

King David

Assault

2 Samuel 13:1-23

July 7, 2019 am

HDBC

Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will always reap. These are the words of Paul, written to the churches in Galatia, reminding them of a universal principle of life. The fruit that grows is a product of the seed that is planted. Our actions have consequences. Much of what we experience is a result of what we have previously done. Not everything, but many things.

When David chose to commit sexual immorality, followed by deception, murder and a lengthy cover-up, he was planting seeds that would bear fruit in his household for the rest of his life. Nathan said as much when he confronted David. He was forgiven, but would experience the consequences of his sin.

In 2 Samuel 13 we find an early harvest of the seeds of sin that David planted. I want to warn you, it is not pretty. In fact it is downright nasty. Some things are described here that are difficult to speak about. But, we must.

You could change the names and it could be a current event posted on Twitter. To put it in blunt but simple terms, it describes the rape of a young lady by her half-brother. That is by far the most tragic part of this story. But it is not the only tragedy found here. The initial tragedy was compounded by the poor response of those who learned of the incident.

So, let's dive into the text, **prayerfully**, asking God to teach us how to act in our own broken world when the ugliness of sin invades our lives.

1. The Forbidden Desire (1-2) Read text

Four people are named in these two verses.

Absalom – Son of David who will play a major role in next few chapters.

Tamar – Beautiful daughter of David and full sister to Absalom

Amnon – Half-brother to Absalom and Tamar.

David – King and patriarch. The shadow of his sin is all over this chapter.

Amnon is in love with his half-sister. He is infatuated with her beauty and desired to have a relationship with her that would go far beyond that of brother and sister. He desired to have a sexual relationship with her.

His desire for her was so strong that it drove him crazy. He became obsessed with having her for himself. What he needed to do was to recognize those desires for what they were, evil and wicked. **What do you do with evil desires?** Resist them! Starve them! Slay them! That's what he need to do.

Like his father, he did not!

2. The Violent Attack (3-19)

Sin is relentless. Unless it is resisted and rejected, it will find a way. You can't play around with it. You can't flirt with it. The longer you allow it to hang around, the more likely it will succeed. **Sin must be crushed or it will find a way to do its damage!**

That's what happened to Amnon. He refused to deal with his lust.

Ultimately it led to a violent attack on an innocent person. Note three things:

A. It was Premeditated (3-5)

Amnon had a friend, **Jonadab**. He must have been some kind of character. In fact the text indicates that he was **shrewd**. It means **crafty, skilled in deception**. This was not his first rodeo.

He shared a devious plan that would allow Amnon to be alone with Tamar. **Read 3-5.** Wow! He clearly had thought about this. Amnon could have rejected it. **Once again, like his dad, he did not!**

B. It was Abusive (6-14)

He carried out the plan and it worked to perfection. He faked a sickness and asked for Tamar to be sent to make him a meal. He asked that she deliver it personally . . . to his bedroom. Warning lights are flashing!

Once they were alone he grabbed her hand and blurted out his desire to sleep with her. She must have been shocked at his desire and rejected it outright. She quickly built a strong case for him to back down. Note her words in verses 12-13.

Violate – Suffer humiliation. Be afflicted. To be raped.

Not done in Israel – This violates the laws and culture of our people.

Disgraceful – Inappropriate. Outrageous.

Reproach – Taunted, disgraced, dishonored

Fool – Person lacking in sense.

He refused to listen. He overpowered her. Make no mistake, this was an attack on the whole person. Sexual assault must never be viewed simply to an attack on the body. This was an attack on her body, her mind, her heart, her soul.

C. It was Destructive (15-19)

Sexual assault destroys! It destroyed her innocence. It destroyed her dignity. It destroyed her relationship with her brother. It destroyed her sense of safety and security in her family.

It was destructive in another way, as well. **Read 15-19.** Amnon had loved her, he thought. He wanted her. But now this act of violence has destroyed his view of her. Instantly something changed in him. Rather than being drawn toward her like he had before, he rejected her.

The violence that she experienced in the attack was amplified by the rejection that she felt after the attack. She had been an object of his infatuation before the attack. But now, she was an object to be discarded. She had been used by him to fulfil his carnal lusts and now he wanted her out of his sight. WOW! Sexual assault has a destructive power that extends far beyond the physical attack.

3. The Painful Silence (20-23)

It began with a **Forbidden Desire**.

It led to a **Violent Attack**.

It ends with a **Painful Silence**.

The tragedies of this story are stacked on top of each other. An innocent young lady has been violently attacked by a family member, someone whom she trusted. Did you know that sexual assaults normally happen by people who are known and trusted? As high as 80% of rape victims reported that they previously knew their attacker. The idea that most sexual assaults are perpetrated by strangers is a dangerous myth. When this trust is destroyed in such a violent way, it leaves lasting damage.

94% of women who are raped experience Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

33% contemplate suicide

13% attempt suicide

6 times more likely to use cocaine

10 times more likely to use other major drugs

Tamar needed help! What she got was silence!

Absalom's advice. Stay quiet. Don't talk about it. (20)

David's response. Anger. No action. (21)

Absalom's response. Anger. No action for two years! (22-23)

In the meantime, Tamar was dying on the inside. She needed help that was not provided. Absalom ultimately took revenge on his half-brother by killing him. But that did little to help Tamar. She fades from the scene while the rest of the family disintegrates. Heartbreaking!

Takeaways: Three levels to be considered

1. Awareness

Sexual assault happens. It happens in our culture. It happens in homes. It happens in churches. It happens in schools. We must not ignore the reality of sexual assault and sexual abuse.

An American is sexually assaulted every 92 seconds.

1 in 4 girls will be sexually abused before they turn 18.

1 in 6 boys will be sexually abused before they turn 18.

1 in 5 women will be sexually assaulted while in college.

2. Prevention

We must not live in fear, but we must also be vigilante. We must protect ourselves and our families from predators. Get educated. Ask questions. Listen to your children. If you see something, say something. As a church, we are taking additional steps to reduce the possibility here. Sexual abuse policy team working right now.

3. Response

How do you respond when you have been sexually assaulted?

Report it to the authorities.

Share with a pastor and/or trusted friend who will support and encourage.

Seek professional, Christian counseling.

I want HDBC to be a safe place for those who have experienced the trauma of past sexual abuse. If you need to share with someone, we are here for you. We will listen, pray, encourage and help.

How do you respond when you learn of sexual assault?

Assault and abuse survivors need two things. **Healing and Justice.**

Healing. Body, soul, spirit, mind, heart.

Be there. Listen compassionately. Speak carefully.

Call the abuse what it is; evil, wicked and sinful.

Call the abuser what he or she is; an evil, violent aggressor.

Remind the survivor of what he or she is; an innocent victim of an evil attack.

Justice. Need for the criminal to be punished. Report it . . . always!

There is something inherent in the human psyche that understands the need for justice when wrongs have been done. We long for it. We need it. We understand that it cannot undo what has been done. But when justice does not come, there often remains an open wound that is difficult to heal.

Comfort without justice leads to frustration and a sense of helplessness.

Justice without comfort leads to emptiness and a sense of hopelessness.

One day . . . there will be no more assault, no more sexual assault or abuse. God, Himself will wipe away every tear and vanquish pain and sorrow forever!