

1 **AMNON AND TAMAR**

2 Samuel 13

2 **WARRIORS AND POETS**

- A verse-by-verse, story-by-story study through the united kingdom period of Israel, and the reigns of Saul, David, and Solomon.
- David has sinned with Bathsheba, and even though he has now confessed his sin and begun the restoration of his relationship with God, he has also started a cycle of lust-deceit-death which will echo throughout the generation that follows him.

3 **MEET THE KIDS**

- *Now Absalom, David's son, had a beautiful sister, whose name was Tamar. And after a time Amnon, David's son, loved her. And Amnon was so tormented that he made himself ill because of his sister Tamar, for she was a virgin, and it seemed impossible to Amnon to do anything to her. (2 Samuel 13:1-2)*

4 **MEET THE KIDS**

- David has many wives and thus many children – most of whom are half-brothers and sisters of one another:
 - There is Absalom, of course. He'll be important later.
 - Tamar, Absalom's sister (from the same mother). She is one of David's maiden daughters.
 - Amnon, David's eldest son and heir. Half-brother to Absalom and Tamar, he "loves" Tamar and makes himself sick pining away for her.

5 **THERE IS NO JOY IN LUST**

- Amnon's constant lusting after Tamar steals his joy – which is one way we know it to be improper (disordered) affection.
- Lust (covetousness) will always steal your joy because they always desire that which God has not given you.

6 **WITH FRIENDS LIKE THESE...**

- *But Amnon had a friend, whose name was Jonadab, the son of Shimeah, David's brother. And Jonadab was a very crafty man. And he said to him, "O son of the king, why are you so haggard morning after morning? Will you not tell me?" Amnon said to him, "I love Tamar, my brother Absalom's sister." Jonadab said to him, "Lie down on your bed and pretend to be ill. And when your father comes to see you, say to him, 'Let my sister Tamar come and give me bread to eat, and prepare the food in my sight, that I may see it and eat it from her hand.'" (2 Samuel 13:3-5)*

7 **WITH FRIENDS LIKE THESE...**

- Jonadab, David's nephew, is Amnon's friend and a very "crafty" man.
- Jonadab asks Amnon why he is so downcast all the time. Amnon says it is because he loves his "brother's sister."
- He says this rather than "my sister" – he has already worked through the mental

justification for his lust before the act itself occurs.

- Jonadab comes up with a plan that involves Amnon's pretending to be sick and sending for Tamar to act as a nurse.

8 **CHOOSE YOUR FRIENDS WISELY**

- *"You are the same today as you'll be in five years except for two things: the books you read and the people you meet."*
- Not only will a godly friend not egg you on toward sin, a godly friend will not enable you to gratify the desires of your flesh.

9 **AMNON'S DECEIT**

- *So Amnon lay down and pretended to be ill. And when the king came to see him, Amnon said to the king, "Please let my sister Tamar come and make a couple of cakes in my sight, that I may eat from her hand." Then David sent home to Tamar, saying, "Go to your brother Amnon's house and prepare food for him." So Tamar went to her brother Amnon's house, where he was lying down. And she took dough and kneaded it and made cakes in his sight and baked the cakes. (2 Samuel 13:6-8)*

10 **AMNON'S DECEIT**

- Amnon carries out Jonadab's plan.
- David, unwitting, agrees.
- David is not aware of his eldest son's struggles, desires, or sins – probably because he has a blind spot in this area.
- David has undergone a long period of rebellion against God. Now his children are about to repeat his cycle of iniquity and sin – against members of their own family.

11 **AMNON'S DECEIT**

- *And she took the pan and emptied it out before him, but he refused to eat. And Amnon said, "Send out everyone from me." So everyone went out from him. Then Amnon said to Tamar, "Bring the food into the chamber, that I may eat from your hand." And Tamar took the cakes she had made and brought them into the chamber to Amnon her brother. But when she brought them near him to eat, he took hold of her and said to her, "Come, lie with me, my sister." (2 Samuel 13:9-11)*

12 **AMNON'S DECEIT**

- Amnon sends everyone out of the room. Amnon lures Tamar into his chamber, still feigning sickness, and propositions her.

13 **TAMAR'S PROTEST**

- *She answered him, "No, my brother, do not violate me, for such a thing is not done in Israel; do not do this outrageous thing. As for me, where could I carry my shame? And as for you, you would be as one of the outrageous fools in Israel. Now therefore, please speak to the king, for he will not withhold me from you." But he would not listen to her, and being stronger than she, he violated her and lay with her. (2 Samuel 13:12-14)*

14 **TAMAR'S PROTEST**

- Tamar refuses on moral, ethical, and personal grounds, and pleads with Amnon to ask David for her hand in marriage.
 - This would have still been against Mosaic law (relations between siblings of the same father were forbidden) but Tamar is desperate.
- Amnon is impatient and unwilling to wait for the fulfillment of his desires. He forces himself upon Tamar.

15 **AMNON'S HATRED**

- *Then Amnon hated her with very great hatred, so that the hatred with which he hated her was greater than the love with which he had loved her. And Amnon said to her, "Get up! Go!" But she said to him, "No, my brother, for this wrong in sending me away is greater than the other that you did to me." But he would not listen to her. He called the young man who served him and said, "Put this woman out of my presence and bolt the door after her." (2 Samuel 13:15-17)*

16 **AMNON'S HATRED**

- Immediately after the act, Amnon's lust is turned to hatred. "...*the hatred with which he hated her was greater than the love with which he had loved her.*" He sends her away.
- She protests again – she will be shamed now. The lawful thing for him to do is to take her as her wife.
- Amnon has Tamar forcibly expelled from his presence.

17 **BORN OF DISSATISFACTION**

- Lust is born in dissatisfaction with the gifts that God has given me.
- Because it is born of dissatisfaction, it can only ever reap more dissatisfaction. Getting what he "wants" does not please Amnon – it just makes him loathe both himself and Tamar.

18 **THE DESOLATION OF TAMAR**

- *Now she was wearing a long robe with sleeves, for thus were the virgin daughters of the king dressed. So his servant put her out and bolted the door after her. And Tamar put ashes on her head and tore the long robe that she wore. And she laid her hand on her head and went away, crying aloud as she went. And her brother Absalom said to her, "Has Amnon your brother been with you? Now hold your peace, my sister. He is your brother; do not take this to heart." So Tamar lived, a desolate woman, in her brother Absalom's house. (2 Samuel 13:18-20)*

19 **THE DESOLATION OF TAMAR**

- Tamar is wearing a long robe with sleeves – the Hebrew word used for this robe is the same as that used for Joseph's famous "coat of many colors." It is something which is meant to signify one who is set apart or special in some way – in this case, the maiden daughters of king David.
- Tamar tears her special robe and covers herself in ashes, and goes forth weeping because of her shame.

20 **THE DESOLATION OF TAMAR**

- Tamar goes from Amnon's house, weeping, and it is not long before her brother Absalom finds her. He does not have to ask to know what has happened to her – probably because it was obvious to everyone else but David that there was a problem.
- Absalom speaks to her, trying to comfort her with the fact that surely her wrong will be redressed by their father.
- In the meantime, Tamar lives in Absalom's house – a "desolate woman."

21 **ANGRY, BUT PASSIVE**

- *When King David heard of all these things, he was very angry. But Absalom spoke to Amnon neither good nor bad, for Absalom hated Amnon, because he had violated his sister Tamar. (2 Samuel 13:21-22)*
- When David learns of what happens he is "very angry" – but he does not take any steps to either address Tamar's wrong or punish Amnon's sin.
 - Amnon was David's eldest son and the natural heir to the throne.

22 **THE DEMANDS OF THE LAW**

- *"If a man meets a virgin who is not betrothed, and seizes her and lies with her, and they are found, then the man who lay with her shall give to the father of the young woman fifty shekels of silver, and she shall be his wife, because he has violated her. He may not divorce her all his days. (Deuteronomy 22:28-29)*
- David does not apply the law of God to his own household – especially to his eldest son – and Tamar remains desolate.

23 **ABSALOM'S PLOT**

- *After two full years Absalom had sheepshearers at Baal-hazor, which is near Ephraim, and Absalom invited all the king's sons. And Absalom came to the king and said, "Behold, your servant has sheepshearers. Please let the king and his servants go with your servant." But the king said to Absalom, "No, my son, let us not all go, lest we be burdensome to you." He pressed him, but he would not go but gave him his blessing. Then Absalom said, "If not, please let my brother Amnon go with us." And the king said to him, "Why should he go with you?" But Absalom pressed him until he let Amnon and all the king's sons go with him. (2 Samuel 13:23-27)*

24 **ABSALOM'S PLOT**

- Two years pass. Absalom has been biding his time, waiting for a chance to get "justice" for his sister – which of course means revenge.
- Absalom invites all of the king's sons to a feast at Baal-Hazor (safely away from the royal court, not to mention David's personal guard) to celebrate the annual shearing of his flocks.
- Absalom invites David, who declines his son's generosity, not wanting the court to be a burden on Absalom.
- Absalom then counters by making sure that Amnon and the other princes will be

able to attend. David, initially suspicious, relents.

25 **THE MURDER OF AMNON**

- *Then Absalom commanded his servants, "Mark when Amnon's heart is merry with wine, and when I say to you, 'Strike Amnon,' then kill him. Do not fear; have I not commanded you? Be courageous and be valiant." So the servants of Absalom did to Amnon as Absalom had commanded. Then all the king's sons arose, and each mounted his mule and fled. (2 Samuel 13:28-29)*

26 **THE MURDER OF AMNON**

- Absalom sets his plans in motion for Amnon's murder. When Amnon becomes drunk, Absalom's servants are commanded to seize Amnon and strike him dead.
- Amnon is killed, and all of the other princes flee, fearing for their lives.

27 **A FALSE ALARM**

- *While they were on the way, news came to David, "Absalom has struck down all the king's sons, and not one of them is left." Then the king arose and tore his garments and lay on the earth. And all his servants who were standing by tore their garments. (2 Samuel 13:30-31)*

28 **A FALSE ALARM**

- *But Jonadab the son of Shimeah, David's brother, said, "Let not my lord suppose that they have killed all the young men, the king's sons, for Amnon alone is dead. For by the command of Absalom this has been determined from the day he violated his sister Tamar. Now therefore let not my lord the king so take it to heart as to suppose that all the king's sons are dead, for Amnon alone is dead." (2 Samuel 13:32-33)*
- Jonadab's words almost make us ask if he was in the know all along.

29 **THE PRINCES RETURN**

- *But Absalom fled. And the young man who kept the watch lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, many people were coming from the road behind him by the side of the mountain. And Jonadab said to the king, "Behold, the king's sons have come; as your servant said, so it has come about." And as soon as he had finished speaking, behold, the king's sons came and lifted up their voice and wept. And the king also and all his servants wept very bitterly. (2 Samuel 13:34-36)*

30 **A PRINCE IN EXILE**

- *But Absalom fled and went to Talmai the son of Ammihud, king of Geshur. And David mourned for his son day after day. So Absalom fled and went to Geshur, and was there three years. And the spirit of the king longed to go out to Absalom, because he was comforted about Amnon, since he was dead. (2 Samuel 13:37-39)*

31 **A PRINCE IN EXILE**

- David's sons return and lament the death of Amnon.
- Absalom, knowing that he has committed murder, flees.
- Absalom flees to Geshur, where he will spend another three years. David mourns the

loss of Amnon.

- After the mourning is over, David longs to have the relationship restored – but he, as before, remains silent and does nothing.

32 **WHERE IS JESUS IN ALL OF THIS?**

- Looking in all of this tragedy, it is sometimes difficult to see Christ.
- If it seems like there is a lack of redemption in this passage – and in this story – it is only because those who are sinning refuse to seek the face of God.
- Do not harden your heart (Romans 2).

33 **WHERE IS JESUS IN ALL OF THIS?**

- Looking in all of this tragedy, it is sometimes difficult to see Christ.
- He is there for every Tamar: For every one who has had a wrong done to them, Christ has taken your shame and your desolation. He has come to “bind up the broken-hearted.” (Isa 61:1)

34 **WHERE IS JESUS IN ALL OF THIS?**

- Looking in all of this tragedy, it is sometimes difficult to see Christ.
- He is there for every Amnon: For those who are burning up with desire for things that cannot satisfy, Christ took your sin and your guilt and your shame upon himself. He has come to “proclaim liberty to the captives.” (Isa 61:1)