

I. Introduction: This is one of the most sordid chapters in the Bible.

II. Amnon rapes his half sister Tamar. 13:1-19

A. Amnon is sick with "love". v. 1-2

1. Tamar is very beautiful (and pure). v. 1a,18a 14:25 I Kings 1:6 I Sam. 14:12
2. Amnon appears to desire Tamar only for her outward appearance. v. 1b
3. Amnon's feelings were so strong that he was affected physically and emotionally (depression). v. 2 Ps. 32:3-4 Gen. 4:5 Jonah 4 I Kings 21:4
4. Why can't he do anything to her? v. 2b Lev. 18:9,11
5. Amnon tragically follows in his father's footsteps.
 - a. He is attracted by a woman who is beautiful, but off limits. 11:2-3 Mt. 5:28
 - b. Rather than fleeing from temptation, he indulges his desires (lusts, fantasies) which leads to further sin. 11:4a Js. 1:14-15 Job 31:1 II Tim. 2:22
 - c. His sin has deadly consequences. 11:15ff 12:10ff Js. 1:15
6. Amnon is also acting like Shechem who raped Jacob's daughter Dinah. Ge. 34:2ff

B. Cousin Jonadab hatches a clever, but evil plot. v. 3-5 I Ki. 21:5ff

1. Some people have worldly wisdom, but use it for evil. v. 3 Gen. 3:1 I Ki. 21:5ff Js. 3:15 I Co. 2:6
2. Jonadab affirms Amnon's right to be happy and to have whatever he desires. v. 4a
3. What should Jonadab have said when he heard what Amnon wanted? Pr. 27:5
4. Jonadab's plot is very shrewd – getting Amnon alone with Tamar by taking advantage of the sympathy, goodness and trust of others. v. 5

C. Amnon carries out Jonadab's plot and violates his half sister. v. 6-14

1. The plan works flawlessly. v. 6-10
2. Amnon propositions his half sister. v. 11 Gen. 39:12
3. Tamar refuses and resists (4 reasons). v. 12-13 Ge. 34:7 Judg. 20:5-6 Dt. 22:21
4. Amnon forcibly rapes Tamar. v. 14 Gen. 34:2

D. Amnon hatefully rejects Tamar. v. 15-19

1. At this point the only honorable thing for Amnon to do would be to marry Tamar. Ex. 22:16-17 Dt. 22:28-29
2. Why does he hate her? Really this hatred is not a new development.
3. Amnon, like his father David, abuses his power to harm others. 11:4,6,14ff
4. Tamar cries out in her desolation. v. 19 Gen. 37:3 Dt. 22:24
5. More bad things are about to happen as a result of this deplorable sin. v. 20ff

III. Learn from this tragedy.

A. Learn from Amnon who had passion without love (hormones without heart).

1. Strong feelings, which some call love, often are no more than infatuation or lust.
2. It is not necessarily wrong to feel attracted to someone. v. 1
3. Sometimes a felt attraction is wrong and must be resisted. v. 1 Ga. 5:23 Ro. 13:14
4. Don't make a desired relationship into an idol – something you can't live without. God alone will satisfy your soul. v. 2 Col. 3:5 Isa. 55:1-2 Phil. 4:11 Jer. 17:5-8
5. Often what people call love is hateful lust. v. 15
6. Our culture has radically pursued "sexual liberty."
7. Sin reaps terrible consequences. v. 19ff Pr. 5:11,10ff 6:24ff Heb. 13:4b
8. Don't assume that you are not vulnerable to temptation. I Co. 10:12

- B. Learn from examining Jonadab who had shrewdness without principle. v. 3-5
 - 1. Be careful in choosing your friends and companions. I Co. 15:33 Ps. 1:1 Pr. 13:20
 - 2. Those who appear to be the most clever (worldly wise) are the most dangerous.
 - 3. What kind of friend are you? Pr. 27:5-6,9 I Sam. 18:1ff

- C. Learn from Tamar who had purity without protection.
 - 1. Outward beauty can be a mixed blessing. Pr. 31:30
 - a. Outward beauty may attract the wrong attention as people want you because of your appearance rather than loving you for who you really are inwardly.
 - b. Some people learn how to use their good looks to manipulate others. 14:25ff
 - 2. Tamar exemplifies the inner beauty and character of a godly woman.
 - a. She honors her father. v. 7-8
 - b. She is willing to work with her hands. v. 9 Pr. 31:13
 - c. She shows mercy to others. v. 10
 - d. She fears God and is morally pure. v. 12-13 .
 - e. She is modest. v. 18
 - 3. Tamar instructs you how to deal with sexual temptation.
 - a. Fornication is deplorable because it violates God's holy law. v. 12
 - b. Sexual sin harms others – reproach. v. 13a
 - c. Sexual sin harms you -- a wicked fool.
 - d. Fulfill your desires honorably by pursuing a godly marriage. v. 13c Heb. 13:5

- D. Learn from David.
 - 1. Your sin will influence your children. 12:10ff
 - 2. Fathers have a special responsibility to protect their daughters (and sons).

IV. Concluding applications: Where can hope be found in such a sad passage?

- A. God has taught us a much better way to find true romantic love -- in marriage. Gen. 2:18-25 Eph. 5:22-33 I Co. 13:4ff
 - 1. Love delights in the person more than the package – which means you should get to know the person well before giving up your heart and committing yourself.
 - 2. True love seeks what is best for the beloved. I Co. 13:4-7 Eph. 5:25ff Gen. 2:18
 - 3. God has given marriage as a blessing to humanity for the enjoyment of loving romance and sex. Gen. 2:24 Prov. 5:15-19 Heb. 13:4a
- B. God is working out His plan. 12:10ff Ex. 20:5
- C. God is the protector and comforter of the oppressed (and the judge of oppressors). Ps. 68:5 146:9 Pr. 31:9
- D. Christ our bridegroom has loved us with a sacrificial purifying love. Eph. 5:25ff I Jo. 4:10 John 3:16 Ps. 22:6 Isa. 53:7
- E. Christ has set His people free from bondage to sinful desires. Ti. 3:3-4 Ro. 6:1ff Ezek. 18

Discussion questions

1. What is God doing in this chapter?
2. Is there such a thing as love at first sight?
3. Why did Amnon's love turn so quickly to hatred?
4. What does Jonadab teach us about our choice of friends?
5. What can we learn from Tamar about resisting temptation?
6. What can parents learn about their responsibility to their children?
7. Why does God allow such things to happen?
8. What hope can we find in such awful events?
9. Where is Christ in this passage?