

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

Study # 39 – Absalom’s Revenge – 2 Samuel 13:1-39

I. THE RAPE OF TAMAR 2 Sam. 13:1-20

A. AMNON’S FATHER, DAVID

- Amnon, David’s first son, was heir to the throne.
- Amnon’s mother was Ahinoam. cf. 2 Sam. 3:2-3

B. AMNON’S SISTER, TAMAR

- Tamar was Amnon’s beautiful half-sister, over whom he became infatuated and obsessed. “Lovesick” cf. Song 2:5; 5:8

C. AMNON’S FRIEND, JONADAB

- Jonadab was Amnon’s shrewd cousin and friend who advised Amnon as to how to get his way with Tamar.

D. AMNON’S BROTHER, ABSALOM

- Absalom, David’s third son, was the half-brother of Amnon and the full-brother of Tamar, whose rape he was ready to avenge.
- Absalom’s mother was Maacah. cf. 2 Sam. 3:2-3
- Absalom, who takes Tamar into his own home, will soon take matters into his own hands.

II. THE RESPONSE OF DAVID 2 Sam. 13:21

- Upon hearing that his daughter has been violated by his son, David expresses anger but takes no action.
- He has no solace for Tamar and no censure for Amnon.
 - cf. Eph. 6:4; Col. 3:21

III. THE REVENGE OF ABSALOM 2 Sam. 13:22-29

A. HIS PATIENCE v22-23

- Absalom bides his time, for the most part ignoring Amnon, waiting for the opportune moment to avenge his sister’s rape.
- Allowing a lapse of two full years gave Amnon the impression that his sin had no consequence. cf. Num. 32:23; Gal. 6:7

B. HIS PLOT v23-24

- Absalom invites David and his sons to celebrate the blessings of sheep-shearing, a special seasonal work that incorporated times of festive rejoicing. cf. 1 Sam 25:2-8
- Inviting the King and his sons to attend will get Amnon away from Jerusalem without arousing too many suspicions.
- Absalom’s intentions are clear: as the sheep lose their wool, so Amnon will lose his life! cf. 2 Sam. 13:32

C. HIS PRESSURE v25-27

- David attempts to excuse himself by saying that the presence of the king's court would be too burdensome on Absalom.
- Absalom "*urged*" his father (v25, 27), first for him to go, or at least for him to permit Amnon to participate.
 - "*urged*" = to exert force upon an immovable object, like a wall, in order to obtain a breakthrough. cf. 2 Chr. 25:23
 - "*my brother*" (v26) - the only place this is used by Absalom.
 - Absalom uses the same strategy Amnon used to deceive Tamar; "*Please let Tamar my sister come...*" 2 Sam. 13:6,7
- David finally concedes, sending all of his sons, while he alone remains at home! cf. 2 Sam 11:1 = *déjà vu*

D. HIS PERSUASION v28

- With the plan in place, Absalom moves into command.
- Absalom gets others involved in his sin by using words which are normally associated with the highest acts of bravery.
 - "*be courageous, and valiant*" cf. 1 Sam. 18:17; 2 Sam. 2:7; 10:12

E. HIS PLEASURE v29

- As David gave Uriah wine, so Amnon's heart is made merry. Once Amnon was sufficiently drunk, Absalom issued the order he had waited years to speak. cf. 2 Sam. 11:13

IV. THE REMORSE OF DAVID 2 Sam. 13:30-36

A. A MOURNFUL KING

- David is unable to say a thing – he is guilty of the same crimes. His adultery with Bathsheba is mirrored in Amnon's rape of Tamar, and his murder of Uriah is portrayed in Absalom's execution of Amnon. cf. 2 Sam. 12:10

B. A DECEITFUL FRIEND

- Jonadab attempts to ingratiate himself to David, yet his counsel indicates that he was simply an opportunist and must have been part of Absalom's conspiracy.

V. THE RETREAT OF ABSALOM 2 Sam. 13:37-39

- Fearing retribution (surely not from his father, but from the King's sons?) Absalom flees to the home his maternal grandfather. cf. 2 Sam 3:3
- What appears to be the end of the ordeal is in fact the beginning of a series of even greater controversy and struggle within David's house that eventually ends with the death of Absalom.