

The Heart-Breaking Harvest

Text: Galatians 6:9; Job 4:8; Hosea 8:7

God has placed the laws of sewing and reaping into the deepest fabric of life. There is no doubt that God forgave David. Some of the most beautiful Psalms came after his tragic downfall. Yet, running simultaneously with his blessings were these very sad times of reaping what he had sown. In a moment of foolish behavior, a person may break their leg, but just because they are sorry, the leg doesn't automatically heal. After David's great sin, Nathan declared in II Samuel 12:10a, "Now therefore the sword shall never depart from thine house...." II Samuel 12:11a: "Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house...." And now the whirlwind begins.

1. THE DESTRUCTIVE THOUGHT LIFE

II Samuel 13:1, 2

Proverbs 23:7a reads, "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he...." It is interesting to note that Amnon had no initial intention of carrying out his vile thoughts, but soon he changes his mind when a way to do so is presented to him.

There is a thin line between thinking about something and doing it. Before there was a Third Reich in Germany, *Mein Kampf* was in the evil mind of Hitler. Before there was a Communist Russia or China, *Das Kapital* was in the wicked mind of Karl Marx. Soon after David McCullough came out with his book on the Wright Brothers, I absorbed every word. I was thrilled to read of Wilbur and Orville's fundamentalist, Bible-believing father who was a very influential pastor in Ohio. Pastor Milton Wright was very eclectic in the selection of books he read and shared with his children. Their house was filled with great theological writings and books applauding moral high ground, but one day Milton brought the writings of skeptics into the house. My heart sank as McCullough said he believed the Wright brothers may have stopped attending church under the influence of books by Robert Ingersoll, a 19th-century agnostic who mocked religious belief. On a positive note, I personally believe the reading of good books and allowing my mind to get into the mind of holy men and women have greatly influenced me.

2. THE DECEITFUL COMPANION

II Samuel 13:3-5

The spiral downward is easily detected by five words found in II Samuel 13:5, "But Amnon had a friend...." We rarely rise above the level of those whom we call friends. This teaching is found repeatedly in the Word of God. Proverbs 27:17: "Iron sharpeneth iron;

so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend." I Corinthians 15:33: "Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners." Proverbs 13:20: "He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed."

3. THE DEPRAVED DEED

II Samuel 13:6-14

This passage is very difficult to read. Even more difficult to comprehend. Tamar was the half-sister of Amnon, the apparent heir to the throne. The incestuous longing for

her is wicked to the core. Amnon carries through on the vile plan that his cousin Jonadab hatched in his putrid imagination. James 1:15: "Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death." Tamar is a virtuous young lady, dressed in the robes unique to a virgin princess. Chastity was considered most precious in those days and, in God's eyes, still is. God declares in Proverbs 31:10, "Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies." The Lord intends for a lady to give this gift of a ruby to one man alone, her husband. If someone attempts to steal this ruby from a maiden, not only does God forbid it, but under the law of God, severe consequences are to follow (Deuteronomy 22:25, 26).

4. THE DEMENTED CONSCIENCE

II Samuel 13:15-19

After this unspeakable deed had been committed, the burning uncontrolled lust of Amnon turned into something despicable by any accounts. He mercilessly throws her out after he has used and abused her. And even then she is pleading with him to do the right thing. There is incite given to this mentality. I Timothy 4:2: "Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron." Romans 2:15: "Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another." When confronted with a moral decision, if we chose wrongly, our conscience suffers a blow and becomes calloused after a while. If we continue to ignore the convicting of the Holy Spirit, the Lord likens our conscience as seared, incapable of feeling. And we observe Amnon is one operating with a seared, burned, sociopathic, demented conscience.

5. THE DETERMINED BROTHER

II Samuel 13:20-22

Absalom is the full brother of Tamar. She immediately goes to live and shelters with him. Absalom comforts her and tells her to hold her peace. Absalom now hates his brother Amnon and even now is planning to make Amnon pay for his sin. David does nothing but get angry. No consequences are administered by the king.

6. THE DELIVERED VENGEANCE

II Samuel 13:23-36

After two years of waiting, Absalom launches his plan and orchestrates the death of his brother. David is apparently unaware that Absalom has not talked to Amnon of two years. The king has turned his back on the needs of his children, giving them everything they want and never addressing their transgressions. This has become the atmosphere of seething hate in the home.

If ever there was a man who fully deserved the punishment of the law, it was Amnon. God never approves vigilante actions or taking vengeance in their own hands. In another story, Jacob rebukes his sons for taking the matter of the defilement of their sister Diana into their own hands. Genesis 49:5, 6a: "Simeon and Levi are brethren; instruments of cruelty are in their habitations. O my soul, come not thou into their secret; unto their assembly, mine honour, be not thou united: for in their anger they slew a man...." Furthermore, God openly rebukes, being the jury, judge and executioner of wrong. Romans 12:19: "Dearly beloved, avenge not

yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.” God has established the law to make sure that justice is carried out corporately and fairly. Deuteronomy 19:15: “One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth: at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established.” Deuteronomy 17:6: “At the mouth of two witnesses, or three witnesses, shall he that is worthy of death be put to death; but at the mouth of one witness he shall not be put to death.”

7. THE DARK DESTINATION

II Samuel 13:37-39

Absalom, now a fugitive goes to his maternal grandfather, Talmai, king of another kingdom. This is a dark place to be. Certainly, this grandfather of not only Absalom, but also his sister Tamar who was defiled is definitely going to be very protective, if not proud of Absalom for protecting the honor of the family. It was here that scholars believe the plans for insurrection were getting fine-tuned.

It was also a dark place for David. The Bible records in II Samuel 13:37b: “...And David mourned for his son every day.” Then it went on to say: II Samuel 13:38b: “...And the soul of king David longed to go forth unto Absalom....”

CONCLUSION:

There are truths to be gleaned and applied for us as we study of II Samuel 13.

1. Guard your thoughts; don't let them runaway. II Corinthians 10:5: “Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.”
2. Obey the pricking of your conscience by God, lest you find your conscience calloused and finally seared. Acts 24:16: “And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men.”
3. Follow the protocol of justice outlined by God's Word. Leave vengeance in His hand. Deuteronomy 32:35: “To me belongeth vengeance, and recompence; their foot shall slide in due time: for the day of their calamity is at hand, and the things that shall come upon them make haste.”

-Pastor Pope-