

SUMMARY AND REVIEW

Take 5-10 minutes to discuss this week's sermon, *The Fall of King David*.

READ Familiarize yourself with 2 Samuel 11-24; Read 2 Samuel 13:1-22

INTRO TO THE TEXT:

2 Samuel 11 marks a sad transition in the extended narrative of David's reign over Israel. David once held out the promise of being the ideal king. Now, though, he proves by his actions toward Bathsheba and Uriah to be an earthly king – one who uses his power to take what he pleases (1 Sam. 8:10-18). As king, David did indeed hold great power over the people of Israel. He abused that power, and there were consequences.

Our sins impact every dimension of life. They impact individual people. They impact relationships between people, and between people and God. They impact the systems and structures we create too. In the chapters following the account of David's gross abuse of power, we see how David passed on this sinful attitude of selfish entitlement to his sons. Taking what you want when you want it, without regard to the law of God, seems to have become a way of life within David's family.

And yet both before and after these accounts of David's sinful ways, the Scriptures describe David as a man after God's own heart (1 Sam. 13:14; Acts 13:22). What can this mean? Central to the notion is David's willingness to acknowledge his sin, to repent from it, and to seek forgiveness. When convicted by a trusted friend or by the Holy Spirit, David turns himself over to the God who is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. In doing so, he does not deny the impact of his sin. David's repentance was not a means of avoidance. It was a means of worship.

RE-READ 2 Samuel 13:1-22

ANALYZE THE TEXT

1. In what ways does 2 Samuel 13:1-22 connect with and proceed from 2 Samuel 11-12? How did the events described in 2 Samuel 13:1-22 impact David's family from that point forward?
2. What are the three perspectives of Tamar's response (vv. 12-13) to Amnon's proposition (v. 11)? What do these perspectives share in common? How are they different?
3. How do you understand Tamar's claim in v. 16? How might Deuteronomy 22:28-29 inform an understanding of Tamar's statement? What are the concerns involved?

APPLY *If your group includes men and women, consider discussing the application together.*

1. Have you ever been witness to an abuse of power? If so, how has that experience (or those experiences) impacted you? If you feel able, share with the group your experience, its impact, and what it has taught you.
2. Have you ever experienced a person in a position of power rule as a servant? If so, describe your experience to the group. What characterizes that person's life? Are these the characteristics we look for in our leaders?
3. What position(s) of power do you hold? What does it look like when that power is exercised in service to God and others? What are the obstacles to doing so? Is there anything from which you need to repent?

MEMORIZE Matthew 20:25-28