

"Uncontrolled Desires"

2 Samuel 13

Introduction:

Precept: "What parents do in moderation children can do in excess". (2 Samuel 12:10-11)
Uncontrolled personal desires here stain the picture we have of King David.

Ammon's lust & Jonadab's deceit - 2 Samuel 13:1-14 -

In some modern way we might think that the three men in this story, "followed their heart" and each time it led to trouble. No, follow the Lord and his Word and much good can happen.

Tamar's shame; Absalom's hatred - 2 Samuel 13:15-33

Precept: When I am offended does God have grace for me to endure and get past the offense? Yes! When I take up someone else's offense does God have grace for me to deal with it and get past it? No, I'm on my own; I will have to respond with maturity and grace myself and demonstrate that I am a better person.

David's love - 2 Samuel 13:34-39 - These verses point an important element that made David a man after God's own heart. David had a wayward son and he longed for him to return home and be reconciled with his father and his siblings—this is the heart of God for all of his children and it is the heart of king David.

Precept: Absalom is not a good son, he has thoughts that endanger the kingdom and he is very self-seeking but David never gives up on him. This is God's nature, he longs for our return and he loves a heart that repents and turns towards him for restoration and reconciliation.

Conclusion: Humans are deeply flawed, inordinately sinful and can be very devious and wicked. In the midst of trying to get revenge they can set aside all common sense and do unthinkable things. (Psalm 94:1; Romans 12:17-21)

Jonadab is a wily character in this story. First, his counsel to Ammon is wicked and disturbing (2 Samuel 13:3-5); second, his words to David, his uncle, are wise and measured (2 Samuel 13:32-33) if not revealing. There are those whose heart is so compromised that they find little issue standing with whomever and giving advice that is harmful and in other cases deadly. Find someone with a heart for God, filled with Godly advice and attach your heart to them.

The desires of Ammon, his lust for a pretty girl; the hatred of Absalom for his older brother Ammon; both of which culminated in the murder of the man in line to become the next king of Israel was pulled along by fleshly, uncontrolled human desire. This is one reason why Paul instructed Timothy that for those who lead there must be evidence of true self-control (1 Timothy 3:2). He does not deny that we have passions and desires; but what must be present is control of those passions and desires by something that is governed by the Word of God, the Holy Spirit.