

## Sin and Grace (part 2)

As Pastor Randy warned us this is a very difficult passage. Through the decades and hundreds of sermons, I've never heard a pastor actually address it so directly. This is a story that normally is skipped or the focus is on the lust in Amnon's life and it's consequences not on Tamar and all that's involved in this tragic family event.

As tragic and difficult as this story may be to study and discuss, it reveals to us the reality of the evil and brokenness in our world around us. Even if this issue does not affect you directly, be assured there will be those around you it will be a lifeline. Lastly we get to see the possibility of God's grace, forgiveness, restoration and resurrection on display in the worst of situations.

*Amnon* is the firstborn son of David, his half-sister *Tamar* and her brother *Absalom* are children of David born from another mother.

*"In the course of time, Amnon son of David fell in love with Tamar, the beautiful sister of Absalom son of David. <sup>2</sup> Amnon became so obsessed with his sister Tamar that he made himself ill. She was a virgin, and it seemed impossible for him to do anything to her. <sup>3</sup> Now Amnon had an adviser named Jonadab son of Shimeah, David's brother. Jonadab was a very shrewd man. <sup>4</sup> He asked Amnon, "Why do you, the king's son, look so haggard morning after morning? Won't you tell me?" Amnon said to him, "I'm in love with Tamar, my brother Absalom's sister." <sup>5</sup> "Go to bed and pretend to be ill," Jonadab said. "When your father comes to see you, say to him, 'I would like my sister Tamar to come and give me something to eat. Let her prepare the food in my sight so I may watch her and then eat it from her hand.'" <sup>6</sup> So Amnon lay down and pretended to be ill. When the king came to see him, Amnon said to him, "I would like my sister Tamar to come and make some special bread in my sight, so I may eat from her hand." <sup>7</sup> David sent word to Tamar at the palace: "Go to the house of your brother Amnon and prepare some food for him." <sup>8</sup> So Tamar went to the house of her brother Amnon, who was lying down. She took some dough, kneaded it, made the bread in his sight and baked it. <sup>9</sup> Then she took the pan and served him the bread, but he refused to eat." "Send everyone out of here," Amnon said. So everyone left him. <sup>10</sup> Then Amnon said to Tamar, "Bring the food here into my bedroom so I may eat from your hand." And Tamar took the bread*

to eat. "Send anyone out of here," Amnon said. So everyone left him. <sup>10</sup> Then Amnon said to Tamar, "Bring the food here into my bedroom so I may eat from your hand." And Tamar took the bread she had prepared and brought it to her brother Amnon in his bedroom. <sup>11</sup> But when she took it to him to eat, he grabbed her and said, "Come to bed with me, my sister." <sup>12</sup> "No, my brother!" she said to him. "Don't force me! Such a thing should not be done in Israel! Don't do this wicked thing. <sup>13</sup> What about me? Where could I get rid of my disgrace? And what about you? You would be like one of the wicked fools in Israel. Please speak to the king; he will not keep me from being married to you." <sup>14</sup> But he refused to listen to her, and since he was stronger than she, he raped her. <sup>15</sup> Then Amnon hated her with intense hatred. In fact, he hated her more than he had loved her. Amnon said to her, "Get up and get out!" <sup>16</sup> "No!" she said to him. "Sending me away would be a greater wrong than what you have already done to me."

But he refused to listen to her. <sup>17</sup> He called his personal servant and said, "**Get this woman** out of my sight and bolt the door after her." <sup>18</sup> So his servant put her out and bolted the door after her. She was wearing an ornate robe, for this was the kind of garment the virgin daughters of the king wore. <sup>19</sup> Tamar put ashes on her head and tore the ornate robe she was wearing. She put her hands on her head and went away, weeping aloud as she went.

<sup>20</sup> Her brother Absalom said to her, "Has that Amnon, your brother, been with you? Be quiet for now, my sister; he is your brother. Don't take this thing to heart." And Tamar lived in her brother Absalom's house, a desolate woman. When King David heard all this, he was furious. <sup>22</sup> And Absalom never said a word to Amnon, either good or bad; he hated Amnon because he had disgraced his sister Tamar."  
**(2 Samuel 13:9-22)**

### **Verses 12-13 Tamar's Resistance**

- 1) "No" (Any kind of behavior or contact where consent isn't given)
- 2) "Brother" (Remember we are family, this is evil, Leviticus 18:9 God's Law)
- 3) "Don't force me" (Don't do this wicked thing in Israel)
- 4) *Future as a King* (You are the firstborn, the crowned prince, don't let this be your future)
- 5) *What about me* (Treat me like a sister, "where would I get rid of my disgrace" In that culture she would be shamed and undesirable)
- 6) *What about you* (He would be known as one of the "wicked fools in Israel")

*He refused to listen to her...he took her voice and story away.*

### **Observations From a Woman's Perspective**

- 1) She was sexually assaulted, not by a stranger but someone she knew.
- 2) The violation did not take place in a dark alley or a park, but in the home of family

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- 2) The violation did not take place in a dark alley or a park, but in the home of family.
  - 3) She was exploited through one of her most admirable traits, care and kindness for others.
  - 4) Her “no” was not respected. She sought help but was told to be quiet. The process for justice was taken out of her hands.
  - 5) In the end her father David would mourn for Amnon and not for her.

This is one of the most devastating things that can happen to a human being. Sexual assault will leave scars and affect people with unspeakable pain...maybe their entire life. The nature of sexual assault is that something was taken against their will. Only Jesus can restore this back, we come to the cross for healing and restoration.

### 1. **Bad behavior breeds bad behavior**

David modeled many good things in his life but here is an example of how his sin breeds something bad in his family.

- **Sexual abuse is never about love it's about power**

It's unfortunate that verse 1 used the phrase “*fell in love with Tamar*”. He wasn't in love with her he was lusting after her. When he forced himself on her it wasn't youthful passion gone overboard, but an attack. Right away we see a clue in verse two of how he is viewing her: “*...and it seemed impossible for him to do anything to her*”.

This would be even more evident in verse 17 after the attack when he says to his servant: “*get this woman out of my sight*”. She was no longer “Tamar”; she had become an object to him.

*“Are they ashamed of their detestable conduct? No, they have no shame at all; they do not even know how to blush.” (Jeremiah 6:15)*

- **Godly Father's resist passivity and protect passionately**

We look to our main character to see how he felt; “*When King David heard all this, he was furious.*” David saw the gravity and severity of the situation but did nothing to protect or make right. David was a wise man and he should have seen right through Amnon's request, but he either didn't or ignored what should have been obvious. Could David have felt that he had no moral grounds to deal with this because of his failure and sin in his own life?

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Also see what is truly a bit player in our story but actually played a vital role. It's interesting that the royal adviser *Jonadab* actually sought out Amnon because he noticed something was bothering the king's firstborn son. As Randy suggested he is a picture or type of Satan, very typical of how he works in these situations. He will plant seeds and create the opportunity for sin.

*“David would not punish his son Amnon because he loved him, for he was his firstborn.”*

Ironically David would eventually mourn over his son Amnon but not over Tamar in her loss and devastation.

**Father's beget...provide...defend...define**

*“He who fears the Lord has a secure fortress, and for his children it will be a refuge” (Proverbs 14: 26).*

In the vacuum of David's neglect and inactivity, Absalom fills the space:

*“Absalom never said a word to Amnon, either good or bad” (2 Samuel 13:22)*

- 2. If we refuse to confront sin and destructive behavior, it will only get worse.**

*“When King David heard all this, he was furious. Absalom never said a word to Amnon, either good or bad; he hated Amnon because he had disgraced his sister Tamar. Two years later...” (2 Samuel 13:21-23)*

*“David would not punish his son Amnon because he loved him, for he was his firstborn.” (Greek Septuagint)*

*“Absalom lived two years in Jerusalem without seeing the king's face.” (2 Samuel 14:28)*

- If sexual assault is ignored, the victim becomes the lightning rod**
- Resentments grow stronger. Patterns of denial get deeper. The dysfunctions in the entire family become**

- Resentments grow stronger. Patterns of denial get deeper. The dysfunctions in the entire family become increasingly worse

*“Discipline your son, for in it there is hope; and do not be a willing party to his death” (Proverbs 19:18)*

*“And have you completely forgotten this word of encouragement that addresses you as a father addresses his son? It says,*

*“My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline,  
and do not lose heart when he rebukes you,  
<sup>6</sup> because the Lord disciplines the one he loves,  
and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son.”*

*<sup>7</sup> Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father? <sup>8</sup> If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all.”  
(Hebrews 12:5-8)*

### **Through the Cross:**

- Sin is forgiven (guilt)
- Shame is removed

*“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles.” (Hebrews 12:1)*

*“Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and the perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”  
(Hebrews 12:1-2)*

### **“Don’t fix your eyes on your past, fix your eyes on Jesus”**

The Body of Christ gets to be a new community in the world.

- A place where every person is upheld and valuable because they are made in God’s image and are loved by God.
- A place of freedom and safety, where all voices are heard.

The reason this is important for the church:

1 in 4 girls by the time they are 19 will be sexually assaulted/abused, 1 in 6 for boys.

It is also estimated the only 5 to 20% of these assaults are reported.

The first step to freedom is that their voice be heard and their story told. We need to bring things into the light, for it is there that it’s power is broken and healing begins.

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If someone in your group would like to talk to someone right away here is the contact information:

Abuse Recovery Ministry & Services  
National Office- PO Box 663 Hillsboro, OR 97123  
503-846-9284 or 866-262-9284  
info@armsonline.org

## Discussion Questions

- 1) I know this will be a difficult study but please look on page 3 of your notes and look at "Observations From a Woman's Perspective". Which one of the observations sticks out to you and why?
- 2) Also on page 3, in the life of David how did this phrase come to reality: "Bad behavior breeds bad behavior". What did David model well in his life and what in his life bred this behavior that is rampant around him?
- 3) We know that Amnon was not in love with Tamar but was lusting after his half-sister. Pastor Randy pointed out that "Sexual abuse is never about love it's about power". How did Amnon use his "power" and how did he view her before the attack and after and what does it tell us about this "King to be"?
- 4) Review the passage and our notes on page 4 and discuss what this quote means as we look at David's response to the situation: "Godly Father's resist passivity and protect passionately". Also consider the goal as fathers (and mothers) is: "Father's beget...provide...defend...define"
- 5) Given the frightening statistics what should the church be and do in response to hurting, broken people? (See the top of page 7 for some thoughts) Lastly discuss the fact that it is through the Cross that **Sin** is forgiven (guilt) **Shame** is removed.