

THE CONSEQUENCES OF SIN

Objective: To show the downward course that sin takes and its results
 Subject: Sin
 Thesis: Sin is a downward spiral that leads to ungodly living
 Text: 1 Samuel 13; James 1:15

ATTENTION

James 1:15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

The danger of sin is how it ends

It is strengthened by frequent acts that settle into a habit.

Sin is a downward spiral that leads to ungodly living

Some people are so ungodly that they find absolutely no shame in their sin.

1. They have seared their conscience as with a hot iron!
2. They don't feel guilty about their sin! And they are not ashamed of it!

Sin has a downward progression even while becoming more acceptable.

When Adam and Eve sinned, they were so afraid that they hid from God.

In Chapter 3 of Genesis 1 they were so afraid they tried to cover up their sin.

One chapter later Cain murders his brother.

Mankind progressed from eating the forbidden fruit to murder.

But Cain doesn't hide from God; he just goes about his business as if nothing happened.
 Jeremiah asked:

Jeremiah 6:15 Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? Nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush...

We are not blushing anymore.

And what is alarming today is the sickening pollution of morals:

1. Shacking up
2. Homosexuality
3. Inappropriate Dressing

James 1:15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

NEED

Tamar knew what sin would do to her and her brother and so she told him:

2 Samuel 13:13 And I, whither shall I cause my shame to go? And as for thee, thou shalt be as one of the fools in Israel.

2 Samuel 13:13 Think of me. I'll be disgraced forever! And think of yourself. Everyone in Israel will say you're nothing but trash! (*Contemporary English Version*)

Second Samuel 13 recounts one of the most heartbreaking stories in the Bible.

It recounts how Amnon uses the language of love to describe lust for his half-sister Tamar.

Amnon, heir to the throne, is David's oldest son with Ahinoam

Tamar and Absalom are David's children by the same mother and Jonadab is cousin to all of them.

They are family! But their dad has history!

1. He lay with a woman, killed her husband and tried to cover up his sin.
2. He is confronted by the prophet of God and confesses (Psalm 51)

But God who hates sin says to the King David:

2 Samuel 12:10 "Because you wouldn't obey me and took Uriah's wife for yourself, your family will never live in peace. (CEV)

SATISFACTION

As the story unfolds Tamar goes to see Amnon because she is sent by her father.

2 Samuel 13:7 David told Tamar, "Go over to Amnon's house and fix him some food."

Amnon is sick by choice! He takes the advice of Jonadab, a shrewd and dangerous cousin.

By himself, Amnon would have never acted on his lust.

He would have never touched her on his own.

2 Samuel 13:2 But Tamar was a virgin, and Amnon could not think of a way to be alone with her. He was so upset about it that he made himself sick.

AMNON HAD A REPUTATION:

1. Amnon was the King's son.
2. He was well favored.
3. He had all the silver and gold he could ever want.
4. He was royalty.
5. He was a prince!
6. When Amnon considered his reputation, it stopped him from sinning

PUNCH: BUT AMNON HAD A FRIEND!

AMNON WAS EDUCATED

1. He knew the law.
2. He knew the Word of God.
3. His own father, King David, had penned these words, "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking thereto according to thy Word." (Ps.119:9)
4. Amnon had an education in God's Word and it had kept him from sinning.
5. Because he knew God's word, it was hard for him to do anything to his sister.

PUNCH: BUT AMNON HAD A FRIEND!

AMNON HAD A CONSCIENCE

1. He had never done anything like this before.
2. He was not the type to practice perversion.
3. His conscience had prevented him from sinning in the past.

PUNCH: BUT AMNON HAD A FRIEND!

Due to the influence of Amnon's friend, Amnon raped his own sister and brought shame on himself, on his sister, and on his whole family.

As a result of Amnon's sin the Bible says:

2 Samuel 13:20 ... So Tamar remained desolate in her brother Absalom's house.

1. She never fell in love.
2. She never had normal affections for a man.
3. She never had children.
4. She was emotionally scarred for the rest of her life.

And to make matters worse, the man who expressed so much love for his sister hated her exceedingly:

2 Samuel 13:15 Then Amnon hated her exceedingly; so that the hatred wherewith he hated her *was* greater than the love wherewith he had loved her. And Amnon said unto her, Arise, be gone.

VISUALIZATION

There are many Tamars in our neighborhood.

There are many Tamars in our church.

Tamar has a growing number of modern sisters who are either being abused now, or living with the pain of past abuse.

Thank God that some were able to rise above and beyond the evil of incest and they are good wives and good mothers today

But the sad news is that others have become frigid and resentful.

But if there are any Tamars listening tonight, the **headline news** says:

1. It is not how you start; it is how you finish.
2. Life is not made of dreams; life is made up of choices
3. To inhale new air you must exhale the old.

Paul says:

Philippians 3:13 ... this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,
Philippians 3:14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

And be it known unto you that you can let go of the past when you come to realize that the past does not necessarily dictate the outcome of your future.

The devil believes in chains; that crook believes in yesterday

BUT!!! Would you be free from your burden of sin. There is power in the blood!
 Hallelujah!!!

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King David heard that Amnon ravished Tamar, and drove her out in an inhuman manner.

He should have taken the responsibility for his son's action because he told Tamar to go and fix him some food.

David, the Bible says, was very wroth with Amnon but he did not scold him nor inflict any punishment on him.

In fact the Septuagint, the Greek translation of the Old Testament, has this to say:

“But he did not vex the spirit of Amnon his son, because he loved him, because he was his first-born.”

It is noted that David was conscious of his own guilt in a similar matter and therefore felt the lack of moral authority to discipline his own son.

BUT!! It was because of his inability to discipline his favorite son Amnon that Absalom his son rebelled against him.

Absalom was burned with hatred towards his brother Amnon for sinning against his sister.

2 Samuel 13:22 And Absalom spoke unto his brother Amnon neither good nor bad: for Absalom hated Amnon, because he had forced his sister Tamar.

James 1:15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

The sin of incest now leads to the sin of fratricide

And it is clear from the narrative that Absalom's fratricide would never have taken place if David had taken instant measures to punish Amnon.

ACTION

The story ends two years after Tamar's experience.

Absalom devised a plan to get his revenge.

And the Bible says:

2 Samuel 13:29 And the servants of Absalom did unto Amnon as Absalom had commanded.

Like Absalom, the devil, the author of sin has a plan to break every youth's devotion to God.

If it doesn't happen this week, he'll wait until next week.

But every plan the devil has for you is defeated with and in the Word of God. (James 4:7)

One wrong act leads to death and devastation!

David's sin as a father and his refusal to correct his son Amnon lead to rebellion and shame.

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And where is Mr. Jonadab in all this?

Jonadab counseled Amnon to fulfill the lust of the flesh when he should have been helping him control such lust.

Amnon is dead but Jonadab is alive!

In fact, Jonadab, the same person who had helped Amnon to commit his crime told David as he tore his garments and lay on the earth:

2 Samuel 13:32 And Jonadab, the son of Shimeah David's brother, answered and said, Let not my lord suppose *that* they have slain all the young men the king's sons; for Amnon only is dead: for by the appointment of Absalom this hath been determined from the day that he forced his sister Tamar.

Tamar is disgraced; Amnon is dead; Absalom is a fugitive; the house of David is in chaos.

James 1:15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

How far has sin taken you?

How much farther will you allow sin to take you?

- Sin is ugly
- Sin is unfriendly
- Sin is dangerous

But sin has an opposite! The opposite of sin is grace.

No wonder the Bible says:

Romans 5:20 ... But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:

- If sin is in the heart then grace can drive it out
- If sin is in the house then grace can drive it out
- If sin is in the church then grace can drive it out

The Message Bible says:

Romans 5:20 When it's sin versus grace, grace wins hands down.

ILLUSTRATION

An old woman told her priest that she was always in touch with God. He laughed at her silently but the woman showed by her devotion to Church attendance and her happy demeanor that she was indeed in touch with God.

One day after church the Priest jokingly asked the woman, “If you are in touch with God can you tell me which sin I committed while at the seminary.”

The woman replied, “I will ask God.”

After about three weeks the Priest met the woman at the entrance of the church and asked, “Did you ask God?”

She said, “Yes I did!”

“And what did he tell you?” The priest asked with a smile.

The woman replied, “He said he forgot.”

APPLICATION

Thank God for his grace! With this grace when God forgives He forgets!

THE CALL

There is no sin that God cannot forgive! NONE!

BUT!! It requires your willingness.

1. The Bible says, “If we confess...” If God asks you to confess you sins will you obey? (Raise hands)
2. The Bible says, “Come unto me all ye...” “If God asks you to come as you are to Him will you come? (Stand)
3. The Bible says, “For God sent not His Son into the world...” “If God offers you the joy of His salvation will you accept it? (Come to the altar)

(At the altar, make appeal for baptism)

THOUGHT

The best way to get even is to forget