

“The Sins of the Father”
2 Samuel 13
(Preached at Trinity, July 28, 2019)

I'm supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord's Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I'll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. David's life and legacy was a powerful testimony of courage and heroism and faith. Sadly, however, all of these excellent qualities were tainted by the great sins we have witnessed in the preceding chapters. David repented of his sins and received God's forgiveness and restoration, yet his sin would cast a shadow upon the remainder of his reign. God promised David that there would be lasting consequences.
2 Samuel 12:9-11 NAU - "You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword, have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the sons of Ammon. ¹⁰ 'Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised Me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.' ¹¹ "Thus says the LORD, 'Behold, I will raise up evil against you from your own household"
2. The first stroke of God's justice came with the death of David's son conceived in his adulterous affair.
2 Samuel 12:14 NAU - "However, because by this deed you have given occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also that is born to you shall surely die."
3. Throughout the remaining years of David's reign we'll continue to see the God's promise of just judgment coming to pass. As David advanced in years, instead of enjoying the fruits of his excellent reign David would go from one grief-filled tragedy to the next. We must not fail to comprehend the tragic consequence of sin. May it cause us to flee all appearance of evil.
4. As we come to **Chapter 13** we find the sins of David tragically continuing in the lives of his children. We hear the Word of God in the Law:
Exodus. 20:5-6 KJV - "visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth *generation* of them that hate me; ⁶ And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments."
5. We find in this chapter the tale of two sons and a daughter, a tale of lust, incest, and revenge. The story serves as a prologue to explain Absalom's rebellion against David so the chapter introduces Absalom first.
2 Samuel 13:1 NAU - "Now it was after this that Absalom the son of David had a beautiful sister whose name was Tamar, and Amnon the son of David loved her." Notice the story begins against the backdrop of David's sin with Bathsheba –
“Now it was after this . . .”

6. It opens as a story of a young man and the lust of the eye, the unbridled sin that wages war against the soul.
 Don't forget the charge to us:
1 Peter 2:11 NAU - "Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul."
7. It is not difficult to see how the sin of David affected his family.
- I. David's sin became an example to his children
- A. Parents must display their faith to their children
1. We must not diminish the power of our example
 2. G.K. Beale writes: "One of the main ways that children of Christian parents become Christians is not merely through biblical teaching but also through the models of Christ-like living that they catch from their parents. Unfortunately, children of Christian parents sometimes rebel against the faith because their parents play the part of a Christian outside the home but respond to trials no differently than an unbeliever within the home."¹
 3. We know the proverb well:
Proverbs 22:6 KJV - "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."
 The verse should literally read: "Train up a child according to his way"
 In other words, sin and foolishness are bound up in the heart of a child. Left to himself his will not depart from it. Children must be properly raised by wise parents who recognize the reality of their sinful hearts.
Proverbs 22:15 NAU - "Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of discipline will remove it far from him."
 4. David's children observed his actions. His standards became their standards.
- B. We must never forget the axiom: Sin left unrestrained will always increase. What was true with David was also true with Amnon
1. As with David his father, Amnon's sin continued to progress until it reached its pinnacle.
James 1:14-16 NAU - "But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. ¹⁵ Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death. ¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren."
 2. But, as we'll see, Amnon's sin increased in severity and shame
 - a. William Blackburn – "And how does this cry aloud to every parent to beware of tolerating in ourselves what we would not have continued and intensified in our children. The evil that you may have almost overcome, may appear in your child, and prove its ruin. Let fathers and mothers dwell upon this lesson."²
 - b. Although David shamefully took advantage of his power as king, the text doesn't tell us he forcefully forced himself on Bathsheba.

¹ G. K. Beale, *1–2 Thessalonians*, The IVP New Testament Commentary Series, (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2003), 58.

² William M. Blackburn, *The Rebel Prince*, (Birmingham: Solid Ground Christian Books, 1864), Page 27.

- c. We find Amnon overpowering Tamar with overwhelming strength while she begged Amnon, "No my brother."
 - 3. David truly loved Bathsheba and took her to be his wife. We find he gave her the affection and care that a husband owes to his wife. At the death of their child we read: **2 Samuel 12:24 NAU** - "Then David comforted his wife Bathsheba"
 - 4. Amnon claimed to love Tamar.
 - a. He told his friend:
2 Samuel 13:4 NAU - "I am in love with Tamar, the sister of my brother Absalom."
 - b. In reality, the love of Amnon was nothing more than lust. After he got what he wanted the love departed as quickly as it came.
2 Samuel 13:15 NAU - "Then Amnon hated her with a very great hatred; for the hatred with which he hated her was greater than the love with which he had loved her."
2 Samuel 13:17 NAU - "Then he called his young man who attended him and said, "Now throw this woman out of my *presence*, and lock the door behind her."
 - 5. David's sin was probably well known. God told him,
2 Samuel 12:14 NAU - "However, because by this deed you have given occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme"
 - a. Although David repented and received mercy, those on the outside saw David getting away with adultery and murder.
 - b. Amnon had little fear of facing any consequences for his actions. He assumed, just like his father, he too would get away with his deed. Indeed, David lacked the moral high-ground to do anything about it. Those who tolerate sin in their own lives have little ground to confront others.
 - C. We can also see David's sinful heart in Absalom
 - 1. The burning embers of revenge burned in Absalom's heart
 - 2. As David was not above murder neither was Absalom. As David commanded Joab to carry out the death of Uriah, Absalom ordered the death of Amnon. While David sought to do the deed in secret, Absalom committed the murder openly.
2 Samuel 13:28 NAU - "Absalom commanded his servants, saying, "See now, when Amnon's heart is merry with wine, and when I say to you, 'Strike Amnon,' then put him to death. Do not fear; have not I myself commanded you? Be courageous and be valiant."
- II. David's sin was exacerbated by bad parenting which will enflame the sins of children
- A. David had not properly trained his children in the principles of holiness
 - 1. As Hebrew children they would have been taught the Ten Commandments, but they had not been taught them as moral absolutes.
 - 2. We must teach our children moral absolutes.
Again, David had lost the moral high ground

3. David never held his children accountable for their actions
When David found out about the rape of Tamar he was angry. That's good. What should be the reaction of a father when he finds out that one of his sons rapes his daughter? Anger? Outrage? But then what?
David did nothing!
2 Samuel 13:21 NAU - "Now when King David heard of all these matters, he was very angry."
William Blaikie – "When King David heard of all these things, he was wrath. Little wonder! But was this all? Was no punishment found for Amnon? Was he allowed to remain in the palace, the oldest son of the king, with nothing to mark his father's displeasure, nothing to neutralize his influence with other royal children, nothing to neutralize his influence with other royal children, nothing to prevent the repetition of his wickedness? We cannot but be indignant at the inactivity of David."³
 3. David followed the same pattern with Absalom. Knowing Absalom had killed his brother, David did nothing about it.
 - a. His love for Absalom prevented him from holding Absalom accountable for his sin.
2 Samuel 14:1 NAU - "Now Joab the son of Zeruihah perceived that the king's heart *was inclined* toward Absalom."
 - b. Later after Absalom proved to be a rebellious traitor David commanded Joab:
2 Samuel 18:5 NAU - "The king charged Joab and Abishai and Ittai, saying, "*Deal* gently for my sake with the young man Absalom."
 - c. How many times has the affection of a father covered up the sins of his children?
 4. David's style of parenting can be summarized as we read about Adonijah, the son after Absalom:
1 Kings 1:6 NAU - "His father had never crossed him at any time by asking, "Why have you done so?"
- B. David failed to provide wise oversight, direction, and protection in the lives of his children
1. Raising children demands involvement in their lives. It demands protecting them from the corruption of our fallen world.
 - a. Parents are often far too trusting, with disastrous results.
 - b. Boys and girls should not be left alone, unchaperoned. Parents are notoriously naïve. They assume that church kids should be given a pass. Over and over children are told to stay away from strangers, when they are far more likely to be abused by someone they know.
 - c. Notice throughout the episode Tamar is referred to as Absalom's sister (1,4,20,22), but not David's daughter. It would seem her relationship to Absalom was a greater obstacle to Amnon's desires than the protection of her father.

³ Blaikie, William Garden. (2005). *Expository Lectures on the Book of 2 Samuel*. (Birmingham: Solid Ground Christian Books), page 198.

2. We've seen this in the testimony of Scripture
 - a. Dinah was given too much freedom with disastrous results. Jacob will forever bear the guilt of this.
Genesis 34:1-2 NAU - "Now Dinah the daughter of Leah, whom she had borne to Jacob, went out to visit the daughters of the land. ² When Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, the prince of the land, saw her, he took her and lay with her by force."
 - b. Now we find David naively doing the same thing. From every observation, Tamar was a chaste, Godly young lady. She had been taught the virtues of true femininity. David's lack of wise oversight with Tamar, if not criminal negligence, was certainly foolish and naive.
2 Samuel 13:7 NAU - "Then David sent to the house for Tamar, saying, "Go now to your brother Amnon's house, and prepare food for him."
 Richard Phillips writes:
 "This passage presents Tamar as a daughter of Zion who fully imbibed not only the letter but all the spirit of godly femininity. Women like her . . . cultivating beauty, sexual purity, devotion to God, and a heart of good works and compassion are beyond price in their spiritual value. Not only should Tamar not be treated with the violence that will occur in this passage, but a woman like her should never be put into a situation in which such an attack is even possible. Believing daughters should be treated as precious by all men in the church, especially their fathers, but also the young men and boys . . . she must be kept safe at all costs."⁴
 - c. The failure of parents to provide proper oversight can lead to the destruction of a life – most abuse does not come from strangers but from friends and family members you would least suspect.
- C. Over and over in Scripture we find examples of parents not providing direction for their adult children.
 1. Jacob failed to provide direction to his adult sons, with disastrous results. He suspected their hand in the loss of Joseph. He also knew their treachery with Shechem. He cried out "You have brought trouble on me" and yet he did nothing.
 2. God brought judgment upon Eli for not holding his adult sons, Hophni and Phineas accountable for their actions.
 - a. We saw in 1 Samuel that Eli knew about their wickedness but did nothing about it.
1 Samuel 2:22-23 NAU - "Now Eli was very old; and he heard all that his sons were doing to all Israel, and how they lay with the women who served at the doorway of the tent of meeting. ²³ He said to them, "Why do you do such things, the evil things that I hear from all these people?"

⁴ Philips, Richard. *2 Samuel, Reformed Expository Commentary*. Phillipsburg: P&R, 2018, Page 249.

- b. Eli's rebuke did not lead to correction or punishment. He should have immediately removed them from office. God took notice.
1 Samuel 3:13 NAU - "For I have told him that I am about to judge his house forever for the iniquity which he knew, because his sons brought a curse on themselves and he did not rebuke them."
- c. God told Eli:
1 Samuel 2:29 NAU - "Why do you kick at My sacrifice and at My offering which I have commanded *in My dwelling*, and honor your sons above Me, by making yourselves fat with the choicest of every offering of My people Israel?"
- 3. Now we find this sin in David. His affection for his son prevented him from holding him accountable for his actions.
- D. This is often the pattern of parents today
 - 1. When they see the sinful deeds of their children, they find it much easier to look the other way. It only gets worse as the children get older.
 - 2. Most parents fear to offend their children. They won't correct them because they don't want their children to be mad at them. Or they fear what their children might do. They allow all manner of sinful behavior to occur in their own home without any consequences.
 - 3. Parents have the duty to provide direction for their children. The question is often asked: when are the children no longer under the authority and oversight of their parents? The answer is, when they are no longer a part of their parent's household. This is an important axiom as adult children are often remaining at home much longer than in the past.
 - 4. Parents bear the responsibility of maintaining a standard of Godly behavior for those living in their household. As long as children are living under the roof of their parents, they are under the authority of their parents.
 - 5. Joshua proclaimed, **Joshua 24:15 NAU** - "as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."
Joshua was an old man, but those living in his house were required to serve God. That would include both servants, and adult sons and daughters living in his home.

Conclusion:

1. This chapter provides us with weighty matters to consider. David was a man of faith, far exceeding most of us. But he had a blind spot in the lives of his children. The sinful behavior of the parents is often reflected in the lives of their children. Christian fathers have a duty to set a godly example towards their children and demonstrate in the care of their wives our proper conduct towards women.
2. It also reminds us of the high duty of parents for providing care and oversight to their children.
3. David's poor example and insufficient parenting all but destroyed his home. We'll even see this in the life of Solomon, whose wisdom was unparalleled. He profited much from the wisdom of David. But he also followed the lustful pattern of his father by giving over to his lusts. Sin always gets worse and worse. Solomon's sin far exceeded those of his father.

We read of the end of Solomon:

- 1 Kings 11:3-4 NAU** - "He had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines, and his wives turned his heart away. ⁴ For when Solomon was old, his wives turned his heart away after other gods; and his heart was not wholly devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father *had been*."
4. May God grant us to give careful regard to the effect of our lives upon our children.