II Samuel 13:1-39

Amnon and Tamar

1

The Background

Now therefore 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.'
11 Thus says the Lord, 'Behold, I will raise up evil against you out of your own house. And I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun. 12 For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel and before the sun.'"

II Sam. 12:10-12

2

Amnon and Tamar

- Main Characters:
  - Amnon
  - Tamar
  - Jonadab
  - King David
  - Absalom

3

"Amnon, David's Son"

- Now Absalom, David's son, had a beautiful sister, whose name was Tamar. And after a time Amnon, David's son, loved her. 2 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. 3 But Amnon had a friend, whose name was Jonadab, the son of Shimeah, David's brother. And Jonadab was a very crafty man.

4

Amnon's Plot Unfolded

- 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.'" [6] 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."

5

Jonadab Considering Genesis 3

- Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made.
- He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You[a] shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" [2] And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, [3] but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" [4] But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. [5] For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

6

Tamar at Amnon's House

- 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. [11] But when she brought them near him to eat, he took hold of her and said to her, "Come, lie with me, my sister."

7

Tamar's Plea to Amnon for Mercy

She answered him, "No, my brother, do not violate[a] me, for such a thing is not done in Israel; do not do this outrageous thing. [13] 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." [14] But he would not listen to her, and being stronger than she, he violated her and lay with her.

8

The Sin of Lust

Biblical and theological overview—N. Plantinga, Not the Way It's Supposed to Be: A Breviary of Sin

9

On Lust

Love in not interested in its partners, but only in the gratification of its own craving, not in the satisfaction of our whole natures, but only in the appeasement of an appetite that we are unable to subdue. It is therefore a form of self-subjection, in fact of self-emptying…lust accept any partner for a momentary service…

Henry Fairlie, *The Seven Deadly Sins Today*, 175

10

- James 1:12-14

Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. 13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. 14 But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. 15 Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

11

Tamar's Final Appeal

- Tamar's social stakes
- Tamar's Mourn
- "So Tamar lived, a desolate woman, in her brother Absalom's house."

12

Absalom and David

- Two more men who failed Tamar
- **Absalom's failure**: Silence and secret plot against Amnon
- **King David's failure**: Anger without Action

13

Absalom Murders Amnon

- The feast at Baal-hazor
- Absalom's servants killed Amnon
- Grief and exile

14

Gracious God

We have every reason to be thankful that God is not in David's pitiable condition. God is able to act forcefully in response to sin because he alone provides a true remedy for it. God is able to restore his household, even though all his children in the family of faith are as sinful as Amnon and Absalom. God dealt with sin by sending his perfectly sinless Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to be the Savior for sinners. Jesus came to offer to God's justice a full atonement to pay the full penalty for all his people's sin.

Richard D Phillips, *Reformed Expository Commentary, 2 Samuel* (Phillipsburg: R&P Publishing, 2018), 268

15

Gracious God

Through the gospel of his Son, Jesus Christ, God is able to deal with our sins so as to restore us to himself in a true fellowship of love, reconciling sinners one to another through the grace that comes in Jesus. Are you willing to confess your need for this grace? Do you desire to do more than brush aside sin and manage the brokenness of life in a world ruined by sin? God has the answer, having provided it though the gift of his Son. If you will believe him, God will not only restore you for the sins that you have committed, but give you the means of dealing with sin through a witness of the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ.

- Richard D Phillips, *Reformed Expository Commentary, 2 Samuel,* 268

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