

David, Shepherd and King
#21 David's Divided Home - 2 Samuel 13
(8/2/2010 AM)

Family problems can either come from without or within. Those that come from without tend to strengthen the family bond. Those that come from within are usually the more devastating. David was responsible in that he brought the curse of the harem into his family.

1. The Sins of Amnon (1-17)

Amnon Was a Half-brother to Absalom and Tamar

Amnon was David's firstborn son and apparent heir to the throne. His mother was Ahinoam of Jezreel. The mother of Absalom and Tamar was Maacah, a princess from the royal house of Talmi in Geshur.

• **Incestuous lust**

Amnon's infatuation turned to consuming lust. His inability to fulfill his lust made him ill. It literally reads "and it was narrow to Amnon, even to becoming sick." In the Oriental mind, sickness is the idea of narrowing. Amnon's lust hemmed him in, he could think of nothing else. Proverbs 11:6, "The righteousness of the upright will deliver them, but the unfaithful will be caught by their lust."

The virgin daughters were kept in strict seclusion. Amnon's concern was not impropriety, but difficulty. The ESV brings that out "it seemed impossible to Amnon to do anything to her."

The law condemned such a sexual union, Leviticus 18:9-11.

David Had Lusted after Bathsheba

• **Forcible rape**

Jonadab was actually Amnon's cousin (32). He comes up with a plan for Amnon to carry out his lustful thoughts (4-5). David was a great king but not a great father. He was certainly out of touch with what was happening in the lives of his children. How was it that he did not know of Amnon's desire for Tamar? Also Amnon's moral values were certainly influenced by his father.

Proverbs 25:26, "A righteous man who falters before the wicked is like a murky spring and a polluted well."

David's polygamy and adultery had polluted his family. David certainly knew what God has said in His Word, Numbers 14:18.

Children are not responsible for the sins of their parents, but they often suffer for them for generations. Amnon carried out Jonadab's plan and attacked Tamar (6-13). Tamar understood the seriousness of Amnon's intentions.

Tamar literally said "do not humble me". Hebrew women saw their virginity as a badge of honor, as all women should. She knew the value of her virginity. Her suggestion that the king would permit their marriage was out of desperation. Amnon, consumed with lust, forcibly raped his own sister.

David Had Deceitfully and Willfully Committed Sexual Sin

• **Ungodly hatred**

Amnon shows all the signs of an unregenerate man. Unlike his father who mourned over his sin, Amnon accused Tamar. Amnon never loved her, but merely lusted for her. He experienced no satisfaction, only loathing, for what he had done. Unwilling to face his own despicable actions, he pushed them off onto Tamar. His harsh treatment would lead his

servants to believe that Tamar was the guilty party. She had come to seduce him with her enticements. Amnon went beyond even what his father had done. He cared nothing for Tamar's feelings. Immoral sexual relationships are always unstable. 2 Timothy 2:22, "Flee also youthful lusts"

David's Sins Were Magnified in His Son's Life

2. The Sins of Absalom (18-39)

Tamar Did Not Seek Out Her Father

Tamar fled to her brother, Absalom (18-20). Absalom seemed to know more of what was happening in David's household than David did.

The picture of David's daughter with ashes on her head would have broken his heart. He had humbled another man's daughter.

David reacted with emotion, but not action.

David's passivity with his family became a pattern in his life. Years later, his son Adonijah will try to take the throne from Solomon while David still lived. 1 Kings 1:6, "And his father had not rebuked him at any time by saying, 'Why have you done so?'" David lost the respect of his children.

- **Bitter hatred**

Absalom appeared to be completely indifferent, yet he was seething with hatred. David's children were surrounded by luxury but lacking in love. The palace was plagued with family problems. Proverbs 15:17, "Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a fatted calf with hatred."

David's Refusal to intervene in the Lives of His Children Deepened the Family Division

- **Vengeful murder**

Absalom waited two years for his father to deal with Amnon. He determined to take matters into his own hands. The prophecy of Nathan is about to be fulfilled (12:10). Sheep shearing was a time of celebration. Baal-hazor was apparently the name of Absalom's estate about 8 miles north of Jerusalem. Absalom invited his father, but David declined. He then asked if his brother Amnon might attend. At first, David refused, but Absalom badgered him.

David had apparently forgotten what happened when he gave Amnon permission to visit Tamar. Absalom fled for his life to his mother's family.

David lost two sons that day and experienced the truth of Hosea 8:7, "They sow the wind, and reap the whirlwind."

David Had Made Uriah Drunk and Later Commanded Joab to Have Him Killed