



Tamar and Redemption for the Violated

2 Samuel 13



The Story in Six Scenes

Scene 1 – The Tormented Son

- Amnon loved Tamar, sister to Absalom and his *stepsister*, and was tormented by this “love” – 2 Sam. 13:1-2, 4
 - Amnon knew nothing about love, which seeks the good of a person no matter the cost.
 - Amnon lived without God; so his passions became his god.
- That his passion was tormenting him and making him sick should have told him something was wrong direction.
 - He may have incorrectly reasoned that feelings this strong can't be wrong!
 - If your passions get control your life, they will torment and ruin you.

Scene 2 – The Crafty Friend

- Amnon had a crafty friend named Jonadab, son of Shimeah, David's brother – 2 Sam. 13:3-4
 - He knew something was bothering Amnon and asked about it.
 - Amnon answered that it was his “love” for Tamar.
- Jonadab made a plan to get them together – 2 Sam. 13:5
- Jonadab seemed to think love is supporting whatever your friend wants to do.
 - That is PC philosophy, but far from seeking another's best.
 - Beware of friends that are always willing to support whatever you want!

Scene 3 – The Loyal Daughter

- Amnon followed the plan and David sent Tamar to care for him which she did – 2 Sam. 13:6-8
- As a result, shame was heaped upon her in three ways:
 - She was **betrayed** by the one she came to serve
 - She was **violated** by the one she trusted – 2 Sam. 13:9-14; Deut. 27:22
 - She was **rejected** and thrown out like trash – 2 Sam. 13:15-18

Scene 4 – The Vengeful Brother

- Despite her great trauma and sorrow, Absalom is no help to her – 2 Sam. 13:20
 - Absalom was loyal to Tamar, but his advice was very wrong!
 - He basically says to be quiet and move on. It is all in the family!
- This was such a big deal that Absalom hated Amnon and apparently determined that day to kill him – 2 Sam. 13:22
 - He should have confronted Amnon with the truth right then.
 - Instead, he let his anger burn for two years leading to murder and his own corruption!

Scene 5 – The Passive Father

- When David heard of this he became very angry! – 2 Sam. 13:21
 - David knew what Amnon had done and what followed hinged on him.
 - **David did absolutely nothing!**
- It is said that David's similar sin against Bathsheba paralyzed him in this matter.
 - His sin brought this evil into his house. **Fathers beware!**
 - This was no excuse for lack of action!
- Neither Absalom nor David tell the truth about Tamar's trauma! Will anyone tell the truth about Tamar?
- **God tells the truth...right here in this text!**

Scene 6 – Tamar's Pain

- This sin against Tamar brought:
 - Great sorrow and suffering – 2 Sam. 13:19
 - Desolation upon her – 2 Sam. 13:20
- Try to take in the pain of this godly woman.
 - She feels so wretched that she puts ashes on her head and tore her royal robe!
 - Her sense of shame did not go away. She was damaged goods! – Job 10:15
- That is where Tamar was and maybe you know what that is like.
 - She did nothing wrong, but shame was heaped upon her – 2 Sam. 13:13
 - Maybe you have done wrong...for which you are greatly ashamed



The Answer to Tamar's Question

Scene 7

The Answer

- **Consider** the parallels between Tamar and what happened to Jesus
 - He too was sent by His Father to a place where He should have been honored, welcomed, and safe, but He was not – John 1:11; Isa. 53:3
 - He too came as a servant and was betrayed by the ones He came to serve
 - He too was abused, being stripped of his clothing, beaten, spat upon, and pierced
 - He too was excluded, thrown out like trash, and left to suffer outside the city, hanging in agony on a cross
- **Understand...**
 - Jesus knows what it is like to be loaded down with shame despite doing nothing wrong – Heb. 12:1-2
 - Jesus endured the shame and was able to look down on it, to overcome it, because He knew who He was and where He was going!

The Answer

- **Answer the question: “Who am I?”**
 - To answer this you must first decide what will be ***your*** story.
 - Abuse by sinners or being abused by sin may be part of your story, but you can’t allow that to be your story.
- **So, who are you?**
 - The world answers with affirmations of self-worth, self-esteem, and self-love.
 - But, these can’t help you overcome your suffering and distorted self-image or show you how to love or be loved...**when you feel worthless!**

The Answer

- **Carry it to Jesus!**

- He is the only answer!
- He came into the world so that you could be a part of a better story, that sin against you or committed by you would not define your life
- He came so that you and Tamar can have a scene 7 – a new and better story—a story of real hope!
- He came so that in him you can despise your shame and rise above it, replacing it with joy. – Isa. 61:1-3
- Remember, it is God “Who redeems your life from destruction, who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies” – Psa. 103:4
- Tamar tore her royal robe; but Christ clothes us in royal robes of righteousness!