

## 2 Samuel 12-13 – “Consequences of Sin”

### Summary Statement

These chapters depict the aftermath of David's grievous sin with Bathsheba, highlighting the prophetic confrontation by Nathan, the judgment pronounced, and the unfolding tragedy within David's household as a result of his actions.

### Outline:

1. Nathan: The Voice of Conviction – 12:1-14
2. David: Convicted and Forgiven – 12:15-31
3. Amnon: Selfish Lust – 13:1-22
4. Absalom: The Cycle of Vengeance – 13:23-39

It's believed that about a year has passed from when David committed this sin of adultery with Bathsheba. It's been a difficult time in David's life as it should be whenever anyone tries to harbor unconfessed sin.

David records for us the kind of torment he was in during this time:

**Psalms 32:1–4**, *"Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered. <sup>2</sup> Blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity, And in whose spirit there is no deceit. <sup>3</sup> When I kept silent, my bones grew old Through my groaning all the day long. <sup>4</sup> For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was turned into the drought of summer. Selah."*

Now we can get the impression that God is angry and just wanting David to suffer. We can feel sometimes that when we've blown it, it's God that distances Himself from us and wants nothing to do with us.

- But that's not the case at all. God showed His desire for restoration right in the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve sinned. Adam and Eve thought their only recourse was to hide from God because He's not going to be too happy with them or want anything to do with them – so they think.
- But it was God who came calling out to them, *'Adam, where are you?'* (Genesis 3:9). God made the move to seek them and restore them.
- David is failing to see the heart of God here and he's lingering in his sin. And it's not been comfortable. He's been in agony.
- This is exactly the place we'll be when we harbor unconfessed sin. When we've fallen or messed up, our desire should be to turn quickly to God

where we find forgiveness and restoration. And know that God is ready to welcome us in.

We see that clearly here with David. After a number of months of not confessing this sin and being in agony, God seeks out David. Not to punish David but to correct him; to bring David back into a restored relationship with God.

- David may have begun to think he's gotten away with a grievous sin. Life can just go on as though nothing happened. But life can never be the same or be right if we're allowing sin to disconnect us from God. So God comes after David. Please see the heart of our Father here. This is a heart of love and care for David, desiring to see him (and us) walking rightly with Him for our blessing and peace.
- I think of what Jesus did with Peter when Peter denied Jesus. Peter went back to his old life it seemed. Perhaps thinking he's done; it's been a good ride while it lasted but now he's wasted goods. But Jesus desires to restore Peter. When the angel instructed the women to go and share the news of the resurrected Jesus with the disciples, He sent the woman to go and get his samples and he said go and the angel said, *"...go, tell His disciples – and Peter – that He is going before you in Galilee; there you will see Him..."* (Mark 16:7). He made a special point to reference Peter. He could have said, but don't tell Peter, I'm still mad at him. But his desire was to restore Peter. It's always God's desire to restore us back into a right relationship with Him. And that means that we need to be confronted with our sin so we can confess and repent of our sin. God's purpose in that is always to bring restoration and reconciliation in our relationship with Him.

Notice, God sends a friend...

## 1. Nathan: The Voice of Conviction – 12:1-14

**12:1-6 - *Then the Lord sent Nathan to David. And he came to him, and said to him: "There were two men in one city, one rich and the other poor. <sup>2</sup> The rich man had exceedingly many flocks and herds. <sup>3</sup> But the poor man had nothing, except one little ewe lamb which he had bought and nourished; and it grew up together with him and with his children. It ate of his own food and drank from his own cup and lay in his bosom; and it was like a daughter to him. <sup>4</sup> And a traveler came to the rich man, who refused to take from his own flock and from his own herd to prepare one for the wayfaring***

***man who had come to him; but he took the poor man's lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him.”<sup>5</sup> So David's anger was greatly aroused against the man, and he said to Nathan, “As the Lord lives, the man who has done this shall surely die!<sup>6</sup> And he shall restore fourfold for the lamb, because he did this thing and because he had no pity.”***

Now kings would often sit in the gate of the city and preside over matters that needed counsel and judgment. It's possible that this is what's taking place when Nathan comes to David. Perhaps David is hearing this story thinking that this is just a scenario playing out among some of his countrymen and he needs to deliver the verdict. And David becomes indignant.

It's quite funny (sad actually) how bad our sin looks on others. We tend to excuse things when it pertains to our doing. Sin always looks magnified when others are doing it. This is why Jesus says to remove the plank in your eye before you try and remove the speck of dust in a brother's eye (Matthew 7:3). Those things in others become glaring offenses when we're often unaware that we're guilty of much the same. This is why we need to search our heart and see if there is any wicked way in us (Psalm 139:23-24).

So David comes down pretty hard on this guilty person for taking another person's little ewe lamb. In fact, he pronounces the death penalty on him. Quite severe. David is not dealing fairly or justly with this man. This was not deserving of death. But David's sin certainly was according to the law.

- The proper and legal penalty was to restore fourfold for a lamb stolen and killed (Exodus 22:1). David went way overboard.

But now the truth bomb gets dropped...

***12:7-12 - Then Nathan said to David, “You are the man! Thus says the Lord God of Israel: ‘I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul.’<sup>8</sup> I gave you your master's house and your master's wives into your keeping, and gave you the house of Israel and Judah. And if that had been too little, I also would have given you much more!<sup>9</sup> Why have you despised the commandment of the Lord, to do evil in His sight? You have killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword; you have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the people of Ammon.<sup>10</sup> Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised Me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.’<sup>11</sup> Thus says the Lord: ‘Behold, I will raise up adversity against you from your***

*own house; and I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun. <sup>12</sup> For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel, before the sun.' ”*

Nathan bluntly and truthfully says to David – *you are the man!* You deserve exactly the same punishment you were ready to dole out.

- I'm sure Nathan didn't take any pleasure in this. If you are ever in a position to correct someone, do so in love and grace, not in an attitude of harshness.
- **Galatians 6:1**, *"Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted."*
- **Proverbs 27:6** says *"Faithful are the wounds of a friend..."* Meaning, we need to speak the truth at times but do so in meekness and love. A true friend will say what needs to be said.

Now notice what David has done and why he was willing to enter into this sin.

1) He despised the grace of God – 12:7-8

The Lord begins to recite all the ways that He has blessed David and been good to him.

- a. He's anointed him king over Israel.
- b. He's delivered him from the threats of Saul – time and time again.
- c. He's given David Saul's house and his wives. This is simply meant to indicate that everything that was Saul's, God gave to David. There's no indication that these wives or concubines became David's wives. They probably were helpful servants in the kingdom.
- d. He gave him the house of Israel and Judah. David was given much responsibility and blessing. And God would have even given more!

2) He despised the word of the Lord – 12:9

- a. David willingly rejected God's command. He knew what he was doing was not pleasing to the Lord. He willingly committed adultery and committed murder.
- b. At some point he began to have a greater view of his own ideas than he did the Word of God. He listened more to his own thoughts than the heart of God.

3) He despised the Lord – 12:10

- a. God was with David. He's been blessing David. But he dismissed all that and did what he wanted. In so doing David blasphemed the Lord.

And so God begins to lay out what sort of things would be the outcome of his action.

- Here's the deal, though David would be forgiven, there are consequences of our sin. This is why we need to be so careful and wise, because sin does not just affect that momentary minute. You reap what you sow! And David will be reaping what he has sown for years to come.
- One momentary indiscretion can bring down a lifetime of achievements.

**12:13-14 - *So David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord." And Nathan said to David, "The Lord also has put away your sin; you shall not die. <sup>14</sup> However, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme, the child also who is born to you shall surely die."***

David comes clean. But notice here, he realized he has sinned against the Lord. Though he's sinned against Bathsheba and against Uriah, this is ultimately sin against the Lord. All sin is sin against the Lord. Sometimes we can excuse sin because we think somebody deserves it. Or we think we deserve it. But we're going against the Lord when we sin.

And the Lord is gracious, so kind to forgive us when we come clean in confession.

**Psalm 32:5, *"I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," And You forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah"***

- **Psalm 51:7–12**, was probably written at this time: *"Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. <sup>8</sup> Make me hear joy and gladness, That the bones You have broken may rejoice. <sup>9</sup> Hide Your face from my sins, And blot out all my iniquities. <sup>10</sup> Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. <sup>11</sup> Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. <sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me by Your generous Spirit."*

Though God is gracious to forgive, never look at this as a freedom or license to sin. For as we see here, even though David was repentant and forgiven, there were still consequences and repercussions for his actions.

## 2. David: Convicted and Forgiven – 12:15-31

**12:15-23 - *Then Nathan departed to his house. And the Lord struck the child that Uriah's wife bore to David, and it became ill. <sup>16</sup> David therefore pleaded with God for the child, and David fasted and went in and lay all night on the ground. <sup>17</sup> So the elders of his house arose and went to him, to raise him up from the ground. But he would not, nor did he eat food with them. <sup>18</sup> Then on the seventh day it came to pass that the child died. And the servants of David were afraid to tell him that the child was dead. For they said, "Indeed, while the child was alive, we spoke to him, and he would not heed our voice. How can we tell him that the child is dead? He may do some harm!" <sup>19</sup> When David saw that his servants were whispering, David perceived that the child was dead. Therefore David said to his servants, "Is the child dead?" And they said, "He is dead." <sup>20</sup> So David arose from the ground, washed and anointed himself, and changed his clothes; and he went into the house of the Lord and worshiped. Then he went to his own house; and when he requested, they set food before him, and he ate. <sup>21</sup> Then his servants said to him, "What is this that you have done? You fasted and wept for the child while he was alive, but when the child died, you arose and ate food." <sup>22</sup> And he said, "While the child was alive, I fasted and wept; for I said, 'Who can tell whether the Lord will be gracious to me, that the child may live?' <sup>23</sup> But now he is dead; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me."***

Part of David's sinful consequence was that this child would die. When the child became ill David interceded for it. He fasted and pleaded with God. Nobody was able to console him.

But then the baby died, and the elders of the house were afraid to even tell David. But David began to see the writing on the wall and confronted the elders. Sure enough, the baby died.

But then the elders are confused. They thought David was going to lose it. But instead, he hears the news, cleans up and eats.

- David even goes into the house of the Lord and worshiped.

- This is a great example of how we can deal with hurt and trauma in our lives. Give it to the Lord. Don't let these things turn us from the Lord, but rather let them turn us to the Lord. That we would come to Him and experience His presence in a way that would comfort us, strengthen us and fill us with His peace.
- Get your eyes onto the Lord during these difficult times. Worship is one way that will be accomplished, and you too will find yourselves strengthened and able to move on.

David also presents the blessed hope we have. David knows he can do nothing to bring this child back, but David believes that he will one day go to him. Though we can't make any hard and fast proof on this, it's apparent that babies go to be with the Lord at death. I certainly believe that God will be gracious to those who have not reached the age of accountability.

**12:24-25 - *Then David comforted Bathsheba his wife, and went in to her and lay with her. So she bore a son, and he called his name Solomon. Now the Lord loved him, <sup>25</sup> and He sent word by the hand of Nathan the prophet: So he called his name Jedidiah, because of the Lord.***

Solomon means 'peace'. And David is at peace with God now. But Solomon is given another name: Jedidiah, which means, 'beloved of the Lord'.

- Why did God allow David to have another son with Bathsheba, and have him be such a significant person in Israel's history?
- Because God is a God of mercy, who shows complete forgiveness to repentant sinners. He's the God of second chances who will take from the ash heap and turn it into beauty. Solomon would be beloved because God displays grace and mercy. I'm so glad God doesn't hold grudges.

And interestingly this would be a reminder to David as to his position before the Lord, as David's name means 'beloved'.

In God's graciousness, he supplies David with that which was lost. And where he's experienced great defeat, God brings about great victory. What a good God we serve.

**12:26-31 - *Now Joab fought against Rabbah of the people of Ammon, and took the royal city. <sup>27</sup> And Joab sent messengers to David, and said, "I have fought against Rabbah, and I have taken the city's water supply. <sup>28</sup> Now***

***therefore, gather the rest of the people together and encamp against the city and take it, lest I take the city and it be called after my name.”<sup>29</sup> So David gathered all the people together and went to Rabbah, fought against it, and took it.<sup>30</sup> Then he took their king’s crown from his head. Its weight was a talent of gold, with precious stones. And it was set on David’s head. Also he brought out the spoil of the city in great abundance.<sup>31</sup> And he brought out the people who were in it, and put them to work with saws and iron picks and iron axes, and made them cross over to the brick works. So he did to all the cities of the people of Ammon. Then David and all the people returned to Jerusalem.***

David steps back into the battle. It’s what he should have been doing all along and could have prevented Chapter 11.

God gives him victory and a 75-100 lb. crown. No doubt this was symbolic. Nobody is walking around with this on unless they have a personal chiropractor with them.

- Again, very symbolic that God was not done with David and he still had a role to play as king.

Now as we get into Chapter 13, we’ll begin to see the house of David unraveling. This was part of the prophecy spoken by Nathan – *“the sword shall never depart from your house”* (2 Samuel 12:10).

Now David had many kids. He had multiple wives and concubines. Three of his kids are highlighted in chapter 13.

Amnon was David’s oldest son. He was born to Ahinoam.

Absalom and Tamar are two other children, and they were born to Maacah, the daughter of Talmai, king of Geshur.

So, Amnon is the rightful heir to the throne. He’s the half-brother to Absalom and Tamar.

### 3. Amnon: Selfish Lust – 13:1-22

***13:1-2 - After this Absalom the son of David had a lovely sister, whose name was Tamar; and Amnon the son of David loved her.<sup>2</sup> Amnon was so distressed over his sister Tamar that he became sick; for she was a virgin. And it was improper for Amnon to do anything to her.***

Make no mistake about it, this was not love but lust. Amnon had a desire for his sister that was unacceptable. It tells us that it was improper for Amnon to do anything to her, and he knew it. It was forbidden in Levitical law for a brother and sister (or even a half-sister) to marry one another. So Amnon is faced with a vexing problem. It was causing him to lose sleep, couldn't eat, it was having an effect on him physically as well as emotionally.

- But what Amnon should have done is take Paul's advice in **2 Corinthians 10:5-6**, *"casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, <sup>6</sup> and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled."*

Amnon should have determined at the point of desire that this was detrimental. Instead, he allowed this impurity to be entertained to where it distressed him, depressed him, and would ultimately lead to death.

We saw the same progression in David's life in chapter 11. David too needed to take each thought captive, just as we do in our lives.

**13:3-5 - But Amnon had a friend whose name was Jonadab the son of Shimeah, David's brother. Now Jonadab was a very crafty man. <sup>4</sup> And he said to him, "Why are you, the king's son, becoming thinner day after day? Will you not tell me?" Amnon said to him, "I love Tamar, my brother Absalom's sister." <sup>5</sup> So Jonadab said to him, "Lie down on your bed and pretend to be ill. And when your father comes to see you, say to him, 'Please let my sister Tamar come and give me food, and prepare the food in my sight, that I may see it and eat it from her hand.'"**

Jonadab is actually Amnon's cousin. He's referred to as a friend, but he's no friend. He's finding a deceptive way for Amnon to fulfill his lust.

- **Romans 13:14**, *"But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts."*

So the plan is hatched by this crafty deceiver. Pretend to be ill Amnon and have David get Tamar to take care of you.

**13:6-10 - Then Amnon lay down and pretended to be ill; and when the king came to see him, Amnon said to the king, "Please let Tamar my sister come and make a couple of cakes for me in my sight, that I may eat from her hand." <sup>7</sup> And David sent home to Tamar, saying, "Now go to your brother Amnon's house, and prepare food for him." <sup>8</sup> So Tamar went to her brother**

***Amnon's house; and he was lying down. Then she took flour and kneaded it, made cakes in his sight, and baked the cakes. <sup>9</sup> And she took the pan and placed them out before him, but he refused to eat. Then Amnon said, "Have everyone go out from me." And they all went out from him. <sup>10</sup> Then Amnon said to Tamar, "Bring the food into the bedroom, that I may eat from your hand." And Tamar took the cakes which she had made, and brought them to Amnon her brother in the bedroom.***

Everything is going according to plan. And then Amnon makes his move.

***13:11-13 - Now when she had brought them to him to eat, he took hold of her and said to her, "Come, lie with me, my sister." <sup>12</sup> But she answered him, "No, my brother, do not force me, for no such thing should be done in Israel. Do not do this disgraceful thing! <sup>13</sup> And I, where could I take my shame? And as for you, you would be like one of the fools in Israel. Now therefore, please speak to the king; for he will not withhold me from you."***

Amnon lures Tamar close to him where he can make his advance towards her. But Tamar being much more upright than Amnon, pleads with him not to do such a foolish thing. It's what Jonadab should have said to Amnon back in vs. 3. So Tamar gives some wise words, no doubt in desperation, but words of council nonetheless. Where could she go after committing such a thing? Nobody would be interested in her after losing her virginity. And Amnon would just be considered a fool, he would be seen as a disgrace. It's not worth it is what Tamar is trying to communicate with him.

- Again, if only we could count the cost accurately at that moment of temptation. David failed to do so, Amnon will fail to do so.
- The lure of sin has a way of blinding us to the realities of sin's consequences. Beware, remind yourself that the price you'll pay is far greater than you budget.

Again, nobody would take Tamar as a wife if she had lost her virginity, so she suggests marriage to Amnon as a ploy to get away – knowing the marriage would not be allowed in the first place.

***13:14-17 - However, he would not heed her voice; and being stronger than she, he forced her and lay with her. <sup>15</sup> Then Amnon hated her exceedingly, so that the hatred with which he hated her was greater than the love with which he had loved her. And Amnon said to her, "Arise, be gone!" <sup>16</sup> So she said to him, "No, indeed! This evil of sending me away is worse than the***

***other that you did to me.” But he would not listen to her. <sup>17</sup> Then he called his servant who attended him, and said, “Here! Put this woman out, away from me, and bolt the door behind her.”***

Amnon is not listening to reason. It's what happens when we allow lust to take control. And so he rapes her.

- These are hard things to come upon in the Bible. We must be clear that just because it's in the Bible does not mean it's condoned by the Bible. These are things written and recorded to show the sinfulness of man and the need for a Saviour.
- The Bible is brutally honest about these things and does not sugar coat anything.

Notice, when Amnon had his way, this so-called love turned to hatred. That's why we know it was not genuine love. Lust is all about pleasing ourselves. Love isn't selfish, it's sacrificial and giving. This was not real love. How quick these things can turn if we aren't choosing to walk in love.

Amnon now is ready to put Tamar away and dismiss her completely. He got what he wanted and he wants nothing more to do with her. Absolutely selfish and cruel. He doesn't even refer to her by name, he just says, ***this woman***.

- “When David's servants tried to remind David that what he saw was not merely a beautiful woman but Bathsheba, a woman with a name, a father, and a husband, he brushed them aside. What David saw was an object for his pleasure. And now Amnon, David's son, is repeating David's sin. The sin sown by the father is harvested in the child.” <sup>1</sup>

***13:18-20 - Now she had on a robe of many colors, for the king's virgin daughters wore such apparel. And his servant put her out and bolted the door behind her. <sup>19</sup> Then Tamar put ashes on her head, and tore her robe of many colors that was on her, and laid her hand on her head and went away crying bitterly. <sup>20</sup> And Absalom her brother said to her, “Has Amnon your brother been with you? But now hold your peace, my sister. He is your brother; do not take this thing to heart.” So Tamar remained desolate in her brother Absalom's house.***

Absalom quickly realized from Tamar's appearance what has happened. And his words to her was: ***do not take this thing to heart***.

<sup>1</sup> Greear, J. D., & Thomas, H. A. (2016). *Exalting Jesus in 1 & 2 Samuel* (p. 225). Holman Reference.

This may seem noble at first, but we will see that he himself took these things to heart. Though it may have just begun as anger or bitterness, it will lead to a far worse outcome.

**13:21-22 - *But when King David heard of all these things, he was very angry. <sup>22</sup> And Absalom spoke to his brother Amnon neither good nor bad. For Absalom hated Amnon, because he had forced his sister Tamar.***

David was right to be angry, but we never read of him taking action in this despicable act. As the king and more so their father, he should have dealt with this and brought discipline. Why didn't he?

- Perhaps this hit a little too close to home based on what he had done with Bathsheba. Maybe he was thinking that he had no right to speak correction or discipline into Amnon's like because of his own shortcomings. This is exactly what Satan would like you to think. None of us are perfect, and we don't bring correction from perfection. We do it because of love. Sometimes we can use our past experience as examples of the folly and danger of sin.
- As parents we should never settle for a standard because we ourselves did it when we were younger. *Well, I did that at that age, so I have no right to tell them not to do it.* You have every right and every responsibility to warn your kids and bring discipline when needed.
- David failed in this area, and there will be further consequences.

Absalom continued in a hatred toward Amnon. This seed of anger turned to hatred and this hatred will lead to murder. And David's non action may have fostered this too.

#### 4. Absalom: The Cycle of Vengeance – 13:23-39

**13:23 - *And it came to pass, after two full years, that Absalom had sheepshearers in Baal Hazor, which is near Ephraim; so Absalom invited all the king's sons.***

There's a saying, "Time heals all wounds". Apparently, it doesn't. Absalom sat with this murderous thought for two years and it didn't go away. When we let bitterness take root in our lives, time will only make it stronger. That's why we need to give that over to the Lord. Only He can heal all wounds. There is a real danger when we harbour ill will towards others.

- **Ephesians 4:31–32**, *"Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. <sup>32</sup> And be kind to one*

*another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you."*

The scene that's getting set up for us was a very festive time – the time of sheepshearing. It was a time where people would be thankful for their blessing and wealth and so it became a celebration.

- It also became the occasion for Absalom to take revenge against Amnon.

**13:24-27 - *Then Absalom came to the king and said, "Kindly note, your servant has sheepshearers; please, let the king and his servants go with your servant."* <sup>25</sup> But the king said to Absalom, "No, my son, let us not all go now, lest we be a burden to you." Then he urged him, but he would not go; and he blessed him. <sup>26</sup> Then Absalom said, "If not, please let my brother Amnon go with us." And the king said to him, "Why should he go with you?" <sup>27</sup> But Absalom urged him; so he let Amnon and all the king's sons go with him.**

David initially didn't want to go with Absalom to this sheepshearing celebration. David is thinking it would be too costly – we'll be a burden.

So Absalom requests that Amnon go. David seems a little surprised. Maybe he's a little suspicious of Absalom's intent knowing what has transpired with Tamar.

But Absalom presses the issue and David sends Amnon and all the king's sons.

**13:28-29 - *Now Absalom had commanded his servants, saying, "Watch now, when Amnon's heart is merry with wine, and when I say to you, 'Strike Amnon!' then kill him. Do not be afraid. Have I not commanded you? Be courageous and valiant."* <sup>29</sup> So the servants of Absalom did to Amnon as Absalom had commanded. Then all the king's sons arose, and each one got on his mule and fled.**

Interestingly, there's a lot of parallels to David's murder of Uriah. David tried to get Uriah drunk and cause him to be with his wife. David had others kill Uriah. The seeds being sown are very much connected to the sin that led to all this.

There may very well be an ulterior motive in all this too. With Amnon taken out, Absalom is next in line to the throne. We'll see how Absalom indeed had aspirations for the kingdom.

When Amnon was killed, all of David's sons high-tailed it out of there. They weren't sure if they would be next.

**13:30-31 - *And it came to pass, while they were on the way, that news came to David, saying, "Absalom has killed all the king's sons, and not one of them is left!"<sup>31</sup> So the king arose and tore his garments and lay on the ground, and all his servants stood by with their clothes torn.***

The fake news of mainstream media has been going on for a long time. David gets some misinformation that all his sons have killed.

Jonadab, the crafty scoundrel from the beginning of the chapter actually comes with the truth.

**13:32-33 - *Then Jonadab the son of Shimeah, David's brother, answered and said, "Let not my lord suppose they have killed all the young men, the king's sons, for only Amnon is dead. For by the command of Absalom this has been determined from the day that he forced his sister Tamar."<sup>33</sup> Now therefore, let not my lord the king take the thing to his heart, to think that all the king's sons are dead. For only Amnon is dead."***

**13:34-39 - *Then Absalom fled. And the young man who was keeping watch lifted his eyes and looked, and there, many people were coming from the road on the hillside behind him.<sup>35</sup> And Jonadab said to the king, "Look, the king's sons are coming; as your servant said, so it is."<sup>36</sup> So it was, as soon as he had finished speaking, that the king's sons indeed came, and they lifted up their voice and wept. Also the king and all his servants wept very bitterly.<sup>37</sup> But Absalom fled and went to Talmai the son of Ammihud, king of Geshur. And David mourned for his son every day.<sup>38</sup> So Absalom fled and went to Geshur, and was there three years.<sup>39</sup> And King David longed to go to Absalom. For he had been comforted concerning Amnon, because he was dead."***

Talmai was the king of Geshur and was Absalom's grandfather. Geshur was northeast of the Sea of Galilee. Absalom is looking to find some refuge among his mother's family.

- Another 3 years have passed – 5 years since Amnon's indiscretion with Tamar. The family is still torn apart.

David is longing to go to Absalom, but he's still living passively and not taking action in what needs to happen. Because of this it's going to set the stage for David's most hurtful stage of God's just judgment against the house of David.

David's story reminds us that God's grace is greater than our sin, but God's grace should never become an excuse to sin. So, when we fall, let's run to Him quickly, confess honestly, receive His forgiveness, and allow His grace to break the cycle rather than letting our sin continue to spread.

### Points to Ponder:

1. Am I seeing my sin clearly?
  - David could immediately recognize the sin of the man in Nathan's story while being blind to his own.
2. Am I taking sin seriously?
  - What may seem like a momentary pleasure can produce years of consequences.
3. Am I giving bitterness to God?
  - Absalom carried his anger for two years before acting on it. Time doesn't necessarily heal bitterness; surrender does.
4. Where is God asking me to act?
  - Don't remain passive like David did. Take action where God is calling you to.