

AMNON HAD A FRIEND
Text: 2 Samuel 13:1-5, 10-14

INTRO: There are several lessons that might be learned by an examination of our text & its context. We will take note of a few of them--but especially of one--the impact on our lives of those whom we choose as friends. Amnon could have overcome the temptation to violate his beautiful sister & probably would have done so, except for the influence of his ungodly friend. But Amnon had a friend.

I. TEMPTATION TO SIN HAS ITS BEGINNING IN ONE'S OWN HEART. **READ JAMES 1:13-16**

NOTE: Certainly Tamar's beauty was a factor in Amnon's sin. But it was not the primary factor. I suspect she was as beautiful to her brother Absalom, her father David & countless other men, but they did not violate her & sin against her. Amnon did little or nothing to control his own greed and lust.

A. But, not only does a person's enticement to sin begin in his own heart--the resistance to that temptation also begins there, in the God-given conscience.

Gentiles... by nature do the things contained in the law, these... show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, & between themselves their thots accusing or else excusing them... (Romans 2:14-15).

B. Because God gave each person a conscience to prompt him to do the best he knows to do, it is wrong, sinful, to ignore & override one's conscience & do what we know is NOT the proper thing to do, Romans 14:23.

C. To CONTINUALLY override one's conscience is to invite a hardness of heart that will finally put a person beyond the power to repent. **READ HEBREWS 6:4-6.**

D. Amnon's conscience might have restrained him from sin, except for the power of an outside influence: Amnon had a friend

II. UNLIKE THE GENTILES OF ROM 2:15, AMNON HAD ACCESS TO GOD'S WRITTEN LAW WHICH UNDERSCORED THE LAW ALREADY WRITTEN IN THE HUMAN HEART. AMNON KNEW GOD'S MORAL, SPIRITUAL & CIVIL LAW, & THE CONSEQUENCES OF IGNORING THAT LAW.

The nakedness of your sister, the daughter of your father or the daughter of your mother, whether born at home or elsewhere, their nakedness you shall not uncover. (Lev. 18:9).

NOTE: The penalty by law was death, Lev 18:29; 20:17.

- A. Perhaps because Amnon was the king's son, he felt the death penalty would not be carried out. After all, his father David had done things worthy of death and avoided that penalty. Such reasoning on Amnon's part might have been accurate. But certainly the GUILT worthy of death would be there.
- B. If he thought out the deed he was about to commit, he might well have been able to predict Absalom's reaction. READ 2 SAMUEL 13:28-29
- C. Perhaps the dread of the guilt & fear of its punishment would have sufficed to prevent Amnon from violating his sister if it had not been for the encouragement his evil thoughts received from an outside source: Amnon had a friend.

III. AMNON'S SIN WAS PROBABLY LESS DISTASTEFUL TO HIM THAN IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN BECAUSE HE CALLED IT AN ACT OF LOVE. Situation ethics.

- A. Had he loved his father as he ought, he would not have violated the king's daughter.
- B. Had he loved Tamar as he claimed, he would have heeded her pleas not to sin against her, 2 Sam 13:4, 11-15.

- C. Had he loved God as he ought, he would have resisted the temptation as Joseph did, Gen. 38:9.
- D. In reality, if it can be claimed that Amnon's deed was an act of love, it was love for self, not love for Tamar.
- E. Considering the heartbreak he would cause Tamar, David, Absalom & the rest of his family & to God, might have been enough to have caused him to turn from his evil intentions if it had not been for the encouragement his sin got from an outside source. Amnon had a friend.
- F. We can see the kind of friend Amnon had by reading 2 Samuel 13:29-33.

IV. OF THE MANY LESSONS WE MIGHT LEARN FROM THIS INCIDENT, ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT IS THE VASTNESS OF THE INFLUENCE OUR FRIENDS SOMETIMES HAVE ON US--AND THE IMPORTANCE OF CHOOSING THE RIGHT KIND OF FRIENDS.

- A. Herod Antipas, Mark 6:26
- B. Simon Peter, Mark 14:54
- C. Barnabas, Gal. 2:12-13

Do not be deceived: Evil company corrupts good habits. (1 Cor. 15:33).

CONCLUSION: While it is true that we must associate with those whose standards are lower than the one we subscribe to in order to influence them toward that which is good, we must always be on guard, lest we allow our friends to influence us to lower our standards and sin against God. Amnon might not have become a rapist nor his brother a murderer had it not been for one fact: Amnon had a friend.

Exton, PA, December 13, 1987
 La Porte, TX, April 7, 1988 (meeting)
 Shiloh, Mexia, TX, September 26, 1993
 Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, January 17, 1999
 Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, July 11, 2004