

Theme: Sexual abuse is devastating and must never be minimized or covered up, but responded to with the redemptive grace of God to help those who have been abused to receive healing from Jesus.

I. Intro - Our #MeToo Moment

- A. 2017-2018 - the year of #MeToo
- B. From Harvey Weinstein to Lesley Moonves
- C. Entertainment, government, church - everywhere
- D. Women speak out against sexual sin against them
- E. Sadly, this is not new - it happened in David's house!

II. Amnon's Horrible Sin

- A. The key characters: Absalom, David, Tamar, and Amnon
In the course of time, **Amnon** son of **David** fell in love with **Tamar**, the beautiful sister of **Absalom** son of David. 2 Samuel 13:1
 - 1. Order in Hebrew: Absalom, David, Tamar, Amnon
 - 2. Absalom dominates chapters 13-20 - named 101x!
 - 3. A family affair - all are part of David's house/family
 - 4. Brother or sister used 20x in this chapter - family!
 - 5. Here we begin to see the effects of David's sin upon his own family. These will spin out over the rest of 2 Samuel as David reaps what he has sown.
- B. Amnon's lust for his sister Tamar (2 Samuel 13:1-2)
In the course of time, Amnon son of David fell in **love** with Tamar, the **beautiful** sister of Absalom son of David. ² Amnon became frustrated to the point of illness on account of his **sister Tamar**, for she was a virgin, and **it seemed impossible for him to do anything to her.**

- 1. Amnon is David's oldest son and heir apparent
- 2. Amnon is in the grip of lust over his sister Tamar
 - a. V1 says love, but he is really in the grip of lust
 - b. What he sees is only her beauty - like David with Bathsheba
 - c. She is his sister, but he does not view her that way
 - d. Impossible to do anything to her - the language of lust, not love
- 3. Amnon's ruse (vv3-10)
 - a. On advice of other he pretends to be sick
 - b. He asks David to have Tamar come make him food so he can watch
 - c. The language reminds us of David's sin (bed; looking)
 - d. David is oblivious to the disaster about to happen
 - e. He watches her, then sends all away - no witnesses
 - f. He calls her to his bed - like David with Bathsheba
- 4. Tamar's righteous appeal (vv11-13)
But when she took it to him to eat, he grabbed her and said, "Come to bed with me, my sister."
¹²"Don't, 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. ¹³ 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." 2 Samuel 13:11-13
 - a. Amnon tries to lure Tamar into the bed

b. She righteously refuses, giving three reasons

1. Wicked foolishness (NBL) that should not be done
2. Think of how it will ruin our reputation - I will be disgraced; you will be a wicked fool (NBL) - like Nabal
3. Ask David - he will let us marry (a ruse to get out?)

c. Tamar is presented as the opposite of Amnon

1. He is a wicked fool, acting out of lust
2. She is showing wisdom and is a pure virgin
3. If evil happens, it will be entirely Amnon's fault.

C. Amnon's horrible sin

But he refused to listen to her, and since he was stronger than she, he raped her. 2 Samuel 13:14

1. Amnon in the grip of the sin of lust will not listen
2. He forces himself on her and rapes his own sister
3. Despite his claim to love, this sexual act is simply a raw display of power, taking advantage of someone who is vulnerable.
4. Amnon displays the differences between love and lust in bold relief:
 - a. Love is the giving of one's entire self, lust the taking of physical pleasure
 - b. Love is about relationship, lust is about self-gratification
 - c. Love is content, lust always craves more
 - d. Love makes us more fully human, lust dehumanizes us and others
 - e. Love protects the weak and vulnerable, while lust exploits them.

III. #TamarToo

A. Amnon's reaction to Tamar

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!" ¹⁶ "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. ¹⁷ He called his personal servant and said, "Get this woman out of here and bolt the door after her." 2 Samuel 13:15–17

1. His lust now turns to hate - and he hates her totally
2. After using her, he casts her away like trash.
3. Notice Tamar is not named here - to show that in Amnon's eyes she has ceased to be a real person. She is now merely "this woman".
4. This is the end result of lust and sexual abuse; it attempts to leave the victim nameless, forlorn of hope or even personhood.
5. He will not hear her plea, but even has the door locked after her, hoping to never think of her again.
6. He wants no chance of her return, for to see her is to be reminded of his own wicked, foolish behavior.
7. Abusers continue to victimize the other person long after the initial abuse is finished, to keep them under control and to justify their own behavior.

B. Tamar's reaction to Amnon's sin

Tamar put ashes on her head and tore the ornamented robe she was wearing. She put her hand on her head and went away, weeping aloud as she went. 2 Sa 13:19

1. Ashes on her head, torn robes, weeping - mourning

2. Hand on her head - a sign of going into exile
3. Tamar is a desolate woman, her sense of self-worth shattered and her dignity devastated.
4. This is true in spite of the fact that Tamar did nothing wrong. In fact, the entire story is written to remind us of the story of Joseph and Potiphar's wife
 - a. Amnon/Potiphar wife: "Come to bed with me"
 - b. Tamar/Joseph - No!! This would be wicked
 - c. Tamar/Joseph - give reasons not to do this
 - d. Amnon/Potiphar's wife - lust turns to hate
 - e. Tamar/Joseph - the ornamented robe (v19); only 2 places in all Scripture this phrase is used!
 - f. Amnon is acting like a wicked fool, consumed with lust and persecuting God's righteous child
5. Despite her innocence, Tamar suffers devastation and desolation because of her abuse at the hands of Amnon

C. Absalom's reaction to Tamar

Her brother Absalom said to her, "Has that Amnon, your brother, been with you? Be quiet 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. 2 Samuel 13:20

1. Absalom sees what has happened, but does not really help.
2. Don't take this to heart - as if the abuse had been nothing!

3. Sadly, family and friends often compound the harm of the abuse, either through minimization, ignorance, or neglect.
4. However, at least Absalom does take Tamar into his house to care for her. However, she remains a desolate woman.
 - a. Desolate - used of cities devastated and left empty as people go into exile
 - b. Tamar's existence became almost a living death.

D. David's reaction to Amnon's sin

When King David heard all this, he was furious. 2 Samuel 13:21

1. David is rightly furious about this, but he apparently does nothing!
2. David is apparently unwilling to deal with Amnon's sin and help Tamar
 - a. David appears to have been an indulgent father
 - b. LXX - but he would not hurt Amnon because he was his eldest son and he loved him".
 - c. David appears to have been so worried about the dynasty that it left him blind to his sons' sin and incapable of dealing with it.
 - d. Ironically, this was the same problem Eli and Samuel had!
3. David is probably also unable to confront the sin directly because he had committed the same type of sin himself!

E. The final sordid state

And Tamar lived in her brother Absalom's house, a desolate woman. ²¹ When King David heard all this, he was furious. ²² Absalom never said a word to Amnon, either good or bad; he hated Amnon because he had disgraced his sister Tamar. 2 Samuel 13:20–22

1. Tamar is left abused, bereft, desolate and abandoned by her abuser, her father, and society at large.
2. David is furious but incapable or unwilling to actually do anything to rectify the situation.
3. Amnon is seething with rage at Amnon, ready to take matters in his own hands. Yet even he seems more intent on getting the throne than actually caring for his sister.

IV. Applying the Word

A. A word of warning to all of us about the dangers of sin

1. The horrible nature of sin is throughout this passage
2. Amnon's sin of rape is an unthinkable evil
3. The sin does not end with the rape but cascades out into the future
4. Also, note the continuing effects of David's sin
 - a. Amnon follows David in his sexual sin - kids often do
 - b. Absalom will follow David in murder
 - c. Sexual sin and the sword have been unleashed by David's own, for we reap what we sow
5. A simple message: kill sin or it will be killing you!

B. A word to the church

1. The #MeToo moment has crashed into our culture
2. The church is not immune to this problem
 - a. RCC pedophile crisis and coverup
 - b. Jim Bakker to Bill Hybels - perpetrators
 - c. Many churches have tried to cover incidents up rather than dealing with the sin
 - d. Our first responsibility is to hear, grieve with, and comfort those who have been sexually abused.
 1. Don't add further hurt by in any way blaming the one who has been abused, or by defending the perpetrator.
 2. Sexual abuse can leave wounds that take a long time to heal; we must be patient and loving.
 3. It is not enough to be angry at the perpetrator; we must show deep empathy to the victim.
 - e. Our second responsibility is to expose, confront, and deal with the perpetrator
 1. It is not enough to be angry and then sit idly by. We must do everything within our power to ensure justice is done.
 2. To not deal with the abuser is to multiply the sin and its effects
 3. NOTE: allegations must ALWAYS be handled by proper authorities, not "kept within the church"
 - f. No supposed desire to not let something harm the church or the Gospel must ever cause us to cover sexual abuse or not deal with it

C. A word of hope to those who have been abused

1. There are those listening to this teaching that have been sexually abused and bear the scars of that abuse
2. I am so sorry this has happened to you. No human should ever be treated that way.
3. In Christ's authority I say to you: it is not your fault! You did not deserve this!
4. It is ok to grieve over this, and to understand that true healing takes time and often counseling.
5. Jesus is here to bring healing and hope to you
 - a. He does not want you bolted into a dungeon forever
 - b. He wants to bring healing to your spirit, emotions, mind, relationships - all of you
 - c. He wants to give you hope and a future!
 - d. This does not mean a quick prayer or teaching will resolve everything; it does mean that Jesus Himself took our flesh, endured our pain and suffering, and walks with us through every valley. He has borne your brokenness so that you might receive His healing.

D. The Table of hope and healing

#TamarToo

2 Samuel 13:1-22
September 16, 2018
Communion
Isaiah 61:1-3

Teaching keywords: biblical characters; sin; sexual sin; marriage and family; leadership

May the Spirit of the Sovereign Lord anoint you - binding up your broken heart, releasing you from darkness and prison, and bestowing on you a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise to replace a spirit of despair. And may He anoint you to proclaim the Good News and the time of God's favor to those you meet!
Isaiah 61:1-3 paraphrase

In the course of time, Amnon son of David fell in love with Tamar, the beautiful sister of Absalom son of David. ² Amnon became frustrated to the point of illness on account of his sister Tamar, for she was a virgin, and it seemed impossible for him to do anything to her. ³ Now Amnon had a friend named Jonadab son of Shimeah, David's brother. Jonadab was a very shrewd man. ⁴ 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." ⁵ "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.'" ⁶ 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." ⁷ David sent word to Tamar at the palace: "Go to the house of your brother Amnon and prepare some food for him." ⁸ 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. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ But when she took it to him to eat, he grabbed her and said, "Come

to bed with me, my sister." ¹² "Don't, 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. ¹³ 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." ¹⁴ But he refused to listen to her, and since he was stronger than she, he raped her. ¹⁵ 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!" ¹⁶ "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. ¹⁷ He called his personal servant and said, "Get this woman out of here and bolt the door after her." ¹⁸ So his servant put her out and bolted the door after her. She was wearing a richly ornamented robe, for this was the kind of garment the virgin daughters of the king wore. ¹⁹ Tamar put ashes on her head and tore the ornamented robe she was wearing. She put her hand on her head and went away, weeping aloud as she went. ²⁰ Her brother Absalom said to her, "Has that Amnon, your brother, been with you? Be quiet 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. ²¹ When King David heard all this, he was furious. ²² Absalom never said a word to Amnon, either good or bad; he hated Amnon because he had disgraced his sister Tamar. 2 Samuel 13:1-22