

Is There An Amnon In Your House?

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2 Samuel 13:1-39

- I. This is one of the most repugnant and disgusting passages in the entire Bible.
 - A. Because of who it was and where it happened we are bound to study this matter and try to get some understanding about the warning God surely meant for it to be to others.
 - B. We can trace the roots of this awful thing all the way back to David's disappointments and missteps with women in his early life.
 1. David was a great king and a great ruler of a kingdom, but he was a great failure in ruling his own house.
 2. This failure was rooted in the fact that he had multiple wives and concubines.
 - C. In order to raise children that are well-balanced and disciplined in their behavior there must be unity between their mother and father – oneness in affections, judgement, and in love for God.
 1. A parent may have a hundred good qualities and 1 bad, and the children will be much more apt to follow the bad.
 - D. David's bad qualities had to do with women.
 1. The common thread among David's children is that they were all fair to look upon.
 2. The common thread among David's wives is that they were all fair to look upon.
 3. David married women based upon that attraction alone, evidently.
 4. They obviously did not share his faith in God nor were they concerned with instilling it in the children.
 - E. The only two wives that we know much about are Abigail and Bathsheba, who both were the wives of other men before David took them to himself.
 1. He married Abigail because of her kindness and her character.
 2. He married Bathsheba because he felt responsible for her.
 3. These are the only two wives that we know about who raised children that were not a mess.
- II. David was a busy man and loaded with the cares of business and with the affairs of the kingdom.
 - A. Men who are burdened with cares outside the home like this are more apt to leave everything to the mother.
 - B. They are more likely to rest in the hope that all will turn out well with his children because they are taken care of and have what they need.
 - C. These kinds of fathers are also the most likely to have an Amnon among their children.
 - D. Besides his busy-ness with other matters, having a number of wives made it impossible for there to be a normal family situation.

1. He was not like a normal father in that he could not cohabit with all of them at the same time, so they were without their father most all of the time.
 2. All they knew about him came from simply watching him and knowing about him through what they saw and heard –and they had to have heard plenty.
- E. The world and ungodly relatives do not acknowledge a man’s godly traits – they look for similarities in him to themselves.
1. Any public talk of David was bound to be centered around the fact that he collected beautiful women.
 2. Also, the talk would have been magnified beyond measure after his sin with Bathsheba was made public knowledge.
 3. Do not imagine that his children were not exposed to all this.
 4. The effect on them was that they took David’s failures in these matters and indulged themselves in the same, but to much further extremes.

III. Where did such a monster as Amnon come from?

- A. He was David’s firstborn son, of Ahinoam the Jezreelitess while David was in Hebron.
- B. The firstborn child is always a little different and gets a little different raising than other children.
1. Sometimes they get more attention than they need and are spoiled when they are young.
- C. All David’s children were pretty spoiled from what we can read about them.
1. They were indulged and never had to fight or work for anything.
 2. They lived a life of wealth and protection, being the kings children, which makes for no character.
 3. We know that David was very soft toward disciplining them.

1 Kings 1:6 And his father had not displeased him at any time in saying, Why hast thou done so? and he also was a very goodly man; and his mother bare him after Absalom. (Adonijah)

- D. David did not suspect Amnon of anything like what happened because he sent Tamar to Amnon himself.
1. His own trusted family (Jonadab) used him to execute their evil plan against this girl.
- E. So David is just now being awakened to what really lives in his house, and to what his children are really like.
1. Up until now he has been at ease and thinking that he has the best children in the kingdom.
 2. Because of the care of his life and his busy-ness with his responsibilities he has left the raising of them to his multiple wives and their hearts and minds have not been guarded or trained up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.
- F. So now David is reaping the consequences of his weaknesses, failures, and sins.
1. Shame – because of the sins of his children, and ashamed of his own sin, and ashamed of his failure as a father to this boy
 2. Sorrow and great disappointment
 3. Loss – of his children by death and by disgrace (Absalom)
 4. Ruin of his children that have not followed his bad habits (Tamar)
 5. More reason for the enemies of God to blaspheme
 6. Truly his sin is ever before him

7. Now the sins of his children are ever before him.
- G. Now it is time for regrets to trouble him.
1. He remembered Amnon when he first held him as a newborn baby and wishes he could turn back the clock so he could do things differently.
 2. He remembers how that while Amnon was growing up he was too busy and preoccupied to pay much attention to him, so he never really got to know him, or let Amnon know who his father really was.
- IV. So one of the lessons to take away from this terrible account in the Bible is to be keenly aware of what kind of a child is growing up under your care.
- A. Take nothing for granted about what is going on in their heart.
 1. Amnon did not become what he was that day in that moment.
 2. What he did that day was a long time in the making and no one noticed.
 - B. Purpose in your own heart to be keenly aware of the example you are setting for them in everything you do, in every attitude you have, in every word you speak to others and the way you speak it.
 1. They will take our example above everything we say with our lips.
 2. They will follow our example and take it much further than they saw us do.
 3. Be REAL in front of your children – a child can detect hypocrisy faster than the speed of light, and the devil helps them with that.
 - C. Be extremely aware of the influence and examples that others are setting for them to follow.
 1. Relatives – Jonadab was Amnon's cousin
 2. Social media is a death trap for everyone, but especially children and young people because they are looking for examples to follow and for someone to tell them something new.
 - D. Do not smother a child with isolation and restrictions, but keep a clear line of communication open with them on the heart level.
 1. And be subtle about it and not open, because the child can easily tell you what you want to hear and keep you ignorant of what he is really about.
 - E. Be realistic about your children and each individual child.
 1. Do not live in your own wishful fantasy about what they really are and refuse to accept the truth about them.
 2. Do not defend your children of wrongdoing when you do not absolutely know all the details of what happened.
 3. Be as realistic about your own children as you are about everyone else's.
 4. Realize that they are sinners in training and they could very well end up being an Amnon, despite your best efforts.
 - F. Pray, pray, pray, and beg God continually to make you what you ought to be in front of your children and for eyes to see and ears to hear concerning them.
 - G. Live your life every day with the realization of how much your example has to do with the way they turn out.
 - H. Believe God in this matter and obey Him in everything He says, and search the Word of God to know what He says about it.