

David: After God's Heart

God established the family for loving relationships; sin destroys them.



TRANSFORMATION
for Adult LifeGroups

2 SAMUEL 13:15-20,31-39 - GRIEVED

JULY 08, 2018/JULY 11, 2018

TODAY'S TEXT

Text: 2 SAMUEL 13:15-20,31-39 (NIV), *Then Amnon hated her with intense hatred. In fact, he hated her more than he had loved her. Amnon said to her, "Get up and get out!" 16 "No!" she said to him. "Sending me away would be a greater wrong than what you have already done to me." But he refused to listen to her. 17 He called his personal servant and said, "Get this woman out of my sight and bolt the door after her." 18 So his servant put her out and bolted the door after her. She was wearing an ornate[a] robe, for this was the kind of garment the virgin daughters of the king wore. 19 Tamar put ashes on her head and tore the ornate robe she was wearing. She put her hands on her head and went away, weeping aloud as she went. 20 Her brother Absalom said to her, "Has that Amnon, your brother, been with you? Be quiet for now, my sister; he is your brother. Don't take this thing to heart." And Tamar lived in her brother Absalom's house, a desolate woman . . . 31 The king stood up, tore his clothes and lay down on the ground; and all his attendants stood by with their clothes torn. 32 But Jonadab son of Shimeah, David's brother, said, "My lord should not think that they killed all the princes; only Amnon is dead. This has been Absalom's express intention ever since the day Amnon raped his sister Tamar. 33 My lord the king should not be concerned about the report that all the king's sons are dead. Only Amnon is dead." 34 Meanwhile, Absalom had fled. Now the man standing watch looked up and saw many people on the road west of him, coming down the side of the hill. The watchman went and told the king, "I see men in the direction of Horonaim, on the side of the hill." 35 Jonadab said to the king, "See, the king's sons have come; it has happened just as your servant said." 36 As he finished speaking, the king's sons came in, wailing loudly. The king, too, and all his attendants wept very bitterly. 37 Absalom fled and went to Talmi son of Ammihud, the king of Geshur. But King David mourned many days for his son. 38 After Absalom fled and went to Geshur, he stayed there three years. 39 And King David longed to go to Absalom, for he was consoled concerning Amnon's death.*

FIRST THOUGHTS

We hear stories of violence almost every day. But some of the most tragic and shocking come when violence is among a family. When one member of the family does something hurtful and shameful to their own family, it has ripple effects into many lives.

° Here are some sobering statistics according to the National Domestic Abuse Hotline website:

--24% of women report experiencing severe physical violence from an intimate partner at least once in their lifetime.

--In 51% of all reported rape cases, the perpetrator is an intimate partner to the victim already.

--In 22% of all reported domestic abuse incidents between adults, a child was a witness to the act of abuse.

--43% of dating college women (ages 18-24) reported experiencing abusive behavior in a dating relationship such as physical, sexual, stalking, verbal, controlling. 58% of all college students say they don't know how to help someone who is in an abusive relationship.

In today's passage we will see that horrible things like domestic violence, families turning on each other, and vengeance are nothing new. They have been around since Cain first murdered his brother Abel in Genesis. Sin has so messed us up that the very relationships God created to be the most safe (our close family), can sometimes be the most damaging.

UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXT

The last several chapters of 2 Samuel cover the events of David's affair with Bathsheba, his murder of Bathsheba's husband, and the results of it. Nathan the prophet confronted David with his sin and told him that his sin with Bathsheba would have dire consequences (2 Sam. 12:11-12). In Chapter 13 we begin to see the fulfillment of that prophecy.

David's oldest son, •Amnon, desired his half-sister, •Tamar. Through a devious advisor named Jonadab, who was David's nephew, Amnon deceptively lured her into his bedroom and raped her. Afterwards, in spite of her pleas, he despised and dismissed her. Tamar took refuge with Absalom who instructed her to take a low-key approach to what happened. Subsequent events showed that Absalom was motivated by retaliation (13:1-20).

For two years, Absalom plotted revenge against Amnon and eventually had him killed by getting him drunk and instructing his servants to slay him. David had declined an invitation to the party at which this occurred but reluctantly allowed Amnon to go in his place. After the murder occurred, Absalom fled to the house of his maternal grandfather Talmi, the king of Geshur. David grieved for Amnon, who would have succeeded him on the throne. In spite of this, David also missed Absalom and longed to see him (13:21-39).

In a manner similar to Nathan's approach to David in chapter 12, a woman from Tekoa, who had been enlisted by •Joab, approached David with a story about her two sons (14:1-20). During a fight, one had killed the other and was now in jeopardy with the rest of the family who sought his death in retaliation. When David ordered the remaining son to be spared, in a manner similar to Nathan the woman applied his response to the situation regarding Absalom's exile. After determining that his commander-in-chief was the instigator of the woman's actions, David agreed to allow Absalom's return. However, he did not see him for two years after his return to Jerusalem (14:28).

EXPLORE THE TEXT

SHATTERED

> Read 2 Samuel 13:14-22

- ° What factors lead to breakdowns in family relationships?
- ° How did Tamar respond after being wronged by her half-brother, her father, her cousin, and the servant who threw her out?
- ° What should David have done when he found out what happened? Why do you think he did nothing? What message did that send to Amnon? To Absalom? To Tamar?

DEVASTATED

> Read 2 Samuel 13:23-29

- ° Why is it easy to put off and bury our problems instead of addressing them head on?

Absalom had a legitimate desire for justice for his sister who was wronged. Why did he take matters into his own hands? Was it justified?

SEPARATED

> Read 2 Samuel 13:30-39

- ° David lost two sons: Amnon who died and Absalom who fled. What might have caused David to go to Absalom?
- ° What practical actions stop the cycle of revenge? How would you have advised David to act amidst his family members' cruelties?

SUMMARIZE AND CHALLENGE

Our world is broken, our families are broken, and our lives are messes. But our God is bigger. He is able to bring “beauty from ashes” and redeem the worst tragedies. The recent movie “I Can Only Imagine”, it tells just such a story of an abusive family relationship redeemed by God.

Reflect on your family. Where do we as a group need to join in prayer for God to work miracles—of healing, of forgiveness, of courage, of redemption.

UPCOMING LESSONS

- Absalom’s story continues in next week’s lesson. Read 2 Samuel 15:1-14
- How do you think the experiences of Absalom in 2 Samuel 13 made him want to rebel against his father?

Deposed – 2 Samuel 15:10-16; 24-30

Restored – 2 Samuel 19:1-15

Averted – 2 Samuel 20:1-2, 14-21

LIFE OF DAVID - BIBLE READING PLAN - Week 6

Monday, July 9: 2 Samuel 12, Psalm 51 **Tuesday, July 10:** 2 Samuel 13-14 **Wednesday, July 11:** 2 Samuel 15, Psalm 3

Thursday, July 12: 2 Samuel 16, Psalm 22 **Friday, July 13:** 2 Samuel 17, Psalm 69

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE

9th - Micah 1-4; Hebrews 6 | **10th** - Micah 5-7; Hebrews 7 | **11th** - Isaiah 8-10; Hebrews 8 | **12th** - Isaiah 11-14; Hebrews 9 | **13th** - Isaiah 15-18; Hebrews 10 | **14th** - Isaiah 19-21; Hebrews 11 | **15th** - Isaiah 22-24; Hebrews 12