

AMNON'S INCEST AND DEATH

Memory Verse: "None of you shall approach to any that is near of kin to him, to uncover their nakedness: I am the Lord" (Leviticus 18:6).

Text: 2 Samuel 13:1-39; 14:1-33

The righteous God had told David through Nathan the prophet, that, He will chastise him for his sin in the matter of Uriah. In this chapter, the fulfillment of this prophecy began. This made the latter part of his reign less glorious and pleasant. Adultery and murder were David's sins. These same sins were seen among his children. Amnon defiled his sister Tamar while Absalom murdered his brother Amnon. These were the beginning of divine punishment in David's family. The Scripture says: "When the scorner is punished, the simple is made wise: and when the wise is instructed, he receiveth knowledge" (Proverbs 21:11).

AMNON DEFILES TAMAR (2 Samuel 13:1-21; Leviticus 18:5-17; 2 Samuel 16:22; 1Corinthians 5:1-13; 1 Thessalonians 5:22).

"And it came to pass after this, that Absalom the son of David had a fair sister, whose name was Tamar; and Amnon the son of David loved her" (2 Samuel 13:1). Absalom and Tamar his sister were the children of David through his wife Maacah, who was the daughter of Talmai, king of Geshur (2 Samuel 3:3). Amnon was David's first born son, born by his wife Ahinoam the Jezreelitess (2 Samuel 3:2). Being the first born, Amnon was the crown prince —

first in line for the throne of Israel. The three children here are from the same father – David but different mothers. The sin committed by Amnon is called incest.

Question 1: What do you understand by the word incest?

Incest is having immoral relationship with family members. The sin is very grievous before the Lord that He warned the children of Israel against it, "None of you shall approach to any that is near of kin to him, to uncover their nakedness: I am the Lord" (Leviticus 18:6). Paul the apostle rebuked the Corinthian Church for allowing a young man that committed the sin of incest to remain in fellowship with them (1 Corinthians 5:3-5). It should be understood that the word "love" used in this text is infatuation, that is, fleshly lust. The Bible says: "Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law" (Romans 13:10).

Amnon had a friend, his nephew, who was a subtle man and cunning man. "But Amnon had a friend, whose name was Jonadab, the son of Shimeah David's brother: and Jonadab was a very subtil man" (2 Samuel 13:3). Christian youths must be careful of the type of friends they walk with.

Question 2: What was the effect of Jonadab's counsel on Amnon and what lessons can Christian youths learn from this?

"Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners" (1 Corinthians 15:33). One of life's valuable and inevitable relationships is friendship. It is considered the most powerful and loving relationship. It has various impacts on us both now and in future. But the impact could either be positive or negative. The kind of impact we experience depends on the type of friend we have or keep. One thing is very certain, negative impact could be very dangerous and devastating. The presence of peace and

joy of the future could be missed when we keep wrong friends. This is the reason there must be careful consideration on the type of friend we choose. Amnon may not have committed this sin if Jonadab had not been around him. Jonadab gave a devilish counsel to Amnon which aided him to commit incest (verses 4-14). Christian youths must not have close relationship with unbelievers.

Question 3: What were the evidences that Amnon did not love Tamar but had mere lust toward her as stated in verse 1 of our text?

"Then Amnon hated her exceedingly; so that the hatred wherewith he hated her was greater than the love wherewith he had loved her. And Amnon said unto her, Arise, be gone" (2 Samuel 13:15). Amnon had no real love for Tamar but only lust. The evidences that Amnon did not truly love Tamar as he claimed in our text include: (i) He felt guilty for the sin he committed and wanted every reminder of his sin to be put far away from him (verse 17); (ii) He put Tamar to open shame by sending her out and bolted the door against her (verse 18); and he left Tamar in a mournful state after satisfying his lust.(verse 19). The so-called love that many youths claim toward opposite genders today is lust. Therefore, Christian youths should watch and pray. The Bible warns youth to "Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body" (1 Corinthians 6:18). Amnon in our text had his life cut short and dreams terminated due to the negative influence of having a bad friend. "But when king David heard of all these things, he was very wroth" (2 Samuel 13:21). David was angry, but he did not do anything to either protect Tamar or punish Amnon. It may be that David was conscious of his own guilt in a similar matter and therefore felt lack of moral authority to discipline his own son.

ABSALOM MURDERS AMNON (2 Samuel 13:22-39; Jeremiah 17:9; Exodus 20:13; Matthew 5:21)

"And Absalom spake unto his brother Amnon neither good nor bad: for Absalom hated Amnon, because he had forced his sister Tamar" (2 Samuel 13:22). Absalom did not react openly but kept the matter in the heart waiting for a revenge. Truly, nothing is more unsafe to be trusted, than the fair looks of an embittered heart. Absalom kept the offence in his heart against his brother for two full years before revenging. It should be noted here that there is no record that Amnon neither repented nor apologised to his father or to Absalom on this matter. "And it came to pass after two full years ... And Absalom came to the king, and said, Behold now, thy servant hath sheepshearers; let the king, I beseech thee, and his servants go with thy servant. And the king said to Absalom, Nay, my son..... And he pressed him: howbeit he would not go, but blessed him. Then said Absalom, If not, I pray thee, let my brother Amnon go with us. And the king said unto him, Why should he go with thee? But Absalom pressed him, that he let Amnon and all the king's sons go with him" (2 Samuel 13:23-27).

Question 4: What does Absalom's anger and malice for two years reveals about man?

"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" (Jeremiah 17:9). Unconverted heart is deceitful. Therefore, Christian youths must be careful not to trust or rely on unbelieving friends. Sheep shearing was a festive time, and it was natural that Absalom had a great feast and invited Amnon and all the king's sons. Absalom showed some of the same cunning character we saw in Amnon. He asked *David* to allow Amnon and all the king's sons to come to the feast. This made David partly responsible for their meeting, just as Amnon got David to allow Tamar to visit him with food.

"Now Absalom had commanded his servants, saying, Mark ye now when Amnon's heart is merry with wine, and when I say unto you, Smite Amnon; then kill him, fear not: have not I commanded you? be courageous, and be valiant. And the servants of Absalom did unto Amnon as Absalom had commanded. Then all the king's sons arose, and every man gat him up upon his mule, and fled" (2 Samuel 13:28-29). As a cunning killer, Absalom waited until Amnon was relaxed and vulnerable. Amnon probably came to the feast happy about being with Absalom, but after a few cups of wine he was relaxed. At that moment, Absalom gave the order to strike Amnon and they murdered him.

Absalom revenged against his brother Amnon and thus committed murder. Christian youths are commanded not to avenge themselves but to commit all judgement to God who will fight for them. Surprisingly, Jonadab who counselled Amnon on how to achieve his sinful plot was the one that announced his death to his father. What a lesson to Christian youths! "But Absalom fled, and went to Talmai, the son of Ammihud, king of Geshur. And David mourned for his son every day. So Absalom fled, and went to Geshur, and was there three years. And the soul of king David longed to go forth unto Absalom: for he was comforted concerning Amnon, seeing he was dead" (2 Samuel 13:37-39). Absalom ran away from home instead of repenting from his evil until his father began to desire to see him. Many youths today behave like Absalom when they do wrong at home. Rather than running away from home, God demands true repentance and restitution.

JOAB RECONCILES ABSALOM WITH DAVID (2 Samuel 14:1-33; Matthew 5:9; Isaiah 55:7; Hosea 14:1-4; 2 Corinthians 5:18-20) David was troubled by his distant relationship with Absalom. Joab decided to do something to bring David and Absalom back together. This act is called reconciliation. Joab decided to soften David's heart towards Absalom by bringing a wise woman who pretended

to be a mourner before him with a similar story of estrangement from her son.

In the Sermon on the Mount, the Lord Jesus Christ enjoined Christians to be peacemakers reconciling the world with the Lord. "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God" (Matthew 5:9). Joab did all he could through the woman of Tekoa to bring the banished Absalom back home. God likewise has devised a way to bring the banished back to Him, that they might not be expelled from Him. Christ is the way because He stood in the place of guilty sinners; He hung on the cross and received the punishment that we deserved. All who are estranged from God can return to Him through repentance and faith in Christ.

Question 5: What should sinners and backsliders do to be received into God's kingdom?

"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty" (2 Corinthians 6:17-18). Sinners and backsliders are to repent and come out of their ways of sin and accept the Lord Jesus as Saviour. Joab eventually accomplished his goal of bringing Absalom back to his father, David.

Question 6: What can we learn from the wisdom employed by Joab to reconcile David with Absalom?

"Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding" (Proverbs 4:7). The Lord has committed to all Christian youths the work of reconciliation, as ambassadors for Christ. We are to apply wisdom in delivering the gospel message to the world around us so that we can accomplish much.

"So Joab came to the king, and told him: and when he had called for Absalom, he came to the king, and bowed himself on his face to the ground before the king: and the king kissed Absalom" (2 Samuel 14:33). David received Absalom after three years of leaving home. this demonstrates the love of God to sinners and backsliders who return home to the Father. David, like the father of the prodigal son, welcomed his son while in a distance from home (Luke 15:20). The Lord is waiting for sinners who will return to Him for mercy and forgiveness.

	DAILY I	BIBLE REA	ADII	vG —
MORNING			EVENING	
SUN 1	Tim	6:1-21	Psal	m73
MON	2 Tim	1:1-18	"	7 4
TUE	"	2:1-13	"	75 & 76
WED	"	2:14-26	"	7 7
THU	"	3:1-17	"	78:1-35
FRI	"	4:1-8	"	78:36-72
SAT	"	4:9-22	"	79