

2 Samuel 13

6-12-11

“An eye for an eye would make the whole world blind!”

I. INTRO:

A. David now begins to reap the harvest of sowing to the flesh.

1. Here are the painful consequences of **forgiven** sin!
2. And of all the **trials** of life, the **most difficult** to bear are those that come from our own family...because of our failures.¹
3. In God’s grace though, He often takes the **forest fires** we start & turns them into **fires of purification** for our souls.
4. Here the Royal Family starts *unraveling*.

B. Last chapter, **death of an innocent baby**; this chapter, **Rape & Revenge**.

1. I don’t like teaching on these topics; **but** we need a mirror held up to our hearts **so** we might learn from these **terrible examples** than by drifting into them ourselves!
 - a) What life does **to** us depends on what life finds **in** us.
 - b) Mahatma Gandhi said, “An eye for an eye would make the whole world blind!”

II. RAPE! (1-22)

A. **AMNON DESIRES TAMAR!** (1-10)

B. (1) Absalom is mentioned 1st because ch.13-19 focus on the *Absalom story* [Tamar is his full sister]

1. Absalom is the chief actor in this part of the drama.

C. (2) Amnon became so **obsessed, possessed, infatuated** w/his lust **that** he made arrangements to sin

1. *Infatuated* - “an intense but short-lived passion or admiration for”.
2. *He knew* it was breaking God’s law by violating a virgin he could not marry.
3. It was **evil** for him to nurture an **abnormal love** for his half sister.
 - a) And he should have stopped feeding that appetite the moment it started.
 - b) **Read** Mt.5:27-30
4. He was so infatuated w/Tamar that he really thought he loved her & became ill thinking about it.
 - a) But it wasn’t love but lust, a passion that so controlled him that he became like an animal.
 - b) The **virgin princesses** were kept secluded in their own quarters, apart even from their male relatives, & Amnon’s imagination worked overtime as he thought about her.

¹ Warren Wiersbe, With The Word, pg.188.

D. (3) **Friend?**...I don't think so. (cousin, Jonadab)

1. He did not deserve this title. **Such friends have ruined many young men.**
2. 1 Cor.15:33(nlt) **bad company corrupts good character.**
3. **Anybody in our lives who makes it easy for us to sin** is certainly not much of a friend; **in fact**, by following Jonadab's advice, Amnon ended up **becoming a rapist, committing incest, & getting killed.**

E. (3-5) Jonadab used his craftiness & devised a scheme that would permit him to steal Tamar's virginity.

F. **AMNON DEFILES TAMAR!** (11-20)

G. (14) **Being stronger than she, he forced her** - That what the definition of **Injustice** is.

1. **Read Is.1:16,17 (seek justice, rescue the oppressed {nrsv})**
2. The sin of **injustice** is defined as "the abuse of power by taking from others the good things that God intended for them, namely, their life, liberty, dignity, or the fruit of their love or their labors."
3. **It's when a stronger person** abuses his/her **power** by taking from a **weaker person** what God alone has given the weaker person. **This God judges this as sin.**
 - a) When a more powerful person abuses their power by **stealing** those good things, **they commit the sin of injustice.**

H. **Biblical stories of Injustice:**

1. **Cain** stole Abel's life through **murder**.
2. **The Egyptians** stole the Hebrew's liberty, dignity & well-being through **forced slavery**.
3. **King David** stole Uriah's **wife & then** Uriah's **life**.
4. **Amnon** stole **Tamar's dignity/virginity, well-being & personal wholeness** by **raping her**.
5. **King Herod** stole the **lives** of all the boys of Bethlehem 2 years & younger.
6. **The religious leaders** in Jerusalem **stole** the **lives** of **Stephen & other believers** through the abuse of their civil-religious power.
 - a) Each of these stories, 1 is **weaker** being abused by 1 **stronger**; being deprived of the good gifts that God has given.
 - b) This is why the bible says, **those who oppresses the poor insult their Maker.** Prov.14:31

7. **KEY:** In each of these stories the **weaker person** isn't suffering because of *random unfairness, an uncontrollable act of nature, or a patch of bad luck*. Rather, the **weaker person** is suffering because of *the very intentional abuse & oppression of a stronger person*. This is injustice!
- a) The biblical response to this **injustice** is to, “**seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow.**” Is.1:17
- I. The **poorest people** in our world suffer from *hunger, homelessness, illiteracy & sickness*.
1. **Response:** we need to bring food, shelter, education, & medicine.
 2. Some suffer from bad earthquakes, bad storms, bad harvest, bad bacteria, bad famine, etc.
 - a) These are all massive needs worthy of our urgent attention!
 3. **But here's what's different!** When the Root of the problem is cause by **Aggressive Violence! Bullies!**
 - a) **Violence is different.** It's intentional. It's scary. It causes deep scars (of betrayal, humiliation, shame). **Violence fights back!**
 4. **This again is why we at CM seek to support, or partner with:** Free Burma Rangers (Burma); Partners Relief & Development(Thailand); Generate Hope(S.D.); ICA (Tem), & other groups foreign & domestic who help **fight against Injustice**, who **fight against the bullies!**
 - a) **Ps:** For **every dollar** the Christian community spends on addressing **injustice**, it spends **100 dollars** on traditional programs of poverty alleviation, compassion ministry, evangelism & discipleship.
 - (1) **Not saying spending too much on these others, just not enough on these!**
- J. (15) **Lust** became **hatred**, **for** both are born of violence.
1. **Hatred's result?** Tamar was ostracized in Israel.
- K. She was expelled from Amnon's house, as though she had been the aggressor.
1. Unholy love often turns to violent hate.
 2. **Before he sinned**, he wanted her all to himself; **but after he sinned**, he couldn't get rid of her fast enough.
- L. Shame, remorse, gluttony, fear, all combined to make Amnon treat her with this sudden revulsion of feeling.
1. This is the invariable experience of the **sinner**.
 - a) When he has his desire, he **loathes himself** for it.
 - b) Note *women* is in italics(not in orig) so he was saying, “*Throw this thing out!*”

M. **True love** would never *violate another person's body* just to satisfy selfish appetites, **nor** would **True love** try to *persuade someone to disobey the law of God*.

- 1 Thes.4:3-7 It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should **avoid sexual immorality**; that each of you should learn to **control his own body** in a way that is holy and honorable, **not** in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God; and that in this matter no one should **wrong his brother** or **take advantage of him**. The Lord will punish men for all such sins, as we have already told you and warned you. For God did not call us to be **impure**, but to live a **holy life**.

N. **Tamar** - the Palm, tall & Slender. Was clothed in embroidered garments, only worn by those of highest rank.

1. Later Absalom would name one of his own daughters after his sister **Tamar**.
 - a) *Maybe as a gesture of consolation* since his sister would never be able to have children.

O. Loss of virginity in that day meant:

1. She was disqualified from ever being given in marriage to another man.
2. Never be able to bear children.
3. Have to live the rest of her days in shame.

P. **DAVID'S PASSIVITY!** (21,22)

Q. (21) **Anger...ok, but what did you do with that anger?**...nothing to punish Amnon!

R. **What restrained David's anger?** His conscience!

1. **How do you discipline when your struggling with your own crime, your own conscience, your own guilt?** Didn't he basically do the same thing against Bathsheba?

III. **REVENGE! (23-39)**

A. "Revenge is a luscious fruit which you must **leave**(on tree) **to ripen!**" Emile Gaboriau

1. **Are you struggling with revenge?** Pick that fruit!!!

B. **ABSALOM'S VENGEANCE!** (23-33)

C. Absalom **plotted, waited, & brooded** over his revenge for 2 years; **then** struck the fatal blow & **avenged** his sister by killing Amnon.

D. **By ordering Tamar** to obey her half brother's wishes, he sent her into **pain & humiliation**; **By ordering Amnon** to attend Absalom's feast, he sent his 1st born to **his death**.

1. David the deceiver was himself deceived! :(

E. (28) God had warned David that **the sword** would never depart from his house. (12:10)

1. Absalom, which means *peaceful*, was the 1st to take up the sword.
2. David was reigning over Israel, but sin & death was reigning w/in his household.

F. (33) How did both David & Absalom treat Amnon wrong?

1. David didn't love Amnon enough to discipline him.
 - a) I thought a loving father disciplines the children he loves?
2. Absalom didn't love Amnon, he out right hated him.

G. **ABSALOM'S FLEES!** (34-39)

H. (34) Absalom branded as a murderer & banished.

I. It is an awful thing for a saint of God to fall into sin.

1. Now David has lost 2 sons to death; 1 to exile; & his daughter (*in that society*) ruined.
 - a) The next time *sin looks attractive to you*...remember David's trials.

J. (36) **Wept very bitterly** - remember Amnon was David's 1st born son & heir apparent.

K. The problem with revenge is that it doesn't really solve any problems & eventually turns & hurts the perpetrator.

1. "In taking revenge," wrote Francis Bacon, "a man is but even with his enemy, but in passing it over, he is superior."
2. No one was more unjustly & inhumanely than *Jesus Christ* at His trial & crucifixion, yet He refused to retaliate; & He is our example.
 - a) The old slogan, "Don't get mad, get even" may satisfy some people, but it can never be pleasing to the Lord.
 - b) The Christian way is the way of **forgiveness & faith**, **trusting** the Lord to work everything out for *our good & His glory*.
 - c) There is no revenge so complete as *forgiveness!* Josh Billings

L. (39) How does David's predicament illustrate the situation confronting God w/the human race?

1. King David longed to go to Absalom! - Your God longs for you!