

I. Introduction.

II. David fails to enact justice. v. 19-22

A. Tamar is desolate. v. 19-20

1. She has been wickedly violated and cast off by Amnon. v. 14,17-18
2. She does not hide her grief, but cries out.
3. Victims of such horrible crimes should cry out. Dt. 22:24
4. Tamar's cry is a call to God for justice. Gen. 4:10 Ex. 2:23 I Sam. 7:9 12:8 Judg. 3:9 Neh. 9:28 James 5:4 Esther 4:1 Ps. 107:13 142:1ff Hab. 1:2 Joel 1:14

B. David gets angry, but fails to act. v. 21

1. Sometimes righteous anger is appropriate. John 2:14ff Mark 3:5 Eph. 4:26 Ps. 2:12 7:11 69:24 Heb. 3:10 I Sam. 11:6
2. David as ruler in God's theocratic kingdom is responsible to uphold justice.
3. Why doesn't David do anything to Amnon? I Kings 1:6
4. Those in authority have a duty to justly punish evil (and protect the innocent) on the LORD's behalf. Rom. 13:4 I Pe. 2:13-14 I Co. 5:1ff Mt. 18:15-18
5. What should David have done? Lev. 20:17 Ex. 22:16
6. Whom does David now resemble? I Sam. 2:29

C. Absalom begins to assume David's role.

1. Absalom comforts his sister Tamar and welcomes her into his home. v 20 14:27
2. Absalom bides his time as he waits for the opportunity to avenge his sister's honor.

D. Learn from David's failure.

1. Parents are responsible to protect their children from evil. Jer. 17:9
2. Your sinful example will affect your children. Ex. 20:5
3. We should actively show compassion to victims of violence. Pr. 31:8-9
4. Failure to enact justice has terrible consequences. Ecc. 8:11 I Co. 5:6 Pr. 20:26
5. When the authorities fail to act, vigilantes take justice into their own hands.
6. Indulgent parents bring disaster upon their families. v. 21 I Sa. 2:29 I Ki. 1:6 Pr. 13:24
7. Children, give thanks to God for parents who faithfully discipline you. Eph. 6:1-3

III. Absalom avenges his sister Tamar. v. 23-39

A. The account of Absalom's plot to kill Amnon parallels the account of Amnon's plot to violate Tamar. v. 23-27 Prov. 26:23-26

1. He gains access to his victim through a clever and deceitful plan which takes advantage of the trust of others (and their sense of family duty). v. 5,23-27
2. David again is portrayed as clueless as he puts another child in danger. v. 7,24-27
3. Absalom follows his passion (for revenge) which will ultimately lead to his doom, just as Amnon gave in to his passions and died as a result.
4. David reacts to evil with emotion, but not action. v. 21,36
5. Clothes are torn in mourning. v. 18,31

B. Absalom has his half-brother Amnon killed. v. 28-29

1. Absalom instructs his servants to murder Amnon.
2. This account of Amnon's death parallels the account of David's murder of Uriah, just as the first half of the chapter paralleled David's sexual sin with Bathsheba.

- a. He tricks his victim, taking advantage of his trust. v. 27 11:6-14
 - b. He makes his victim drunk. v. 28 11:13
 - c. He uses his underlings to carry out the vile deed. v. 29,17-18 11:15-17
 - d. David receives a report from a messenger after the deed is done. v. 30-33 11:22
3. Amnon's act of revenge also parallels the account of Jacob's sons avenging the violation of their sister Dinah. Gen. 34
- a. Their father Jacob had failed to act so his sons, like Absalom, take matters into their own hands. Gen. 34:5-7,30-31
 - b. They gain the trust of Shechem and deceitfully trick him and his clan into making themselves vulnerable to attack. Gen. 34:13-17
 - c. They take their bloody revenge. Gen. 34:25ff
4. Amnon's fratricide also reminds us of the first murder by Cain. Gen. 4:8,12
- C. David receives the report of Amnon's death. v. 30-36
- 1. First, David hears that all of his sons had been murdered by Absalom. v. 30-31
 - 2. Jonadab shrewdly discerns what has really happened (and why). v. 32-35
 - 3. David mourns over the loss of his son Amnon. v. 36
- D. David and Absalom are estranged. v. 37-39
- 1. Absalom goes to live with his grandmother on his mother's side. v. 37-38
 - 2. Absalom emerges as a rival for David to the throne.
 - a. He is handsome. 14:25f
 - b. He is cunning. 13:23ff
 - c. He commands loyalty. 13:28-29
 - d. He claims to enact justice where David falls short. 15:2-3
 - e. He has eliminated Amnon in the royal line.
 - f. He is bitter against his father and no longer respects him.
- E. We, too, can be tempted to take revenge. Rom. 12:17-21 Mt. 7:1ff
- 1. When we see evil and injustice we want to see the guilty punished. Js. 4:1ff
 - 2. It is not our job to avenge evil. Gen. 50:19 Rom. 12:19
 - 3. We can trust God to do what is just. I Pe. 2:21-23

IV. A sad conclusion to a tragic chapter.

- A. Sin has consequences. Pr. 6:26-35 Gal. 6:6-7
- B. Where is God? 12:10-12,25 Ro. 8:28 Gen. 50:20
- C. David is pathetic -- he has gone from being the royal hero to being a royal wimp.
- D. The LORD is the King that David (and his sons) is not.
 - 1. He enacts justice upon the wicked. Ps. 9:7-8
 - 2. He is a stronghold for the oppressed. Ps. 9:9
 - 3. He faithfully disciplines His children. Pr. 3:11-12
 - 4. He loves us perfectly. John 15:13 I Jo. 4:10 Ps. 22:6 Is. 53:7 I Pe. 3:18
- E. Repent while there is time.

Discussion questions

- 1. How do men today act like Amnon in their relationships with women?
- 2. What duty do parents have to protect their children from evil?
- 3. What harm results from parents being indulgent with their adult kids?
- 4. What should David have done to Amnon?
- 5. What are the responsibilities of government, church and family leaders to enact justice?
- 6. What typically happens when rulers fail to act justly?
- 7. When is your anger righteous anger?
- 8. Is revenge ever justified? Explain your answer.