

A Friend or a Foe?

2 Samuel 13 [The Importance of Having the Right Kind of Friends]

David's sin may be put away (12:13), but the consequences of his sin are not over. *"Be sure, your sin will find you out,"* and it usually finds you out in your children.

"Chickens have come home to roost" in the form of lust, rape, incest, hate and murder. One disaster follows after another.

2 Samuel 13 is a depressing chapter. (Sin is depressing!) God is not mentioned in the chapter!

I. **A FORBIDDEN passion** (13:1-2).

➡ Two things temporarily kept his passion in check. (v. 2—"... *thought it hard for him to do any thing to her*").

A. **The Word of God.** He knew the Bible forbid incest. *"Cursed be he that lieth with his sister, the daughter of his father, or the daughter of his mother."* (Dt. 27:22 cf. Lev. 20:17).

➡ You must establish standards and convictions based in the Word of God about what is right and wrong. Biblical standards can restrain you from doing something you will later regret. DRUGS are wrong; ALCOHOL is wrong; CIGARETTES are wrong; PRE-MARITAL SEX is wrong; HOMOSEXUALITY is wrong; DIVORCE is wrong.

B. **His conscience.**

1. Amnon thought, "I know better than that! I'm a child of the King! Tamar is the my half-sister—She's the princess. I can't touch her! That is wrong and sinful."
2. YOUR THOUGHT LIFE—Your "self-talk" will determine if you will have victory or be defeated by temptation. We should say to ourselves: "I know better than that. If I did that, I'd make the devil's day. I'm a child of the King! I love Jesus too much to hurt Him by committing this sin!"
3. Amnon would have survived this temptation because of these two forces in his life. That should have been the end of it!

Everything would have been OK if it weren't for verse 3—“*But Amnon had a friend...*”).

II. **A FRIEND'S persuasion** (13:3-5).

- A good friend can be one of the greatest blessings on earth. But, the wrong kind of friend can be a curse.
- A. Amnon did not need this kind of “friend.” *“Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.”* (1 Cor. 15:33).
 1. Jonadab made it easy for Amnon to sin. It wasn't Amnon who figured out how to have Tamar—it was one of his friends that helped him to sin.
 2. If Jonadab was the right kind of friend, he would have told Amnon his feelings towards his sister were **WRONG**. Instead, he was *“a very subtle man,”* like the devil (v. 3). With friends like Jonadab, who needs enemies?
- B. **The power of a friend's influence** is second only to the power of God. A wrong friend has the power to **MOW DOWN** your conscience. They have the power to bring your standards **DOWN** to the level of their standards.
 1. Many are not saved because they have the wrong friends.
 2. Many are not living for God because they want to “fit in” with the crowd.
- C. **Your close friends reveal your character.** Proverbs 13:20—*“He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.”* You show me who your best friends are... who you spend time with... the crowd you run with—I'll show you what you are in heart! “Birds of a feather flock together.”
- D. Your friends **reveal the direction you are going** (Amos 3:3). You are right now, or you soon shall be, what your friends are!
 1. Think back to times in your life when you first tasted the bitterness of sin. Was there a “friend” nearby encouraging you to “have it your way?”

- First time you smoked a cigarette?
 - Drank some beer?
 - Smoked some grass?
 - Swallow some pills?
 - Engage in pre-marital sex?
2. What effect are your friends having upon you?
- Do they make easier for you to sin or do they try to talk you out of sin?
 - Do they encourage you live for God or do they weaken your commitment to Him?
 - Are they faithful to church or do they skip church?
 - Do they honor your parents and pastor, or do they criticize them?
 - **Do they pray for your spiritual growth?**
3. Parents, do you know who your children's friends are?

III. A FIENDISH ploy (13:6-11). Some weird things begin to happen:

- A. **Pretense**—**Red Flag**—Amnon refused to eat.
- B. **Privacy**— **Red Flag**—He sends out his servants (v. 9). Amnon gets Tamar ALONE (v. 9). It is best to not be alone with the opposite sex. Unchaperoned activities need to be avoided.
- ➡ **Red Flag**—He wants Tamar to feed him *in his bedroom*.
- C. Tamar is a naïve (simple) young woman. Why should she not trust her brother?
- Proverbs 14:15—*“The simple believeth every word: but the prudent man looketh well to his going.”*
 - Proverbs 22:3—*“A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished.”*
- ➡ Tamar's lack of caution is about to lead her into a situation she cannot get out of.

IV. A FUTILE plea (13:12-14).

- ➡ Sin cannot be reasoned with. It must be resisted.

- A. She called sin what it is—FOLLY!
- B. She pleaded to consider the consequences. Lust is not interested in marriage or the Word of God—It's only interested in SELF-GRATIFICATION.
- C. Tamar is the innocent victim here. She is trapped.

V. **A FORSAKEN princess** (13:15-20).

➡ Ex. 22:16 commanded Amnon to make it right with Tamar. *“If a man entice a maid that is not betrothed, and lie with her, he shall surely endow her to be his wife.”* (see also Dt. 22:28-29).

- A. **Sin leaves one cold and heartless. Sin never satisfies!**
- B. What Amnon shamelessly stole from Tamar, could never be restored. She is thrown out as damaged goods. Her life is summed up as desolate.

VI. **A FAILING parent** (13:21).

- A. David is angry.
 - 1. Angry at how Amnon used him (v. 7).
 - 2. Angry at how Amnon defiled his daughter.
 - 3. He had good reason to be angry! We should be angry about sin.
- B. **But David does nothing about it.** He is an indulgent father who raises a bunch of unruly children.
 - 1. Amnon should be punished and Tamar vindicated.
 - 2. Instead Amnon is not held accountable and Tamar receives no damages.
- C. David may have been a great King, but he was a lousy father.

VII. **A FATAL plot** (13:22-29).¹

- A. Because David would not execute justice upon Amnon, Absalom would. He takes matters into his own hands.

¹I e e g he be f e e he Bbe h e e ed a a ea/fea :Be ha a ;Ha a ; S e ;J b ch de . Ma ga g e a d a a e be ha e bee de ed a e a a .

B. This leads to Absalom's becoming a rebel.

SUMMATION: Because Amnon had the wrong kind of friend...

- He gave in to lust
- Tamar was emotionally scarred for life.
- He was murdered while drunk.
- Absalom became a fugitive and rebel.

All because Amnon had the wrong kind of friend.

➡ What kind of friends do you have?

- Are they friends that encourage you to live for God... go to church... read your Bible?
- Are they friends you'd like to be with when the Lord returns?
- Are they friends your parents or pastor would be proud of?
- Are they friends who pray for you on a regular basis?