

November 9, 2014

2 Samuel 12

“Broken, but not Beaten”

Pastor Gary Hamrick

Even though David confessed his sin to God, appealed to the mercy of God, and was forgiven by God, there still were consequences he had to live with, including the death of the child conceived in his adulterous affair with Bathsheba, as well as the discord and division that ensued within his own family.

Remember the words of the prophet Nathan found in [2 Samuel 12:11-14](#), who came to David with this message from the Lord: “ *‘This is what the Lord says: ‘Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity¹ upon you. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will lie with your wives in broad daylight. You did it in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel.’ Then David said to Nathan, ‘I have sinned against the Lord.’ Nathan replied, ‘The Lord has taken away your sin. You are not going to die. But because by doing this you have made the enemies of the Lord show utter contempt, the son born to you will die.’* ”

In this study Pastor Gary provides insight into the calamity that became a part of the life and history of David’s family. He also reminds us that we need to refrain from repeating or rehearsing the past, learn to embrace God’s grace, and, in time, allow our mess to become our message.

Calamity In David’s Family

1. David had 19 sons and one daughter who are named in the Bible.
 - a. [2 Samuel 5:13](#) tells us David had “*more sons and daughters,*” whose names are not listed in the Bible.

¹ The Hebrew word for calamity is ra’, which can also be translated, evil, adversity, affliction, or distress.

2. Amnon was the oldest of David's sons, and it was Amnon who raped his half-sister, Tamar, who is David's only named daughter.
 - a. [2 Samuel 13:20-22](#) - *"Her brother Absalom said to her, 'Has that Amnon, your brother, been with you? Be quiet now, my sister; he is your brother. Don't take this thing to heart.' And Tamar lived in her brother Absalom's house, a desolate woman. When King David heard all this, he was furious. Absalom never said a word to Amnon, either good or bad; he hated Amnon because he had disgraced his sister Tamar."*
 - b. It's noteworthy that David was "furious" when he found out, but the Bible shows no record of David confronting his son, Amnon, or comforting his daughter, Tamar, he simply did nothing!
 - c. Tamar ran to the home of her brother, Absalom, who consoled her and took care of her.
 - d. Because David did nothing about the horrific actions of his son, Absalom made a decision to do something himself!
3. Absalom murdered his half-brother, Amnon, because he raped Tamar.
 - a. [2 Samuel 13:28](#) - *"Absalom ordered his men, '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.' "*
 - b. After murdering Amnon, Absalom fled to Geshur, where he would stay for three years, all the while being estranged from his father.
 - c. David would not pursue Absalom nor would he hold him responsible (no consequences for his actions), and, just like he did nothing to Amnon, so it was with Absalom.
 - d. After three years, David longed to be reconciled to Absalom.
 - i. [2 Samuel 13:38-39](#) - *"After Absalom fled and went to Geshur, he stayed there three years. And the spirit of the king longed to go to Absalom, for he was consoled concerning Amnon's death."*
 - e. Even though David longed for Absalom, he once again he did nothing!
 - f. Upon Absalom's return from Geshur, he continued to be estranged from his father two more years.
4. Absalom led a rebellion against his father, according to [2 Samuel 15:1-6](#), with the intention of becoming king.
 - a. [2 Samuel 15:13-14](#) - *"A messenger came and told David, 'The hearts of the men of Israel are with Absalom.' Then David said to all his officials who were with him in Jerusalem, 'Come! We must flee, or none of us will escape from Absalom. We must leave immediately, or he will move quickly to overtake us and bring ruin upon us and put the city to the sword.' "*

- b. [2 Samuel 15:30](#) - *“But David continued up the Mount of Olives, weeping as he went; his head was covered and he was barefoot. All the people with him covered their heads too and were weeping as they went up.”*
5. Joab, David’s commander-in-chief, killed Absalom, according to the details found in [2 Samuel 18:1-18](#).
6. Adonijah, another of David’s sons, tried to seize the throne from Solomon, and he also tried to take one of his father David’s concubines.
 - a. Solomon, Adonijah’s half-brother, put him to death because of his rebellion.
7. The whole family was a total mess because of rape, murder, revenge, rebellion, strife, civil war, and conflict!
8. There is a marked contrast between David the valiant warrior and David the **very** passive father.
 - a. David was furious when Amnon raped Tamar, but he neither confronted Amnon nor consoled Tamar.
 - b. David wept bitterly over Amnon when he was murdered, but he did nothing to confront Absalom.
 - c. David longed to see Absalom again, but he did nothing to reconcile the relationship.
 - d. David did nothing to put down the revolt started by Absalom nor did he defend the city; he just abandoned the palace and left town barefooted, and weeping, with his head covered.
9. David was a picture of a broken man, who would write in [Psalm 51:17](#): *“The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.”*
10. If David’s response or lack of a response was any indication, it seems like he had gone from being a broken man to being a beaten man.
11. We’re left to wonder what happened to David the leader or David the young man who killed a lion and a bear with his bare hands or David the bold, courageous, and decisive leader?
12. What we see in all of this is the defeated David; a man who was no longer engaged with his family, a man who was distant and detached, and a man who didn’t seem to know how to confront, console, lead, or love.

13. David became a man who wanted someone else to deal with his problems and make his decisions.
 - a. It could be that he was punishing himself, thinking: "I guess I deserve all of this, since these are the things Nathan said would happen."
 - b. It could be that he was thinking that because he gave up the moral high ground with his own sin, that he no longer had the moral authority to address the problems in his own home.
 - c. It could be that he didn't want to hear his children throw things in his face, so to speak, if he confronted them.
 - i. You can almost hear them say, "So, who do you think you are preaching to me when you did what you did?"
14. God honors brokenness, and sincere, heart-felt, gut-wrenching sorrow over sin, but there is a point when being broken crosses over into being beaten, which renders a person paralyzed, and that's just where David was.
15. It's possible for a person to be too broken, with the result being that they become stuck in shame, despair, and sorrow, and they don't know how to function again.
16. We are left wanting to say to David: "David, you have to live again! You can't just check out of life. Your daughter needs you, your family needs to be loved, and your sons need to be corrected. Don't forget that God is a God of second chances, so get up and get doing, because you've got a job to do. You have a family to love and you've got a life to live!"
17. Pastor Gary said he didn't know what the percentage was for those who sin against God, who say they are sorry and dismiss their sin like it was nothing, versus those who sin against God, say they are sorry, and then have a hard time moving on, but it was his guess that more people dismiss their sin.
18. Even though Pastor Gary thought that this message would more than likely only be helpful for small percentage of people, he did, however, want to emphasize that God wants us to know it's okay to live again, and even though we can't turn back the clock, we can move forward.

Don't Repeat The Past, But Don't Rehearse It Either

19. Sometimes there's nothing more tormenting than playing things over and over again in our minds, so the best thing we can do is to stop rehearsing it!

20. [Isaiah 43:18-19a](#) - *"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing!"*
21. [Philippians 3:12-14](#) - *"Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."*
22. The way to find help to not dwell on the past is to pray and ask the Lord to take away the tormenting thoughts.

Learn To Embrace Grace

23. Grace is God's unmerited, undeserved favor.
24. The words for grace in Greek and Hebrew are used 159 times in the Bible.
25. Someone has said that grace means: God's Riches At Christ's Expense.
26. It's important to remember that grace wasn't a one-time event that happened almost 2,000 years ago on the cross; grace is an on-going demonstration of God's love toward us from the beginning of time.
27. [John 1:16-17](#) - *"From the fullness of [God's] grace we have all received one blessing after another. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ."*
28. [Romans 3:23-24](#) - *"[F]or all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus."*
29. [Romans 5:20b](#) - *"... where sin increased, grace increased all the more..."*
30. [2 Corinthians 9:8](#) - *"And God is able to make all grace abound to you..."*
31. [Ephesians 1:7](#) - *"In him we have redemption through [Jesus'] blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace..."*

32. **Ephesians 2:8** – *“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.”*
33. **Ephesians 4:7** – *“But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.”*
34. Justice is getting what we deserve; mercy is not getting what we deserve; and grace is getting what we don’t deserve!
35. Grace is the place where God’s love, God’s forgiveness, and God’s blessings converge!

In Time, Let Your Mess Become Your Message

36. **Psalm 51:10-13** – *“Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will turn back to you.”*
37. It may be that some will need help or counseling or someone with whom to walk through things, but it’s always true that it takes time.
38. Pastor Gary said, if you are on the slow side of brokenness (the slower side of recovery) you are better off than being on the quick side, because those who are quick to move on have probably not properly dealt with the gravity of their sin and are more apt to repeat it/them.
39. Pastor Gary’s counsel for those who live with someone who feels beaten is to stop reminding the person of their past, and even though it’s oftentimes therapeutic to talk about things, at some point things have to be given to the Lord so the Lord can do what he does!
- a. **Isaiah 43:25** – *“I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more.”*
 - b. **Jeremiah 31:34** – *“No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,” declares the Lord. ‘For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.’ ”*
 - c. **1 Corinthians 13:5** – *“[Love] is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.”*

Discussion Questions

1. Review the introduction to the study guide with your group to provide the appropriate background.
2. Read [2 Samuel 12:11-14](#) to provide the foundation for this study.
3. Share an overview of the calamity in David's family. (See #1 - #6 above)
4. What are some of the ways you've experienced calamity in your family when you were growing up?
5. Were these family problems a result of sin committed by your parent(s), sibling(s), or by someone else in the family?
6. Allow the people in the group to provide examples of ways they or a family leader dealt with conflict or rebellion.
7. When you consider all of the things going on in David's family, what do you make of the fact that David, the valiant warrior and king, was so passive when it came to confrontation, consoling, or loving his family? (See #8 above)
8. Has there been a time in your life when, because of sin, you moved past being broken to the point of being beaten?
9. Read and discuss Pastor Gary's thoughts about why David didn't seem to have it in him to deal with his problems or make decisions. (See #13 above)
10. Read and discuss [Psalm 51:17](#).
 - a. Allow the people in your group to share their experiences about times when they were broken before the Lord because of their sin.
 - b. How did you feel when you received the Lord's forgiveness?
 - c. Were you able to grasp the depth of the Lord's forgiveness?
11. Unfortunately, even though we know what the Bible has to say about God's forgiveness, we tend to repeat our sin(s) or we rehearse them over and over again in our minds.
 - a. Read and discuss [Isaiah 43:18-19a, 25](#) and [Philippians 3:12-14](#).
 - b. How has the Holy Spirit helped you not to dwell on the past?
 - c. How has the Holy Spirit helped you by taking away tormenting thoughts?
12. What does God's grace mean to you? (See #25 above)

13. Read and discuss the Scriptures Pastor Gary shared regarding God's grace. (See #27 - #33 above)
14. How has the Lord allowed your "mess to become your message"?
15. Close your time in prayer by asking the Holy Spirit to help each person: (have someone ready to read [Isaiah 43:18-19a](#) and pray the Scriptures, focusing on the grace of God that helps each person move forward and walk in the fullness of the Spirit, being encouraged by the fact that the Lord wants to do great things in and through them.

* Unless noted, all Scriptures quoted are from the New International Version (NIV 1984).