



## Lesson 90

# Absalom's Revenge

### Story Elements

- **Text:** 2 Samuel 13:23-39
- **Setting:** approx. 1000 B.C.
- **Main Characters:** God, Amnon, Absalom, David, and Jonadab
- **Plot:** Absalom's hatred for Amnon boils over into murderous revenge.
- **Key word(s):** "Amnon only is \_\_\_\_\_" (vv 32, 33)
- **Climax:** *"Now Absalom had commanded his servants, saying, Mark ye now when Amnon's heart is merry with wine, and when I say unto you, Smite Amnon; then kill him, fear not: have not I commanded you? be courageous, and be valiant."* (13:28)

### Review (2 Sam. 13:1-22)

1. Because of David's heinous sin with Bathsheba, God said to David that he would "raise up evil 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. Amnon's villainy against his half-sister Tamar planted a seed of hatred in the heart of Tamar's full brother Absalom. (13:22) That hatred would grow into revenge against Amnon and \_\_\_\_\_.

### Revenge (2 Sam. 13:23-33)

2. Two years after the incident, Absalom threw a sheep-shearing party, which was customary for wealthy land owners.
  - (a) He invited the entire family, including his father David. It's probable that Absalom knew that David would refrain, but the invitation was made nevertheless to give a facade of good \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) David gave his blessing to the feast, and all of the kings \_\_\_\_\_ attended.
3. Absalom gave his servants instructions to kill Amnon after he had become \_\_\_\_\_. This they did, and the rest of the kings sons fled for their lives.
4. When news of the atrocity reached David, he was told that Absalom murdered all of his sons. (vv 30-31)
  - (a) \_\_\_\_\_ corrected the erroneous message and assured David that Absalom only intended to kill Amnon.
  - (b) Apparently, Jonadab, who encouraged Amnon to defile Tamar, knew all along that Absalom was plotting \_\_\_\_\_. (v 32)
5. The kings sons did indeed return safely to Jerusalem and wept with David over the tragedy. Absalom, however, fled to Talmai, king of Geshur. Why do you think Absalom

would go there? \_\_\_\_\_

6. David came to terms with Amnon's death and began to long after Absalom, but David was hesitant to bring Absalom back, perhaps because of \_\_\_\_\_ opinion.

## Application

7. This story illustrates the wisdom in going to another who has wronged you. Matthew Henry notes, "If Absalom had reasoned the matter with Amnon, he might have convinced him of his sin and brought him to \_\_\_\_\_; but, saying nothing, Amnon's heart was hardened, and his own more and more embittered against him; therefore rebuking our neighbour is opposed to hating him in our hearts."<sup>1</sup>

*Leviticus 19:17 Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbour, and not suffer sin upon him.*

8. Absalom's sin against Amnon eerily resembles David's sin against Uriah:  
(a) both of their victims were close to their \_\_\_\_\_,  
(b) both of the victims were killed by the hands of someone other than the \_\_\_\_\_,  
(c) and both of the murders were provoked because of uncontrolled \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Jonadab was a wicked friend. After prodding Amnon into lechery, he withheld from his "friend" the plan to murder him.

*Proverbs 27:6 Faithful are the wounds of a friend;  
but the kisses of an enemy are \_\_\_\_\_.*

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### Answer Key

1. David • 2. a) intentions; b) sons • 3. drunk • 4. a) Jonadab; b) revenge • 5. Talmai was his grandfather (3:3) • 6. public • 7. repentance • 8. a) murderers; b) conspirator; c) lust • Proverbs 27:6 - deceitful

<sup>1</sup> Henry, Matthew. Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994. Print.