

Bible Readings

2 Samuel 13 New International Version (NIV)

Amnon and Tamar

13 In the course of time, Amnon son of David fell in love with Tamar, the beautiful sister of Absalom son of David.

² Amnon became so obsessed with his sister Tamar that he made himself ill. She was a virgin, and it seemed impossible for him to do anything to her.

³ Now Amnon had an adviser named Jonadab son of Shimeah, David's brother. Jonadab was a very shrewd man. ⁴ He asked Amnon, "Why do you, the king's son, look so haggard morning after morning? Won't you tell me?"

Amnon said to him, "I'm in love with Tamar, my brother Absalom's sister."

⁵ "Go to bed and pretend to be ill," Jonadab said. "When your father comes to see you, say to him, 'I would like my sister Tamar to come and give me something to eat. Let her prepare the food in my sight so I may watch her and then eat it from her hand.'"

⁶ So Amnon lay down and pretended to be ill. When the king came to see him, Amnon said to him, "I would like my sister Tamar to come and make some special bread in my sight, so I may eat from her hand."

⁷ David sent word to Tamar at the palace: "Go to the house of your brother Amnon and prepare some food for him." ⁸ So Tamar went to the house of her brother Amnon, who was lying down. She took some dough, kneaded it, made the bread in his sight and baked it. ⁹ Then she took the pan and served him the bread, but he refused to eat.

"Send everyone out of here," Amnon said. So everyone left him. ¹⁰ Then Amnon said to Tamar, "Bring the food here into my bedroom so I may eat from your hand." And Tamar took the bread she had prepared and brought it to her brother Amnon in his bedroom. ¹¹ But when she took it to him to eat, he grabbed her and said, "Come to bed with me, my sister."

¹² "No, my brother!" she said to him. "Don't force me! Such a thing should not be done in Israel! Don't do this wicked thing. ¹³ What about me? Where could I get rid of my disgrace? And what about you? You would be like one of the wicked fools in Israel. Please speak to the king; he will not keep me from being married to you." ¹⁴ But he refused to listen to her, and since he was stronger than she, he raped her.

¹⁵ 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 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.

²¹ When King David heard all this, he was furious. ²² And Absalom never said a word to Amnon, either good or bad; he hated Amnon because he had disgraced his sister Tamar.

Absalom Kills Amnon

²³ Two years later, when Absalom’s sheepshearers were at Baal Hazor near the border of Ephraim, he invited all the king’s sons to come there. ²⁴ Absalom went to the king and said, “Your servant has had shearers come. Will the king and his attendants please join me?”

²⁵ “No, my son,” the king replied. “All of us should not go; we would only be a burden to you.” Although Absalom urged him, he still refused to go but gave him his blessing.

²⁶ Then Absalom said, “If not, please let my brother Amnon come with us.”

The king asked him, “Why should he go with you?” ²⁷ But Absalom urged him, so he sent with him Amnon and the rest of the king’s sons.

²⁸ Absalom ordered his men, “Listen! When Amnon is in high spirits from drinking wine and I say to you, ‘Strike Amnon down,’ then kill him. Don’t be afraid. Haven’t I given you this order? Be strong and brave.” ²⁹ So Absalom’s men did to Amnon what Absalom had ordered. Then all the king’s sons got up, mounted their mules and fled.

³⁰ While they were on their way, the report came to David: “Absalom has struck down all the king’s sons; not one of them is left.” 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 Talmai 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.

Titus 2:6-8 New International Version (NIV)

⁶ Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled. ⁷ In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness ⁸ and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us.

Sermon

What example are you setting? (2 Sam 13:1-39 and Titus 2:6-8)

27-Sep-20

It would be good to have your **Bibles open** at 2 Samuel chapter 13.

It's a **tragic passage** - but it has something **very important** for us to **learn**.

Let me **pray** before we begin...

Let's pray...

Intro

- Back in **2005** - I had a **small mole** about the size of a pea on my chest
- **Heather** had repeatedly **told me** - she didn't like the **look of it**
- So, like any good husband - I **listened** - eventually
- I got it **cut off** at the **doctors**

- The **pathology** said it was a very **rare and fast-growing cancer**
- So, the **surgeon** cut a **huge hole** out of my **chest** about the **size** of the **palm** of my hand - to make sure the **cancer** didn't spread
- Then in **2008** - I was diagnosed with a **cancer tumor** in my **abdomen**
- The same surgeon didn't hesitate and **cut out** the **tumor** by removing a whole **muscle** from my abdomen.
- Since then - whenever I have a **hint** of a **spot** or a **lump** - my doctor gets paranoid and has it **cut out prompto**

[PowerPoint 1-Cancer]



- **Cancer** is very **dangerous!**
- It **spreads** - sometimes **slowly** - sometimes **quickly**
- **Cancer** **needs** to be **cut out** - before it **spreads** further - and **kills** us!

[PowerPoint 2-Sin like Cancer]



Sin is like a cancer that
destroys step by step,
sometimes so slowly we
don't realize what's
happening to us.

David Jeremiah
PICTUREQUOTES.COM



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- **SIN** is like a **cancer** that **destroys** step by step, sometimes so **slowly** we don't realize what's happening to us (David Jeremiah)
- **SIN** has to be cut out of our lives before it **spreads** and **destroys** our lives (pause)
- As we've seen with King **David** in the **past couple of weeks**
- **David's sin** of **adultery** with **Bathsheba** -**spread** like **cancer** - leading to the sin of **lying**, the sin of **covering-up**, the sin of **deceit**, the sin of **murder**, and the sin of **idolatry** (worshipping his own selfish needs)
- And although **David** **sincerely confessed** his sin last week
- And **God** **forgave** him
- **God** also **said** there would be **consequences**
- Here's what **God** **told** **David** would happen from **2 Sam 12:10-11**

[PowerPoint 3-Consequences]

[Read verses]

¹⁰ Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.'

¹¹ "This is what the LORD says: 'Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity on you. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will sleep with your wives in broad daylight.

(2 Samuel 12:10-11)

- The **consequences** for David's family are going to be **horrific**
- David's sin - and his example to his family - has infected his sons too.
- As we pick up **today's passage** and chapter 13
- Sin - like a cancer - **destroys people's lives** big time!

Amnon falls in love with his sister, Tamar (2 Sam 13:1-4)

- First off (vv1-4) - David's firstborn son, Amnon, falls in love with his half-sister, Tamar.
- **Amnon and Tamar** have the same Father, David - but different mothers [Ahinoam and Maacah]
- **Amnon's name** means *faithful* or *stable*.
- But he definitely doesn't live up to his name!
- We're told that **Tamar** is a **virgin** which means she is **available for marriage** and that she is **untarnished**.
- **Amnon is besotted** by Tamar and **longs** to be with her.

- He **wants Tamar so bad** - he **can't even sleep** properly!
- He's **not going to settle** and **be satisfied** in life, **until he has Tamar**.
- Does that **sound familiar?**
- **Isn't that what** Amnon's father, **David, did**, when he **saw Bathsheba bathing** from the roof of his palace? Didn't **David desire her so much**, he had to **have her?**
- I **wonder where Amnon got his example from?**
- (pause)
- **What example** are **we setting to our children, grandchildren and family?** Or to our **friends and work colleagues?**
- **Tamar is forbidden territory for Amnon, both sexually and in marriage.**

[PowerPoint 4-OT Law]

The OT law says:

[Read verses]

Do not have **sexual relations** with the daughter of your father's wife, born to your father; she is your sister.
(Leviticus 18:11)

If a man **marries his sister**, the daughter of either his father or his mother, and they have sexual relations, it is a disgrace. They are to be publicly removed from their people. He has dishonoured his sister and will be held responsible.
(Leviticus 20:17)

- **But God's rules are just guidelines - right?**
- **Wrong!**

- **God's rules** are there to **prevent us sinning** - and to **prevent us bringing dishonour to a Holy perfect God** - who can't look at sin and whose eyes are too pure to look at any evil (Hab 1:13)
- **Just like David could have walked in from the palace roof and not acted on his desire for Bathsheba** - **Amnon could have ignored his desire for his sister Tamar and not acted on it**

Amnon rapes his sister, Tamar (2 Sam 13:5-14)

[PowerPoint 5-Tamar]



- **But the urges Amnon has for Tamar** - are **fueled further** by his cousin - **Jonadab** - who **comes up with a terrible cure for Amnon's love sickness**
- **Jonadab suggests that Amnon pretend to be sick and then ask his father, King David, to send his sister, Tamar, to feed him and take care of him.**
- This **terrible plan** - plays out **just as** Jonadab suggested it would
- **King David sends Tamar to care for Amnon and bring him some bread to eat**
- **Amnon manipulates the situation so that he is alone with Tamar in his bedroom**
- **And he grabs Tamar to come to bed with him**
- **Tamar obviously protests**

- See v12-13

She points out what's wrong with this idea:

- V12 - Tamar says - *don't force me* - she's right - a man forcing himself on a woman is NEVER okay!
- V12 - Tamar says - *Such a thing should never be done in Israel* - she's right - **It's against God's Law!**
- V13 - Tamar says - *what about me? Where could I get rid of my disgrace. Again, Tamar's right. She's a virgin and available for marriage* - if she has intercourse before marriage her **reputation** will be **shot** - and she will be **seen as a disgrace** - even though it's not her fault!
- V13 - Tamar also says - *What about you, Amnon? You would be like one of the wicked fools in Israel. She's right* about that too! Here we are **3000 years later** still reading about Amnon - and we can say categorically - **Amnon is a wicked fool!**
- V13 - Out of desperation - Tamar even suggests Amnon speak to the King, about **allowing** them to **marry**. In her predicament this is the only thing she can come up with that she thinks might stop Amnon going ahead with his disgraceful plan.
- V14 - Unfortunately he doesn't listen and he rapes her.

What a despicable act!

(pause)

Amnon hates his sister, Tamar (2 Sam 13:15-20)

- If that's not bad enough

- We read in v15 - that **Amnon now hated Tamar with an intense hatred** - in fact he hates her more than he loves her!
- How can this be?
- A few reasons
 - a. 1st - Because his **love** for Tamar wasn't love at all - it was **sheer lust!**
 - b. 2nd - **Amnon had to blame someone** - and Tamar is the "cause" of him sinning - so it must be Tamar's fault!
 - c. 3rd - After raping Tamar, Amnon felt guilty - he knows he's done the **wrong thing** - but if gets rid of Tamar and locks her out of his house - he doesn't have to face the object of his sin. He wanted every reminder of his sin- removed
 - d. 4th - Once Amnon has raped Tamar - the **conquest and challenge are over** - **he's got what he wanted** - there's no challenge anymore - and Tamar is **surplus to requirements!** Unfortunately, we see this in lots of **modern-day relationships** - where a young man **pesters a girl to have sex** with him - using all his persuasive charm and he even says he loves her - and then as soon as he's got what he wants - he **drops her!**
- Understandably the **rape brings great distress to Tamar**
- She is **grief stricken** and goes into **mourning**
- Her life will never be the same - she is a **tarnished woman** - no longer a virgin - and **men will question whether they should marry her**
- Her **brother Absalom** - shows compassion - and **takes her under his wing** and lets her **stay with him at his house.**

David and Absalom's reaction to the rape of Tamar (2 Sam 13:21-22)

- Somehow, David finds out what has happened to Tamar
- And he's furious

[PowerPoint 6-David and Absalom]



- But he **doesn't** do anything about it
- What could he do?
 - a. He could speak to Amnon about his behaviour. Perhaps David felt he couldn't because he would seem a hypocrite to chastise Amnon for sexual sin after his own sexual sin with Bathsheba. But what would have been wrong in David being honest with his son and saying something like "don't make the same mistake I did son, and allow your sexual desires to destroy your life - I made a terrible mistake, son, don't do what I did"
 - b. He could have Amnon killed - if he chose to
 - c. He could have Amnon sent away or drop him as heir to the throne
 - d. He could even have Amnon marry Tamar - the law had a couple of rules which might apply here

[PowerPoint 7-Marriage provisions]

Exodus 22:16 allows for marriage if a virgin is seduced

¹⁶ "If a man seduces a virgin who is not pledged to be married and sleeps with her, he must pay the bride-price, and she shall be his wife.

Deut 22:28-29 allows for marriage if a virgin is raped

²⁸ If a man happens to meet a virgin who is not pledged to be married and rapes her and they are discovered, ²⁹ he shall pay her father fifty shekels of silver. He must marry the young woman, for he has violated her. He can never divorce her as long as he lives

- But David does nothing about the matter!
- Tamar's brother Absalom's [from same mother and father] his reaction is **passive aggressive** - he says nothing good or bad - but inside Absalom hates Amnon for raping Tamar and bringing disgrace on her
- David's inaction leads to Absalom taking matters into his own hands
- Like some vigilante in a cowboy movie.
- Ironically Absalom's name means: "father of peace" - and he doesn't live up to his name, either!
- **Sin is spreading like a cancer here**
- First Amnon sins by raping Tamar
- Then David sins by doing nothing to reprimand Amnon
- Now Absalom is about to take revenge

Absalom kills his brother, Amnon (2 Sam 13:23-39)

- **Two years** go by
- But **Absalom** still has **revenge** in his **heart**
- He uses a **Sheepshearers festival** - a bit like the Royal Easter Show - to **invite** King **David** and all his **sons** to this **festival**
- King **David** doesn't **attend** - but **Absalom** insists that **Amnon** is allowed to **attend**
- **Absalom** is determined to take **revenge**
- Again, this is **wrong** - **revenge** is **God's business** - not ours
- As Deut 32:35 says: **It is mine to avenge; I will repay** – says the Lord.
- It's never up to us to take **revenge**!
- And look how **Absalom** takes **revenge**
- He **gets Amnon drunk** with wine and then **has him killed**.

[PowerPoint 8- Absalom kills Amnon]

- What happened to **Amnon** should remind us of what happened with **David's sin** with **Bathsheba** - when **David** had **Uriah** killed
 - **Amnon** sins with **Tamar** - **David** sins with **Bathsheba**
 - **David** gets **Uriah** drunk - **Absalom** gets **Amnon** drunk
 - **David** arranges for **Uriah** to **die** by the sword - **Absalom** arranges for **Amnon** to **die** by the sword
- I wonder where **David's sons** got their example from?
- What a **tragic mess** - and all so avoidable!
- **Absalom** knows he's **done** the wrong thing - so **he runs away** to his mother's family - in a place called **Geshur** - east of **Lake Galilee**

- If only someone had **dealt with sin** in this horrid affair.
- If only Amnon hadn't have **acted on his lust towards Tamar**
- If only David had **reprimanded Amnon** - then **Absalom wouldn't have been so set on revenge**
- If only Absalom had **let God** be the one to **take revenge**

Application:

How should we deal with sin?

[PowerPoint 9-Matt 18]

The NT passage **Matthew 18:15-20** - gives us a process

- Go to your brother and sister and point out the fault*
- If they don't listen, take one or two as mediators*
- If they still don't listen, take church (elders, minister)*
- If they still don't listen, put them out of fellowship. Always with the view of restoring them into fellowship, if they repent and say sorry*

We should **never let sin fester** as Absalom did!

Application:

It's also worth exploring how Jesus dealt with **sinful people**

In **John 8:1-11**

[PowerPoint 10-John 8]

There is an **incident** where a **woman** is **caught** in the act of **adultery** - and the **Pharisees** were ready to **stone** the **woman**

Jesus' approach to dealing with sin here is quite **amazing**

- He makes the **people accusing** the woman - **confront their own sin** too - rather than thinking they are squeaky clean [log and splinter - Matt 7:3]
- He doesn't condemn the woman for her sin
- But neither does he **condone her sin**
- He **separated** the woman and her sin - i.e. He **loved the sinner but not her sin**
- And he commanded her to repent and to sin no more
- You see the 1st step in dealing with sin - is to turn away from sin and turn to God - and come to the only one - who can remove the punishment of sin and give forgiveness - that's Jesus - through His death on the Cross

Application

- The **Bible has these passages on how to deal with sin**
- So that sin doesn't spread like a cancer
- We need to make sure we take these **passages** and **apply** them to our own situations - so we don't end up in the same sort of predicament as David, Amnon and Absalom
- Is there some sin in your life you need to deal with?
- Is there someone in your life who you need to confront about their sin against you. **Don't let this fester!**

Setting an Example (Titus 2:6-8)

As well as dealing with sin

One final point I'd like to make this morning - and that is - **setting an example**

[PowerPoint 11 - Titus 2]

What sort of example did **David set** for his sons with his action with Bathsheba?

What sort of example did **Amnon set** with his rape of Tamar?

What sort of example did **Absalom set** with his murder of his brother?

What sort of example **are you setting** for your children, **grandchildren, family?**

To your **friends? Your work colleagues?**

There's a **song called - Cats in the Cradle** - released in **1974**

It's **about the relationship between a father and his son** - and how the **father is always too busy to spend time with his son**

One of the verses goes like this:

My son turned ten just the other day

He said, thanks for the ball, dad, come on let's play

Can you teach me to throw, I said, not today

I got a lot to do, he said, that's okay

And he walked away, but his smile never dimmed

It said, I'm gonna be like him, yeah

You know I'm gonna be like him

The last verse is **frightening** - the **Father is now retired** and the **son is all grown up and married with children** - here's how the **last verse** goes

I've long since retired and my son's moved away

I called him up just the other day

I said, I'd like to see you if you don't mind

*He said, I'd love to, dad, if I could find the time
 You see, my new job's a hassle, and the kids have the flu
 But it's sure nice talking to you, dad
 It's been sure nice talking to you
 And as I hung up the phone, it occurred to me
 He'd grown up just like me
 My boy was just like me*

You see the **father modelled** being too busy for his son

And now the **son** is too busy for his father.

The **son** has turned out just like his father!

What are you modelling?

(pause)

Personally - before I became a Christian

I modelled something to my son -

I modelled my God as my football team - Manchester United - and I've spent
the last 25 years trying to undo that mistake?

Don't make the same mistake **I made, please!**

Instead - **model Jesus** in your life

As the Apostle Paul puts it - **follow my example**, as I follow the example of
Christ (1 Cor 11:1)

Our NT passage from **Titus 2** says:

V6- Encourage the young men to be self-controlled. That would have been a good idea for David, Amnon and Absalom - wouldn't it? It's a **good idea for us too!**

V7 - In everything set them a good example by doing what is good. If we do good - that's what **others see us do** - and we model what is right

V8 - In our teaching show integrity, seriousness and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned. In other words, don't be hypocrite - one Aussie expression sums up our teaching and example - it has to be **fair dinkum**. Our actions must match our words - and both should be **based on what Jesus teaches**. So, people have no doubt we are one of God's children and followers of Jesus.

Let's pray...