

Week Six: The Ripples of Sin

June 15-21, 2008

Have you ever watched soap operas? Are you hooked on one of the current reality TV shows? Why are they so appealing? We are naturally interested in the relationships of others - how the family relationships play out - who are friends and who are foes? For some reason, we are especially interested when things go badly. We love watching their cunning, deceitful and outrageous methods.

The chapters in this week's study read much like the theme of those shows and could just as well be titled Jerusalem or The Kingdom. But what happened according to Samuel is not due to the curse of the world but rather the curse God levied upon David in response to his sin. As we look at David's struggles within and outside his family we might discover similarities to some of our own struggles. As we watch these stories unfold, pay attention not only to what the characters do, but also what they do not do.

If you wish to receive The Vine via e-mail each week you may register online at www.kentwoodcommunitychurch.com/thevine by following the directions listed there. If you have any questions or comments on The Vine, please let us know at thevine@kcconline.org.

*First Encounter***Read 2 Samuel 13**

Who is involved in the scheme that led to the rape of Tamar? What was each person's relationship to David? What characteristic is attributed to Jonadab?

What was Tamar's perspective towards Amnon's desires? Did Amnon love Tamar?

List the elements of Absalom's actions and plan from Tamar's rape to his exile.

What rumor does David hear? Who is with David to dispel it?

Who could have or should have prevented the tragic events told in this chapter?

Should Amnon have been punished and Tamar compensated? Who should have or could have done it?

Can you recall a situation when you were manipulated by someone who did it only to serve themselves? How did it make you feel?

The Ripples of Sin

Sometime sin can have ripples that continue to affect events weeks and even years later. The events presented in chapters 13 through 19 are foretold as a curse that God levies upon David for his sin with Bathsheba as well as causing the death of her husband Uriah. 2 Samuel 12:10-12 reads "Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own. This is what the Lord says: 'Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity 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.'"

Second Encounter

Read 2 Samuel 14

Describe in brief what Joab does in this chapter. What is the point of the story told by the "wise woman from Tekoa"?



List the gracious remarks the wise woman says about King David. What emotions might she have been feeling during this?

If David longed for Absalom (2 Samuel 13:39 and 14:1), why do you think it took this ruse by Joab for David to send for him?

Briefly list what the text tells us about Absalom when he returns to Jerusalem.

David's Sons

Amnon was the child of David and his second wife Ahinoam. Amnon was David's firstborn son and thus was the rightful heir to the throne after David. Kileab, David's second son was born to Abigail, the widow of Nabal of Carmel. (Nabal was struck by the Lord and died for treating David with contempt. His story is told in 1 Samuel 25). Absalom was David's third son, born to Maacah, daughter of Talmi, king of Geshur. (Later in the story, Absalom flees to Geshur).

What actions does Absalom take to enter the presence of the King? What do you think is Joab's motivation for his actions? Absalom's motivation? What is the end result?

How do you approach relationship mending? Can your methods be described as direct or manipulative?

Third Encounter

Read 2 Samuel 15 & 16

What actions did Absalom take to improve his social position in Israel? What did David do in response to Absalom's popularity?

What are the various reactions that the Israelites have toward David on his journey away from Jerusalem? (Note Ittai's reaction in verses 15:19-22.)

How does David respond to acts of kindness and acts of contempt?

What did Ahithophel advise Absalom to do and why did Absalom take his advice? What effect did it have?

Fourth Encounter


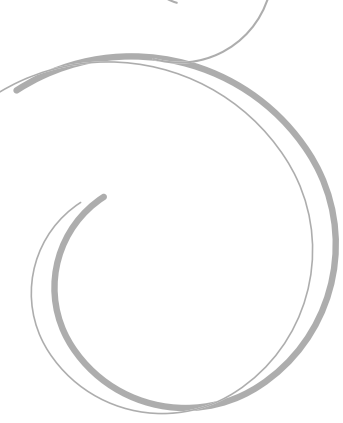
Read 2 Samuel 17 & 18

What advice did Ahithophel and Hushai give to Absalom? What does Hushai do after Absalom takes his advice? What does Ahithophel do after Absalom rejects his advice?

What was the battle plan of David and his commanders? (Notice where Ittai shows up in 18:2.)

What happened to Absalom? What was the outcome of the battle? What was David's reaction?





Where is God in these passages? He is in charge as always. Do you ever feel like David must have felt during this time?

Fifth Encounter

Read 2 Samuel 19

How does Joab instruct David? How does David respond? What conflict develops between the men of Israel and the men of Judah?

Define the godly characteristics David displays in any of the chapters this week.

What role does David play in the story from chapters 13 to 19? What does it say about what God is doing?

Psalm 63 was probably written by David during this time. Meditate on it.



Small Group Guide

NOTE: This guide is provided to help Small Group Leaders take their groups through the passage. The following questions are suggestions. Feel free to add to these questions or reword them as you prayerfully prepare for your small group.

1. Skim through 2 Samuel 13. Discuss the causes and the results of this chapter. What would be some appropriate next steps for the people involved?
2. Skim 2 Samuel 14. What is behind Absalom's actions? What is the end result? What has David been doing in these last two chapters?
3. Skim through 2 Samuel 15 & 16. Why does David leave? Discuss why he doesn't fight? How is this consistent with the previous chapters. What else is noteworthy in this passage?
4. Skim through 2 Samuel 17 & 18. Why didn't David's men want to kill Absalom? Discuss David's reaction to Absalom's death.



