



Lesson 89

Amnon and Tamar

Story Elements

- **Text:** 2 Samuel 13:1-22
- **Setting:** approx. 1000 B.C.
- **Main Characters:** God, Amnon, Tamar, Absalom, and Jonadab
- **Plot:** Amnon's obsession with his half-sister leads to violence and tragedy.
- **Key word(s):** " _____ " (vv 15, 22)
- **Climax:** *"And Amnon said unto Tamar, Bring the meat into the chamber, that I may eat of thine hand. And Tamar took the cakes which she had made, and brought them into the chamber to Amnon her brother."* (13:10)

Evil Arising (2 Sam. 13:1-24)

1. Because of David's horrible sin with Bathsheba, God said to David that he would "raise up _____ against thee out of thine own house." (2 Sam. 12:11) This story shows how that evil began to boil over within David's family.
2. The problems started when David began to heap to himself many _____ - against the command of God (cf. Deut. 17:17).
 - (a) Amnon was David's first son by his wife _____.
 - (b) Absalom and Tamar were children of David's wife Talmi, daughter of the king of Geshur. Thus, Amnon and Tamar were _____. Amnon's love for Tamar was not filial, but lustful and evil.
3. Amnon's unfulfilled and continual lust cast him into a sullen mood, which came to the attention of his wicked friend _____. After revealing to Jonadab his longings for his half-sister, Jonadab wickedly plotted for Amnon how he might ensnare Tamar and gratify his sinful drives.
4. Once the unsuspecting Tamar was trapped in Amnon's bedchamber, she tried to reason with her half-brother to not commit the unspeakable sin that he was so set upon (13:12-13):
 - (a) Such a sin was a _____ act in Israel (Lev. 18:11)
 - (b) Such a sin would bring shame and reproach upon Tamar, as a defiled woman, and upon Amnon, as a _____ of Israel.
 - (c) She suggested that Amnon pursue her through _____ to save them both shame and reproach. Even though such marriages were forbidden in the law of Moses (Deu. 27:22), it was not altogether uncommon.

Evil Abounding (2 Sam. 13:15-22)

5. Amnon refused to listen to the wise words of Tamar and acted upon his desire. Afterward, his hatred for her was stronger than his previous lust. His repugnance of her was a combination of guilt, shame, and a sense of impending judgment. His rejection heaped more shame upon her by insinuating that she was to _____ for the incident.
6. Tamar fled to her brother's Absalom house, weeping and with her royal garments rent in grief. Tamar never _____ but remained under the protective care of Absalom.
7. Absalom tried to console his sister by minimizing the atrocity (v 20), but his own hatred for Amnon grew and would soon spill over into _____.

Application

8. The influence of friends is one of the most powerful influences in a person's life – often because we welcome the input of friends (though it is often foolish) while we despise the wise advice of authorities and elders. A wise person will choose friends that will help them pursue wisdom and _____.

Proverbs 27:17 Iron sharpeneth iron; So a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.

9. Sin is _____. While we are enamored with the pleasure it promises, all too often we find that the pleasure is ungratifying, but the consequences are long and arduous. Amnon's sin failed not only failed to gratify him, but it ruined his life and the life of his half-sister and set in motion a series of event that would jeopardize an entire kingdom.

Gal 6:7-8 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

Answer Key

Key word(s): "hated • 1. evil • 2. wives; a) Ahinoam; b) half-siblings • 3. Jonadab • 4. a) shameful; b) fool; c) marriage • 5. blame • 6. married • 7. murderous rage • 8. holiness • 9. deceptive