

Let's Worship God

22nd-27th June 2026

2 Samuel



II SAMUEL

Monday - 2 Samuel 13:1-17 - Amnon: Passion Without Love

Amnon is David's firstborn son. But this chapter is the only record we have of what Amnon actually does with his life. It's a record of sin and death. Amnon is clearly a man driven by his passions. He's not particularly gifted in the brains department. For that he relies on his scheming cousin Jonadab. Instead, he's driven by lust.

Amnon is a terrible and vivid picture of what longing for something God hasn't given will do to us and to those around us. This could be something good in and of itself. But though God in his wisdom gives it to others - he hasn't given it to us. Maybe it's someone else's salary, someone else's house, someone else's family, someone else's job, someone else's influence. We can be so convinced that we need something that someone else has that we just torment ourselves. Amnon was so tormented that he made himself ill.

What is tormenting him? It's something that's doubly wrong. Firstly it's lust, and secondly it's lust for his sister or, at least, his half-sister. Amnon and Tamar both had the same father, but different mothers. For the two of them to marry would have been forbidden by God's law, as set out in Leviticus chapter 18. While Amnon might think that what he feels is love - it's actually lust. That lust is eating away at him. It's destroying him. Look at how Amnon is described by his cousin in v14: 'O son of the King'. He was King David's oldest son. By rights he should have been next in line to the throne. But lust destroys him. How many men, how many Christian men, does lust destroy? Men who are meant to live as sons of the King, but instead are consumed by lust. They don't kill that sin, instead it kills them, and takes away any usefulness they might have had in the kingdom of God.

What is love? Love is patient, love is kind. According to 1st Corinthians 13 love does not insist on its own way. But here Amnon does insist on his own way. He ignores Tamar's pleas. He is determined to have her. So he forces himself on her. Once he's used her, he throws her aside.

Question

1. Why is it so important to kill sinful desires?

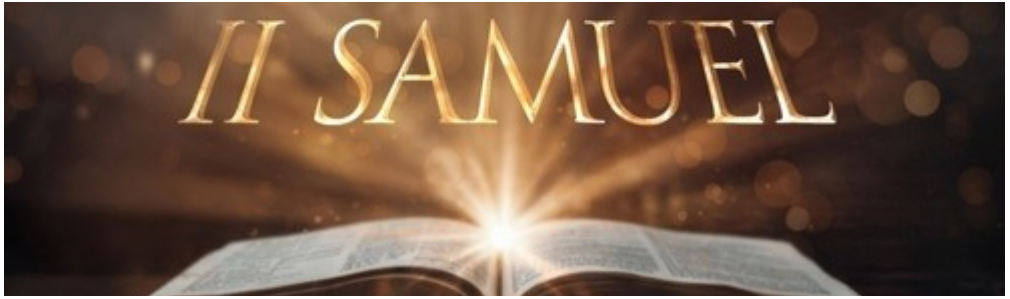
Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would be 'killing sin before it kills us'.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

The LORD watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and fatherless, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin. Psalm 146:9

Praise: Psalm 146A:1-3 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Tuesday - 2 Samuel 13:7-22 - Tamar: Shame Without Justice

In a matter of minutes, Tamar's whole life is in tatters. She went along to do a good deed, and she finds herself trapped, ignored, raped, despised, banished and ruined. For many who read these words, it will be painfully close to home, and perhaps bring back memories of a time when they experienced something very similar. Certainly, there are many, many people like that around us. So does God's Word have any thing to say to victims of sexual sin, like Tamar? Does it have any hope to bring? For a start this is a book that doesn't ignore sexual violence against women. The Bible also points such hurting people to a better Father than Tamar had, a better brother than she had, and a better King than David was. Tamar's father - David - as we'll see later on - doesn't do anything about what has happened to her. He's very angry - but he doesn't actually do anything. How different your heavenly Father, who will not turn a blind eye to sin, but one day will put all wrongs to right. Tamar's brother - Absalom - tells her not to take it to heart. Now he doesn't take his own advice, he does take it to heart. But he's not much comfort to her. How different your elder brother Jesus Christ. He knows what it is to be put to shame. And you can run to him. Jesus is the ultimate answer to Tamar's question in v13, when she's desperately trying to talk Amnon out of doing what he's about to do, she says: 'As for me, where could I carry my shame?' Now when she talks about shame, we need to be clear that she had done nothing to be ashamed of. But still she knows that if Amnon does this she will have this overwhelming sense of shame - because he will have put her to shame. So she asks: 'Where could I carry my shame?' She means it as a rhetorical question. But we know of somewhere she could carry her shame - as can anyone in her position. And that is to Jesus. Because he was put to shame for us. Like Tamar, he hadn't done anything shameful, but others did shameful things to him. He went through all that for us. He bore our shame so that the words of Psalm 25:3 might be true of us: 'Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame'. Or as Paul says in Romans 10: 'Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.'

Question

1. Whom can we go to when we have been wronged and put to shame?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that women who have been put to shame will find hope in Christ.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

The LORD watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and fatherless, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin. Psalm 146:9

Praise: Psalm 146A:4-6 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

II SAMUEL

Wednesday - 2 Samuel 13:3-6; 23-35 - Jonadab: Wisdom Without Principle

Amnon has committed a crime for which he will be murdered before too long. Tamar's hopes and dreams for the future are ruined. And who's behind it all, humanly speaking? Who facilitated it all? Jonadab. He's one of those snake-like characters who always come out of things unscathed. He does the whispering. He pulls the strings. But he doesn't get his hands dirty. And at the end of the story, he's there in v35 reassuring David. Amnon's dead. Tamar's a desolate woman. But ever the consummate politician, Jonadab has emerged unscathed.

I've called him snake-like. He's described in v3 as a very crafty man. Just as the snake in Genesis 3 is described as more crafty than any other beast of the field. And someone has said that 'Jonadab is perhaps the most dangerous man in the whole fiasco'. Why? Because he has 'skill without scruple, wisdom without ethics and insight without integrity'. He'll be loyal to who he needs to be loyal to, for as long as it suits his own purposes.

There's a warning for us in him. The more gifts God has given us, the greater the damage we can do if we don't use them rightly and humbly. John Calvin says: 'it all warns us to pray that if God has given us some prudence, he would also add integrity and sincerity so that we may keep ourselves from craftiness'. Dale Ralph Davis comments: 'in the church those with the greatest gifts pose the gravest threat, for unless their gifts are wrapped in godliness they multiply disaster among Christ's flock.'

Questions

1. Who is behind all of this?
2. How are we to use the gifts we have been given?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would use what God has given us to His glory.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

The LORD watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and fatherless, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin. Psalm 146:9

Praise: Psalm 146A:7-8 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

II SAMUEL

Thursday - 2 Samuel 13:21-39 - David: Anger Without Justice

David 'heard about all these things, and he was very angry', v21. That's good. But that was all he did, and that's bad. David becomes the third father in the books of 1st and 2nd Samuel to ignore the sin of his sons. The first was Eli, then Samuel, and now David. All believers. All saved men. Yet they had sons who didn't follow in their footsteps. They turned a blind eye to the public sins of those sons. And both there and here, there are terrible consequences. As a result, Amnon isn't held accountable. Tamar receives no redress. And Absalom takes matters into his own hands.

So why doesn't David do anything? His sin with Bathsheba casts a shadow over this chapter. David had sinned sexually and then committed murder. In this chapter one of his sons sins sexually, and the other one commits murder. So David's moral authority to address the sins of his sons is certainly compromised. That's no excuse for his silence. But what a warning for those of us who are parents. Our sins can really strip away the sense of our moral authority if we have to speak to our children about something, particularly grown-up children. Now all parents sin. All parents fail. All children realise sooner or later that their parents aren't perfect. But if there's a radical disconnect between what we say and how we live, they should still listen to us, but it makes it very easy for them not to.

David, both as king, and as Amnon's father, should have acted. But he didn't. And David's silence, his refusal to deal with what had happened, eventually leads to Amnon's death. Because Absalom took things into his own hands. After David's sin, God had graciously sent the prophet Nathan to him. That hadn't been a pleasant experience - but it led to David's repentance. But by David not intervening, Amnon was left in his sin. He didn't repent. As one old commentator says: 'God punished what David would not correct'. If we really love our children, we will correct them. Proverbs 13:24: 'Whoever spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him'.

Question

1. Why might David have kept silent?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the parents in the congregation as they seek to raise their children in the Lord.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

The LORD watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and fatherless, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin. Psalm 146:9

Praise: Psalm 9:1-3 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

II SAMUEL



Friday - 2 Samuel 13:20-39 - Absalom: Hatred Without Restraint

Absalom certainly subscribed to the idea that revenge is a dish best served cold. Two whole years pass. It looks like he's perhaps ready to let it go, that he'll take his cue from his father and just leave it. Yet the thought of ignoring what's been done to his sister doesn't cross Absalom's mind. For those two years he's been planning, waiting, calculating. And then when the moment arrives, he executes his plan. It's a horrible echo - an ugly parody - of Joshua's words in Joshua 1.9: 'Do not fear; have I not commanded you? Be courageous and be valiant!'. And Amnon is struck down.

We think: Isn't Absalom a cold, calculating killer! And he is! But he's not as different from us as we might think. Because what were we like before we were Christians? Paul reminds us in Titus 3:3: 'For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another.' For most of us that hatred hasn't spilled over into actual murder. But Jesus says that whoever hates his brother will be liable to judgement. So whether we have done the same deed as Absalom or not, we all share his nature. And our only hope is in the goodness and loving kindness of God, who saves us, not because of works done in righteousness, but according to his own mercy.

Questions

1. How long does Absalom wait?
2. What were we like before God in his mercy changed our hearts?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the salvation of family and friends.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

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II SAMUEL

Saturday - 2 Samuel 13:34-39 - Where Was God?

If we only had the human characters in this chapter to look at, I think we'd despair. All we could do would be weep. Weep with Tamar. But also weep over the lack of righteousness seen in all the other characters. But one very important question we haven't asked yet is: Where is God in all this? Because he's not mentioned in the chapter at all. So what is God doing in all this? He's fulfilling his word. Nathan had told David in 12:10: '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'. David had been told: 'Thus says the LORD, 'Behold I will raise up evil against you out of your own house'. So what's happening in this chapter? As unpleasant as these events are, God is fulfilling his word of judgment against David's house. God may not be mentioned in this chapter, but he's not absent. Perhaps the biggest thing you need reminded about is that even if God seems utterly silent, he is still at work, bringing his word to pass. What is God doing in this chapter? Exactly what he said he would. It's not pleasant. But it shows us the seriousness of sin. Perhaps we read the account of David and Bathsheba and think he got off pretty lightly. But look here at what David has unleashed on his family. David sinned sexually and committed murder. Here he has two sons: one sins sexually and the other commits murder. Surely this chapter should cause us to hate sin and flee from it!

Surely this chapter also leaves us longing for a better son of David. The LORD had promised David in chapter 7: 'I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom'. But this chapter makes clear that it won't be Amnon, and it certainly won't be Absalom either. We're left longing for a better son of David. Now fast forward 1,000 years. A blind beggar sits by the roadside. Suddenly he begins to cry out: 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me'. And he did. The true and better Son of David had come at last. A Son of David who would be merciful to the oppressed. A Son of David who wouldn't ignore sin - like David did. Nor would he be a revengeful score-settler like Absalom. But rather he would bear the sin of his people. And he would execute true justice. So the big question is: 'Do you know the true Son of David?'

Question

1. How is God keeping His word in this chapter?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

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Praise: Psalm 9:7-10 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

**God tells us that
Ezra read from
the book of the Law
day after day
and that
the people of God
were filled with joy!**

Let's Worship God is produced
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