**WEEK 9 | 2 SAMUEL 13 – 18 | EFFECT OF SIN: ON OTHERS**

HOMEWORK: Read 2 Samuel 13 – 18

In 2 Samuel 13 we read an odd story of Amnon’s lust and see God’s judgement on David from 2 Samuel 12:9-10 begin to come true.

* What was Amnon’s relationship to Tamar?
* What does Leviticus 18:9-11 tell us concerning this family relationship?
* What scheme did Jonadab suggest in order to lure Tamar to Amnon’s room?
* After Amnon was able to successfully execute this plan, why do you think his so-called love for Tamar so quickly turn to hate? Can you see the deception and progression of sin in Amnon?

Review 2 Samuel 13:20-39. David and Absalom have very different, yet both very poor, reactions to the situation.

* How did David respond to Amnon’s sin? Do you think perhaps David failed to judge Amnon because of his own past sins?
* What action did Absalom take against Amnon?
* How did David respond to the murder of Amnon? How would you evaluate David as a father based on this chapter?

In 2 Samuel 14 we see Joab use a similar strategy with David as Nathan did in chapter 12.

* What was Joab’s purpose in sending the woman of Tekoa to David?
* How did the woman persuade David to bring back his son? Why do you think these “parables” worked with David?
* What were the conditions for Absalom’s return from exile?
* What extreme measure did Absalom take to Joab’s attention?
* How did Absalom finally get an audience with his father?

In 2 Samuel 15 – 17 we read of Absalom’s conspiracy and rebellion against his father David.

* Do you think David’s failings as a father enabled Absalom’s rebellion?
* What were the first steps Absalom took to set his plan in order?
* On what pretense did Absalom leave Jerusalem?
* How did the people respond to Absalom’s conspiracy?

This isn’t the first time David has had to flee for his life.

* Who was that previous pursuer?
* What was the relationship of David and the previous pursuer?
* David knew what loyalty to the king meant. Why do you think his own son didn’t understand the loyalty that should be given the king, or even to his father?

The very things God said would happen in 2 Samuel 12:9-12 come true in these chapters.

* What does this tell us about the consequences of our sin?
* Last week we discussed the effect of my sin on myself. What do we learn this week about the effect of my sin on others?
* While David had been forgiven, he still faced the consequences of his sin as did his family and others. Does this change your view of God? Or of the seriousness of sin?
* What do Proverbs 3:11-12, Hebrews 12:3-11, and 1 Corinthians 11:27-32 teach about God’s discipline? How does this relate to David’s situation?
* What do 2 Samuel 12:13, Romans 6:23, 2 Corinthians 5:21, and Isaiah 53:10 say about the ultimate consequence of sin and who paid that price?

We also see a lot of selfish ambition play out in 2 Samuel 15-18, not only from Absalom, but also Ziba, Shimei, Ahithophel, and even Joab. Read Philippians 2:3-4 and James 3:13-18.

* What do these Scriptures teach about selfish ambition?
* How does selfish ambition distract us from pursuing healthy relationships through things like reconciliation?
* How was David’s attitude different, both in his previous interactions with Saul and now with Absalom and others who mistreated him?

In 2 Samuel 16 and 17 it seems as though Absalom is gaining a lot of headway in his effort to become the favored “king.” However, as with all deeds of pride and greed, it eventually catches up with him in 2 Samuel 18.

* What is Absalom’s fate due to his pride and greed?
* Why do you think Joab ignored David’s clear orders?
* How does David react to the news of his son Absalom?

There are very harsh words spoken to David in Chapter 19 in regard to this reaction. But that’s next week’s lesson!

**\*Come prepared this week to discuss the effect my sin has on others**