

“Lessons from the Life of David” – Pastor Jim Ruddy

Study # 38 – Amnon’s Sin Against Tamar – 2 Samuel 13:1-22

I. THE PATTERN OF DESIRE AND FULFILLMENT

A. DAVID AND BATHSHEBA 2 Sam. 11:1-4

- The path to David’s failure involved his inability to bridle his carnal passions. *“David looked, and looked again!”*
- David *saw, sent for, and took* Bathsheba. 2 Sam. 12:10
- David will now find the elements of his own earlier experience coming to full expression within his own family.

B. AMNON AND TAMAR 2 Sam. 13:1-2

- *“After this”* shows the link between the forthcoming events in Amnon’s life and David’s past sinful actions.
- Nathan’s prophecy shall surely come to pass. 2 Sam 12:7-14
- Everyone mentioned in this Chapter is from the same family, making the coming tragedy even worse. Note the emphasis on *“brother”* (v7-8, 10, 12, 20) and *“sister”* (v2, 4-6, 11, 22).
- The narrative that begins with love (v1) ends with hate (v22).
- Amnon was David’s first son and, as such, was heir to the throne.
 - Amnon’s mother was Ahinoam. 2 Sam. 3:2-3
- Absalom was David’s third son, born of Maacah. 2 Sam. 3:2-3
- Tamar, who was Absalom’s full-sister and half-sister to Amnon, was very beautiful. cf. 1 Sam. 25:3; 2 Sam. 11:2
- David liked beautiful women (1 Sam. 25:3; 2 Sam. 11:2), so it is not surprising that his son has a similar desire.
- Amnon was obsessed with Tamar and fantasized of their being together. cf. Song 2:5; 5:8 Note: *lovesick!*
- Tamar’s position as both a relative and a protected virgin negated any hope of a relationship for Amnon.

II. THE PROBLEM WITH DESIRE AND FULFILLMENT

A. THE RECOMMENDATION OF JONADAB 2 Sam. 13:3-6

- Jonadab, Amnon’s shrewd cousin and friend, advised Amnon to pretend to be ill in order to persuade David to send Tamar to take care of him and thus provide the opportunity Amnon was seeking.
- The possibility exists that Jonadab was a coconspirator with Absalom and sought to place Amnon in disfavor with David.
 - Note Absalom’s counsel to Tamar in v20.

B. THE RAPE OF TAMAR 2 Sam. 13:7-14

1. TAMAR’S INNOCENCE

- Following her father’s command, Tamar goes to assist Amnon during his time of “illness,” giving herself to the work at hand.

2. AMNON'S DECADENCE

- Amnon doesn't care about food, he simply wants to get his eyes (and his hands) on Tamar. Note "*in my / his sight*" v5, 8
- After luring Tamar into his bedroom, Amnon grabs her and begins his lustful demands. "*Come, lie with me!*" v11
- Tamar frantically tries to resist! "*Do not force me!*" v12
 - Tamar calls Amnon's forceful act a wicked thing engaged in only by wicked fools. v13 cf. Gen. 34:1-7
- Ignoring her pleadings and objections, Amnon uses his greater strength and forcefully rapes Tamar. v14
 - Heb. David & Bathsheba - "*He lay with her.*" 2 Sam 11:4
 - Amnon & Tamar - "*He laid her.*" 2 Sam 13:14

C. THE REJECTION BY AMNON 2 Sam. 13:15-18

- Initially consumed by lust, Amnon had begged Tamar to come in. Now repulsed by her presence, he banishes her so that he will not be reminded of the heinous sin he has committed. cf. Deut. 22:25-27
- Having satisfied his lustful desires, Amnon discards Tamar like a piece of trash. Note: v17 - "*this woman!*" cf. Judges 19:25
- Amnon has his servants bolt the door in an attempt to seal and conceal his sinful act. cf. Judges 3:21-24
 - Yes, Tamar is shut out, but Amnon is shut in with his sin!

D. THE RESPONSE OF ABSALOM 2 Sam. 13:19-22

1. TAMAR'S DEJECTION

- We are reminded that Tamar is not trash, but rather she is a highly valued and protected virgin daughter of the King.
- The richly ornamented, embroidered robe symbolized her favored status, similar to Joseph's coat of favor. cf. Gen 37:3
- *Wearing the garment* signified her status as an unmarried virgin princess. *Tearing the garment* expressed her grief over her irreparable loss and spoiled future.

2. ABSALOM'S REACTION

- Absalom questions, counsel and covers Tamar. He takes her into his own home and will soon take matters into his own hands.
 - cf. 2 Sam 13:23-29

III. THE PRICE OF DESIRE AND FULFILLMENT

- David's was furious (same word as in 12:5), but is powerless to act against Amnon because he is guilty of the same sin. Sadly, he doesn't even seek to comfort his daughter.
- Like father, like son! David and Amnon remain as sad examples of those who "took" that which did not belong to them!
- Again, the principle of sowing and reaping comes to bear. Amnon will pay with his life for his sin of the flesh. cf. Gal. 6:7-8