

SERMON AUGUST 21 MISUSE OF POWER AND POSITION AMNON'S RAPE/ABSALOM KILLS AMNON

James 1:12-27

**Today we continue to look at the Kings of Israel and their children
We're looking at the misuse of power and position**

I must say it is refreshing to be back.

I have enjoyed a summer of family

Babysitting, vacation, having a Son in law

come home from deployment and

having a Daughter in law deployed.

I found being away had times of feeling high and rejoicing,

And other times of feeling low and confused.

But it's also been a strange sort of summer for SD.

All this rain and flooding, wind and hail.

Can you believe that Texas is in major drought.

It's even affecting the church.

I read where the Baptists are starting to baptize by sprinkling,

The Methodists are using wet-wipes,

The Presbyterians are giving out rain-checks,

and the Catholics are praying for the wine to turn back into water.

Today in our study of Israel's great Kings.

We look at the tragic consequences.

Of how people of privilege and power.

Can use their position to take what is not theirs,

Legally, or morally, or ethically.

On the playground this is called bullying.

Where ever there is power,

There is the danger of the abuse of power.

And it runs in the party,

I mean the family.

Power itself is not necessarily a bad thing

It can produce positive results.

But the abuse of power can

Produce a tragic end.

In the novel "Chocolate War" by Robert Cormier,

We see the corruption of power.

In a private catholic school.

Two groups of students come head to head,

One group being the Vigils,

The other Goobers,

The Vigils manipulate fellow classmates

Force them to complete negative assignments

One day the Vigils assign the Goober to dismantle room 19.

Its Brother Eugene room and because of it

Brother Eugene has a nervous breakdown,
 When he witnesses the destruction of his classroom.
 One of the Goobers feels extremely guilty
 which has a major impact on his emotional well being
 because he was a part of brother Eugene's home room
 and now he is terrified.
 He was 15 years old and too old to cry
 but tears blurred his vision,
 as if the room was under water.
 He was ashamed and disgusted with himself and he couldn't help it

The misuse of power
 Makes everyone a victim.

Today we see the reality of that demonstrated in King David's family
 with his Son Amnon and his Sister Tamar

¹ In the course of time, Amnon son of David fell in love with Tamar, the beautiful sister of Absalom son of David. II Samuel 13:1

Brother and stepsister
 Two things set up this coming disaster.
 Tamar was very beautiful,
 And Amnon was very lustful.

But it wasn't an honorable love,
 He was addicted to sex and
 He wanted her and the Bible say he was so frustrated
 and vexed with lust.
 that he got physically sick.

² Amnon became frustrated to the point of illness on account of his sister Tamar, for she was a virgin, and it seemed impossible for him to do anything to her. II Samuel 13:2

We have people today in our society with sexual addictions.
 Sin can be deadly,
 And Lust is one of the seven deadliest sins.
 Statistics show that 70-80% of those who watch pornography today are teenagers.
 The more Amnon couldn't have Tamar
 the more obsessive he became.

Back in those day the young Jewish women,
 and particularly virgins,
 were shut up in their chambers,
 and kept out of the public way.
 Sometimes they became prisoners in their own home;
 they are called twmle in Hebrew which means to "Hide"

Now evil is the ABUSE of power and
 Moral EVIL is the abuse of power when it
 Refuses to accept responsibility for the welfare of others,
 Especially those under their personal care.

That's why there was such a great outrage
 When Casey Anthony was found innocent
 Of her responsibility in her daughter Caylee's death.
 It is the responsibility of a mother and a father,
 to protect and care for their children.

Amnon was in line to become king and provide protection for his people
 Including his stepsister Tamar.

But if you want to do evil,
 Or walk down the wrong road,
 Friends there will always be someone there to help you.

But Amnon had a cousin named Jonadab

³ Amnon had a friend named Jonadab son of Shimeah, David's brother. Jonadab was a very shrewd man. II Samuel 13:3

He was the kind of man that can manipulate others
 Twist them in his hands.

⁴ He asked Amnon, "Why do you, the king's son, look so haggard morning after morning? Won't you tell me?" II Samuel 13:4a

Notice that Jonadab connected Amnon to his position of power.

The Kings sons.

Flattery can buy you a ruined life,
 a night in jail or an early death.

and Amnon said unto him, I love Tamar, my brother Absalom's sister;II Samueal 13:4b

he does not call her his sister, but Absaloms' sister,

Evil learns to justify sin early in life.

The boy came skipping into the house with a big lollipop in his hands.

"Where did you get that?" his mother asked.

"I bought it with the quarter you gave me."

"The quarter I gave you was for Sunday School."

"I know Mom," said the boy, "but the minister met me at the door and got me in free."

We learn to justify sin early in life.

To lessen his sin of unlawful love

Amnon places his stepbrother in between.

Jonadab said to him:

⁵ "Go to bed and pretend to be ill," Jonadab said. "When your father comes to see you, say to him, 'I would like my sister Tamar to come and give me something to eat. Let her prepare the food in my sight so I may watch her and then eat it from her hand.' II Samuel 13:5

So pretending to be sick

He asked for his sister's help from the King David

In obedience to the king's commands,

and in affection for her brother,

Tamar bakes the fritters in his sight the Bible says

She took some dough, kneaded it, made the bread in his sight and baked it. ² Then she took the pan and served him the bread, but he refused to eat. II Samues 13:8-9

Ammon sent everyone out of the room.

And grabbed her.

Said:

¹¹ But when she took it to him to eat, he grabbed her and said, "Come to bed with me, my sister." II Samues 13:11

Tamar pleaded with him to remember his position

He is the kings son,

She is the kings daughter.

¹² "Don't, my brother!" she said to him. "Don't force me. Such a thing should not be done in Israel! Don't do this wicked thing. ¹³ What about me? Where could I get rid of my disgrace? And what about you? You would be like one of the wicked fools in Israel. Please speak to the king; he will not keep me from being married to you."

But the deed is done,

Life is ruined.

But he refused to listen to her, and since he was stronger than she, he raped her. II Samuel 13:14

It does matter what you think.

It does matter what you let your mind linger on.

It does matter what you indulge with your eyes,

It does matter what you desire with your thoughts.

For in that moment sin is conceived.

And lives are ruined.

Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death. James 1:15

Don't think for one minute this is an Old Testament problem.

Rape in the United States is

4 times higher than Germany,

13 times higher than England,

20 times higher than Japan.

4.8 million intimate partner-related physical assaults occur every year.

More than 1,200 women are killed every year in intimate partner related deaths.

Our world is seeing an increase in worldwide human trafficking

Officials at the US Department of STATE compare human trafficking to drug trafficking.

He said we will see the "profits of human trafficking soon surpass drug trafficking because

You can sell an ounce of cocaine only once,

But you can sell a human being over and over."

With our stepping away from our Godly heritage as a nation is it any wonder

We see the loosening boundaries of our morality

and the loss of the sanctity of human life.

But there is a cost. Note the results.

¹⁵ Then Amnon hated her with intense hatred. In fact, he hated her more than he had loved her. Amnon said to her, "Get up and get out!" II Samuel 13:15

Having gratified his lust,
his conscience stung him for it,
that he could not bear the sight of her.
She reminded him of his evil heart.
Here Tamar is fortunate that he also didn't kill her.

Then he called his servants that ministered unto him...and said, put now this [woman] out from me; and bolt the door after her; II Samueal 13:17

Today 20% of women victim never report what happened to them.
But Tamar went out and did what every woman should do.
She went public with his evil.
She put ashes on her head
Tore the garments of her virginity
The signs of rape and injury.
Her brother Absalom took her into his home.

Even King David heard about it.

²¹ When King David heard all this, he was furious. II Samuel 13:21

But as King whose position was to protect the innocent,
he did nothing about Amnon.
And he added sin to sin.
From this point on Absalom never respected his father.
Because King David misused his power,
And did nothing to protect the innocent.
Even King David became an accomplice to this great sin.

Two complete years after the rape was committed;
When the family had thought it long forgotten.
Absalom kills Amnon.

"Listen! When Amnon is in high spirits from drinking wine and I say to you, 'Strike Amnon down,' then kill him. Don't be afraid. Have not I given you this order? Be strong and brave." ²⁹ So Absalom's men did to Amnon what Absalom had ordered. II Samuel 13:28-29

Absalom fled from his father King David,
And he left his Mothers home.
However, three years later King David allowed Absalom to come back,

The seeds of ruin had been sown,
And when Absalom came back,
He sought to take over the Kingdom.
He gathered an army and attacked King David.
Drove him from his kingdom.

But God was still with David
And Absalom was repelled

And in his attempt to escape
 His hair got caught in a tree.
 And Absalom was killed there in the tree.

Oh the pain of ill-gotten gain.
 When we allow our lust and unbridled desires
 To overtake our common sense and morals.

Why is this story left in the Bible,
 What do we learn from it.
 Well today I believe that God wants every person here
 To know that we are responsible for what we do.
 And every older sister or brother is responsible for those under our care.
 And every boss or employee has a duty to its employee.
 And every elected official has the care of its citizens it serves.
 And every Christian who has seen the light of Christ,
 Has the duty to those who walk in darkness.
 We must never take advantage or privilege
 Or misuse our position of authority over another.

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. Romans 12:3

Dr. Bob Pierce the legendary Christian humanitarian was dying of leukemia but he insisted on traveling to use his resources to meet the needs of the sick, the poor, and hungry people. Because of his illness he couldn't sleep, and his doctor had prescribed sleeping pills and they were a lifesaver.

On one of his last trips, Dr. Pierce visited a riverside medical clinic in the jungles of Indonesia run by a Christian named "Borneo Bob" Williams. One day he noticed a girl lying outside on a bamboo mat who was dying of cancer and had few days to live.

Dr. Pierce asked "Why is this girl lying there in the mud when she could be up there in that nice clean clinic." Borneo Bob explained she as a jungle girl and wanted to be near the river where it was cooler and had asked to lie in that spot for the day.

Dr Pierces heart broke as he knelt beside the girl, rubbed her forehead, and prayed for her. She opened her eyes and muttered something in her native tongue. Boreno Bob translated her words. She was in great pain but was unable to sleep.

Dr. Pierce wiped his eyes and reached into his pocket for his precious bottle of sleeping pills. He gave them to Borneo Bob, saying "You make sure she gets a good night's sleep from now on."

It was many day before Dr. Pierce could replace his pills, and he suffered night after night from painful insomnia.

But when he returned home, a letter was waiting for him from Borneo Bob stating that the girl had died, and one of the last things she had said was "Please thank that kind man who gave me his medicine so I could sleep.

What about you?

**I challenge you to use your advantage, position, power
 As a family leader, as a citizen, and as a Christian,
 To help others that they might be blessed and
 God might be glorified in all we do.**