled as a refugee. This tells us Absalom felt justified in what he did, because cities of refuge were only meant for the innocent not criminals.

#3. Absalom fled to the Geshur which was the city which his grandfather was the king. In a sense Absalom abandons his place as a son of David to take on a different identity, the grandson of Talmai, king of Geshur. He remains there for three years before returning to David.

Last:

Vs. 39 And King David longed to go to Absalom, for he was consoled concerning Amnon's death.

NKJV - For he (David) had been comforted concerning Amnon, because he was dead.

#4. This tells us just how displeased David was with Amnon and that David knew there was unfinished business regarding Amnon. Also David knew that this was part of the consequence God spoke of as a result of his sin with Bathsheba and Uriah.

Closing:

- David won the battle on the battle field but lost the battle in his own home.

What good is it for me to win the world and loose my family?

- There is a spiritual connection between victory in my calling, victory in my family and my faithfulness and obedience to God.
- David made mistakes, we all will make mistakes; but unlike David with Bathsheba we must be quick to repent of sin and keep our hearts right with God.