



A BETTER KING

A SERIES IN 2 SAMUEL



2 Samuel 13 – Like Father, Like Son

October 8, 2023

1. Meet The New Characters

- **Amnon** — David's oldest son by Ahinoam of Jezreel.
- **Absalom** — David's third-born son by Maacah, daughter of the King of Geshur. He was second in line for the throne. His grandfather was a king. His mother was the daughter of a king. He wanted to be the next king, but Amnon stood in his way. (*Chileab, the second-born son, appears to have died as a child.*)
- **Tamar** — Absalom's biological sister. She was an extremely beautiful and godly woman.
- **Jonadab** — He was the son of Shimeah, David's brother. He was the evil cousin who put his nose in everybody's business when he should have been minding his own business.

2. Amnon loved Tamar.

Now Absalom, David's son, had a beautiful sister, whose name was Tamar. And after a time Amnon, David's son, loved her. 2 Samuel 13:1 (ESV)

And Amnon was so tormented that he made himself ill because of his sister Tamar, for she was a virgin, and it seemed impossible to Amnon to do anything to her.

2 Samuel 13:2 (ESV)

You shall not uncover the nakedness of your sister, your father's daughter or your mother's daughter, whether brought up in the family or in another home. Leviticus 18:9 (ESV)

3. Bad company corrupts good character.

But Amnon had a friend, whose name was Jonadab, the son of Shimeah, David's brother. And Jonadab was a very crafty man. 2 Samuel 13:3 (ESV)

And he said to him, "O son of the king, why are you so haggard morning after morning? Will you not tell me?"... 2 Samuel 13:4a (ESV)

...Amnon said to him, "I love Tamar, my brother Absalom's sister." 2 Samuel 13:4b (ESV)

Jonadab said to him, "Lie down on your bed and pretend to be ill. And when your father comes to see you, say to him, 'Let my sister Tamar come and give me bread to eat, and prepare the food in my sight, that I may see it and eat it from her hand.' "

2 Samuel 13:5 (ESV)

4. Our daughters must be protected from evil men.

So Amnon lay down and pretended to be ill. And when the king came to see him, Amnon said to the king, "Please let my sister Tamar come and make a couple of cakes in my sight, that I may eat from her hand." 2 Samuel 13:6 (ESV)

Then David sent home to Tamar, saying, "Go to your brother Amnon's house and prepare food for him." So Tamar went to her brother Amnon's house, where he was

lying down. And she took dough and kneaded it and made cakes in his sight and baked the cakes. And she took the pan and emptied it out before him, but he refused to eat...
2 Samuel 13:7–9a (ESV)

...treat older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, in all purity.
1 Timothy 5:2 (ESV)

Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. Hebrews 13:4 (ESV)

...And Amnon said, "Send out everyone from me." So everyone went out from him.
2 Samuel 13:9 (ESV)

Then Amnon said to Tamar, "Bring the food into the chamber, that I may eat from your hand." And Tamar took the cakes she had made and brought them into the chamber to Amnon her brother. 2 Samuel 13:10 (ESV)

But when she brought them near him to eat, he took hold of her and said to her, "Come, lie with me, my sister." 2 Samuel 13:11 (ESV)

She answered him, "No, my brother, do not violate me, for such a thing is not done in Israel; do not do this outrageous thing. As for me, where could I carry my shame? And as for you, you would be as one of the outrageous fools in Israel. Now therefore, please speak to the king, for he will not withhold me from you." 2 Samuel 13:12–13 (ESV)

1. She reminded him that rape would destroy his reputation for life.
2. She reminded him that rape would ruin her life.
3. In desperation, she offered to marry him.

But he would not listen to her... 2 Samuel 13:14a (ESV)

...and being stronger than she, he violated her and lay with her. 2 Samuel 13:14b (ESV)

Then Amnon hated her with very great hatred, so that the hatred with which he hated her was greater than the love with which he had loved her... 2 Samuel 13:15a (ESV)

...And Amnon said to her, "Get up! Go!" 2 Samuel 13:15b (ESV)

But she said to him, "No, my brother, for this wrong in sending me away is greater than the other that you did to me." But he would not listen to her. 2 Samuel 13:16 (ESV)

"If a man seduces a virgin who is not betrothed and lies with her, he shall give the bride-price for her and make her his wife." Exodus 22:16 (ESV)

He called the young man who served him and said, "Put this woman out of my presence and bolt the door after her." 2 Samuel 13:17 (ESV)

Now she was wearing a long robe with sleeves, for thus were the virgin daughters of the king dressed. So his servant put her out and bolted the door after her.
2 Samuel 13:18 (ESV)

And Tamar put ashes on her head and tore the long robe that she wore. And she laid her hand on her head and went away, crying aloud as she went. 2 Samuel 13:19 (ESV)

And her brother Absalom said to her, "Has Amnon your brother been with you?..."
2 Samuel 13:20a (ESV)

...Now hold your peace, my sister. He is your brother; do not take this to heart." So Tamar lived, a desolate woman, in her brother Absalom's house. 2 Samuel 13:20b (ESV)

"If a man takes his sister, a daughter of his father or a daughter of his mother, and sees her nakedness, and she sees his nakedness, it is a disgrace, and they shall be cut off in the sight of the children of their people." Leviticus 20:17 (ESV)

When King David heard of all these things, he was very angry. 2 Samuel 13:21 (ESV)
But he would not punish his son Amnon, because he loved him, since he was his firstborn. — 2 Samuel 13:21b Marginal note in the Septuagint

Lessons we can learn?

- 1. David let the sins of his past keep him from disciplining his sons in the present.**
- 2. Christian fathers must set a godly example for their children by how they treat their mom.**

5. Revenge!

But Absalom spoke to Amnon neither good nor bad, for Absalom hated Amnon, because he had violated his sister Tamar. 2 Samuel 13:22 (ESV)

After two full years Absalom had sheepshearers at Baal-hazor, which is near Ephraim, and Absalom invited all the king's sons. 2 Samuel 13:23 (ESV)

And Absalom came to the king and said, "Behold, your servant has sheepshearers. Please let the king and his servants go with your servant." 2 Samuel 13:24 (ESV)

But the king said to Absalom, "No, my son, let us not all go, lest we be burdensome to you." He pressed him, but he would not go but gave him his blessing. 2 Samuel 13:25 (ESV)

Then Absalom said, "If not, please let my brother Amnon go with us." And the king said to him, "Why should he go with you?" 2 Samuel 13:26 (ESV)

But Absalom pressed him until he let Amnon and all the king's sons go with him. 2 Samuel 13:27 (ESV)

Then Absalom commanded his servants, "Mark when Amnon's heart is merry with wine, and when I say to you, 'Strike Amnon,' then kill him. Do not fear; have I not commanded you? Be courageous and be valiant." 2 Samuel 13:28 (ESV)

What does the Bible say about vengeance?

- 1. God carries out vengeance.**

..."Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." Romans 12:19b (ESV)

- 2. Since God promises to carry out vengeance, we are not to take justice into our hands.**

Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God,... Romans 12:19a (ESV)

- 3. Since we are forbidden from carrying out vengeance, and God promises to carry out vengeance, the only Christian response is to do good.**

Because God avenges evil then.... If your enemy is hungry, feed him, If he is thirsty given him something to drink Romans 12:20

So the servants of Absalom did to Amnon as Absalom had commanded. Then all the king's sons arose, and each mounted his mule and fled. 2 Samuel 13:29 (ESV)

While they were on the way, news came to David, "Absalom has struck down all the king's sons, and not one of them is left." 2 Samuel 13:30 (ESV)

Then the king arose and tore his garments and lay on the earth. And all his servants who were standing by tore their garments. 2 Samuel 13:31 (ESV)

But Jonadab the son of Shimeah, David's brother, said, "Let not my lord suppose that they have killed all the young men, the king's sons, for Amnon alone is dead. For by the command of Absalom this has been determined from the day he violated his sister Tamar. Now therefore let not my lord the king so take it to heart as to suppose that all the king's sons are dead, for Amnon alone is dead." 2 Samuel 13:32–33 (ESV)

But Absalom fled. And the young man who kept the watch lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, many people were coming from the road behind him by the side of the mountain. 2 Samuel 13:34 (ESV)

And Jonadab said to the king, "Behold, the king's sons have come; as your servant said, so it has come about." 2 Samuel 13:35 (ESV)

And as soon as he had finished speaking, behold, the king's sons came and lifted up their voice and wept. And the king also and all his servants wept very bitterly. 2 Samuel 13:36 (ESV)

But Absalom fled and went to Talmi the son of Ammihud, king of Geshur. And David mourned for his son day after day. 2 Samuel 13:37 (ESV)

So Absalom fled and went to Geshur, and was there three years. 2 Samuel 13:38 (ESV)
And the spirit of the king longed to go out to Absalom, because he was comforted about Amnon, since he was dead. 2 Samuel 13:39 (ESV)

Applications

- 1. Fathers must not become so involved at work that they fail to lead in the comfort and correction of their children, including adult children.**
- 2. Children are more likely to repeat what they see their parents *do* than learn from what they say.**
- 3. The greatest temptation fathers face is not outright wickedness but apathy and inaction. David could have stopped all of this if he addressed problems in his family instead of ignoring them.**

Life Group Questions

- 1. Read 2 Samuel 13.** This is a shocking chapter. What shocked you most?
2. Amnon claimed he loved Tamar. What is the difference between love and lust?
3. What leads men to act like Amnon in relationships with women?
4. What should David have done after he heard what Amnon did to his sister? See Leviticus 20:17; Exodus 22:16.
5. Was Absalom's murder of Amnon just after his father failed to address the issue for two years? Why or why not?
6. What harm results when parents indulge children instead of correcting them?
7. What happens when government leaders fail to carry out justice?
8. What is wrong with taking revenge? See Romans 12:17-21.
9. What do you think led David to become a passive parent?