

Message #17**II Samuel 13:1-39**

From I Samuel 16 to II Samuel 10, God has been directing and empowering David to be His King. We have been tracking David's life for years and it is truly a remarkable story of the sovereignty of God.

But when we came to II Samuel 11, David, as honored king, committed a horrific sin. It was a sin of covetousness, lying, stealing, idolatry, drunkenness, adultery and murder.

Nathan confronted David and David admitted his sin and confessed his sin and God forgave him. However, there would be some consequences in his family.

When God forgave David, God said, "...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...I will raise up evil against you from your own household..." (II Sam. 12:10-11).

Most of the rest of the book of II Samuel develops those consequences.

WHEN GOD HAS WORKED IN OUR LIVES AND BLESSED US, THERE WILL BE CONSEQUENCES THAT HE WILL IMPLEMENT IF WE CHOOSE TO SIN AGAINST HIM.

Again, we want to clearly understand that these consequences are in fact permitted by God. So these consequences are not inflicted on David by someone who comes up with a list of consequences. God, Himself, is permitting this. There are three consequences in this chapter:

CONSEQUENCE #1 – David's first son, Amnon, rapes Tamar. 13:1-22

Now we may recall that when David was in Hebron, he had six sons:

- 1) Amnon was son number one by Ahinoam the Jezreelitess (II Sam. 3:2).
- 2) Chileab was son number two by Abigail (II Sam. 3:3a).
- 3) Absalom was son number three by Maacah (II Sam. 3:3b).
- 4) Adonijah was son number four by Haggith (II Sam. 3:4a).
- 5) Shephatiah was son number five by Abital (II Sam. 3:4b).
- 6) Ithream was son number six by Eglah (3:5a).

So initially we could conclude that the first son in line to replace David as king would have been Amnon. But that would not happen. Amnon would turn out to be a rapist. There are 20 explicit facts brought out in this chapter:

Fact #1 - Absalom, David's third son by Maacah (3:3), had a beautiful sister named Tamar. 13:1a

So Tamar is Absalom's full sister. She was the daughter of David through Maacah.

Fact #2 - Amnon, David's first son by Ahinoam (3:2), loved Tamar, his half-sister. **13:1b**

So Amnon is the half-brother of both Absalom and Tamar. He was a love-struck fool who could not control himself or his passions.

Fact #3 - Amnon was frustrated and lovesick because Tamar was an unmarried virgin. **13:2**

Amnon is her half-brother and he knows Tamar will not marry him. In fact, according to Levitical Law, a sister was completely off-limits when it came to any sexual activity (Lev. 18:9-11; 20:17).

So what bothered him was that here was this beautiful unmarried girl and he wanted her, but couldn't have her because of the law of God.

The word "made himself ill" indicates that he was in such mental distress that he actually made himself sick over it. Those who are dominated by lusts literally are sick. They are not mentally or morally stable. Their lusts consume them.

Fact #4 - Amnon had a friend whose name was Jonadab. **13:3**

Jonadab was Amnon's cousin. He was the son of David's brother whose name was Shimeah. He is called Shammah in I Sam. 16:9.

Now the text says that Jonadab was a "very shrewd man." Now the word "shrewd" normally is used in a positive sense. It typically refers to one who is very wise. In fact, later in this chapter from **verse 32-36** it appears as though he is a leader of sorts.

So he must have been a very wise individual. In fact, the word "friend" does lend itself to some official counselor connected to Amnon. I am certain that he thinks it is wise to be Amnon's friend because he could be the heir apparent to the king.

But what he does here is certainly not Biblically wise; it is the devilish and worldly concepts of a fool.

Fact #5 - Jonadab asked Amnon what was wrong with him. **13:4a**

Apparently day after day Amnon was in a state of depression. Every day Amnon walked around in some state or fit of depression. His countenance displayed it.

Fact #6 - Amnon tells Jonadab he is in love with Tamar, his half-sister. **13:4b**

As we will see, Amnon does not love Tamar, he is lusting for Tamar. He wants to have sex with her and when it is all over, he will get rid of her. This had nothing to do with love. Amnon was a lust-crazed monster.

When he tells Jonadab that this is the sister of his brother, Absalom, that should have prompted him to instruct him to leave her alone. But that is not what happened.

Fact #7 - Jonadab devises a devious plan for Amnon to get Tamar. **13:5**

He tells Amnon to lie down in bed and pretend to be sick and when his father David checks on him, tell him to have Tamar come to take care of him.

He advised him to tell David to have Tamar make him a couple of cakes in his sight and bring to him to eat.

Now you would think that would be a tip off. If you are sick, why do you care if you watch someone making the food? All you want is the food? This story should have put up red flags to David.

But here is an indication that David is not thinking completely right. He has lost some of his edge and spiritual wits. In my view, it will take years before he is back on track.

Fact #8 - David came to see Amnon and Amnon did what Jonadab suggested. **13:6**

The first part of the plan is working perfectly. David came in and Amnon said let Tamar come in and make a couple of cakes in front of me that I may eat them out of her hand.

The Hebrew word “cakes” (lebiba) indicates that this was some form of dumpling type cake.

David should have said, wait a minute, why is this necessary to the cure for what ails you?

Fact #9 - David sends for Tamar and requests that she go to her brother Amnon and make the cakes for her half-brother. **13:7**

Again the thing that should be a red flag to David, is why would Amnon care if she made the bread there?

Fact #10 - Tamar went to Amnon’s house and made the cakes in front of him. **13:8-10**

Tamar obeyed her dad. When she got to Amnon’s house she made the bread. But when she got done, she took the bread out of the pans and he refused to eat it.

So Amnon said have the others leave the house and bring the food into the bedroom so I can eat it. Apparently, he was pretending to be so sick that he could not even get out of bed.

Fact #11 - Tamar brings the food to Amnon and he forcefully grabs her, demanding she lie with him. **13:11**

Now what makes this even worse is that Amnon says you are “my sister.” So he is asking and demanding that his sister have sexual relations with him and he defiantly knows this is his sister and this is against the law of God.

This is a man who we could say goes to church. He is a man who knows something about the word of God. Don’t kid yourself. There are lust-crazed men who go to church. They are scouting out their prey and they will act the part to lure in the prey.

Fact #12 - Tamar verbally and physically refuses to lie with him. **13:12-13**

Tamar said, “no.” This is a very strong “no” I will not have sex with you. She reasons don’t violate me, humiliate me and disgrace me in this way. I would be a reproach and you would be viewed as a fool in Israel.

She tries to reason with him personally, rationally, morally and religiously. But when you are dealing with a lust-crazed maniac, he is not rational, moral or religious.

In a final desperate argument she said why don’t you go talk to the King, our dad, for he will probably let us marry. Actually, David would probably not have let them marry, but she is fighting for her virtue here.

Fact #13 - Amnon rapes Tamar. **13:14**

He was physically stronger than she was and he would not listen to anything she had to say and he raped her.

I have read those psychological journals about rapists and they all tend to say rape is not about sex, it is about power. I am sure there are times when that is true. But not here! This is all about sex. It has nothing to do with power. Amnon was a lust-driven sexual predator who wanted sex and he raped his own sister.

Fact #14 - Amnon hates Tamar and tells her to leave. **13:15**

Under O.T. law, if one had sexual relations with a virgin not pledged to be married, he was obligated to marry her and pay a financial penalty (Ex. 22:16-17; Deut. 22:28-29). Amnon did not want to do that so he told her to leave.

Fact #15 - Tamar pleads with Amnon to do what is right and not send her away. **13:16**

You cannot expect that Amnon is all of a sudden going to become this upstanding man who will face up to his wrong and responsibilities. He is not a man of integrity; this is a lust-crazed maniac.

Fact #16 - Amnon has Tamar thrown out of his house. **13:17**

All women need to see this. There are some men who will use you for sex and throw you out and throw you away. They don't love you, they don't care about you and they will not do what is right after they have used you.

Fact #17 - Tamar responds oddly as David's daughter. **13:18-19**

Tamar is a beautiful daughter. David had given each virgin daughter a "rich ornamented robe." Tamar put ashes on her head and tore her garment and put her hand on her head to cover her shame and went away crying loudly.

Tamar did not do anything to bring this on. She was raped and abandoned and she was innocent.

Fact #18 - Absalom takes care of Tamar. **13:20**

Absalom was Tamar's full brother and he, in my opinion, is a good brother.

Absalom told his sister to keep quiet about this and he took her into his house. She lived an isolated life, but her brother cared about her and he cared for her.

If you have some bad sexual encounter in life, it is not the end of the world. You can refocus on your relationship with the Lord because He cares about you and He will care for you.

Fact #19 - David learns about what happened and is very angry. **13:21**

The text says when David learned what happened, he was "very angry." When we read this story, we are very angry. But the question here is what did David do about it? Was it just that he was angry, like, "I really gave him a look." What did he do?

According to Deuteronomy, David could demand that Amnon pay a fine of 50 shekels of silver and that he marry Tamar (Deut. 22:28-29). The problem here is that the law did not permit a marriage between family members (Deut. 27:22). As near as we may determine, David did not do anything. You see, his mind is not functioning right since that episode in his own life.

You give into lusts and it will mess up your mind. You will lose your ability to think right and act right and judge right..

Fact #20 - Absalom hated Amnon and did not speak to him. **13:22**

Now David did not think there was much he could do, but Absalom did. Absalom was not going to let this go. He would settle the score for his sister.

CONSEQUENCE #2 – Absalom murders Amnon. 13:23-36

Absalom let two years go by (v. 23a). Absalom owned land in Baal-hazor which is about 14 miles north of Jerusalem. He was shearing his sheep and he invited the king and all of the king's sons and his servants to a big feast (v. 23b-24).

David was a good father and in **verse 25** he told Absalom that he would not go because this would be a major financial burden on his own son. He appreciated the offer and he thanked Absalom and blessed Absalom for the offer, but he declined.

According to **verse 26**, Absalom said well at least let Amnon and the other boys go. From David's response, it appears as though he was suspicious of this because Absalom had not spoken to Amnon for two years.

Apparently David thought well since all the boys are going, Amnon can go (v. 27).

Now these feasts and banquets featured great food and great wine. So Absalom gave an order to his servants and that when Amnon has had a lot of wine, I will give a command and when I do, you kill him (v. 28). They did not need to be afraid, just kill him.

According to **verse 29**, when he gave the command they killed him and the other brothers said we need to get out of here so they jumped on their mules and galloped away.

Now the first report David got of this was that all of his sons had been killed (v. 30). We may assume that before the other sons could get back to Jerusalem, some servant who was fleeing thought that all the sons had been killed and told David.

When David heard that, he tore his own clothes and lay down on the ground. The guards tore theirs also, but they stayed alert (v. 31).

Jonadab, who was responsible for the rape, told David that not all of his sons were killed, but just Amnon was killed by Absalom and only Absalom has fled. When his sons arrived, they all wept bitterly (v. 32-36).

CONSEQUENCE #3 – Absalom flees from David. 13:37-39

Absalom fled and went and joined with the king of Geshur and was there for three years. Geshur was located some 80 miles north east of Jerusalem and this was the home of his maternal grandparents. David's wife and Absalom's mother, Maacah, was the daughter of Talmai, the king of Geshur (II Sam. 3:3).

David loved Absalom and missed him and longed to see Absalom. He had come to terms with the fact that he had killed Amnon.