### 2 Samuel

## Chapter 13

1Well, AbSalom (one of David’s sons) had a very pretty sister named Thamar, and AmNon (another son of David) was in love with her. 2In fact, he was so smitten with her that he was sick. Thamar (who was also his sister) was a virgin, and AmNon would’ve done anything to have her.  
  
3AmNon also had a friend named JoNadab (he was the son of David’s brother SamaA), and JoNadab was a very wise man.  
  
4Then one day, JoNadab asked AmNon:  
  
 ‘Why are you so puny every morning, O son of the king… Tell me what’s wrong.’  
  
And AmNon, replied:  
  
 ‘It’s because of Thamar, my brother AbSalom’s sister… I love her.’  
  
5And JoNadab said to him:  
  
 ‘Then do this: Go to bed and act like you’re sick... And when your father comes to see you, tell him:  
  
 ‘Send my sister Thamar to prepare my food before me and feed me, so I can see her and eat from her hands.’  
  
6So AmNon went to bed and pretended to be sick.  
  
And when the king came to see him, AmNon said:  
  
 ‘Send my sister Thamar to me and have her bake a couple of biscuits, then I’ll eat them from her hands’  
  
7Well, David sent for Thamar at her home, saying:  
  
 ‘Go to the house of your brother AmNon and prepare some food for him.’  
  
8Therefore, Thamar went to the house of her brother AmNon. And when she found him lying on a cot, she took some dough and mixed it in front of him to make some biscuits, then she fried them 9and took the frying pan and laid them before him.  
  
However, he wouldn’t eat them.  
  
So at that, AmNon [told his servants] to send everyone else away.  
  
10And AmNon said to Thamar:  
  
 ‘Now, carry the food into my bedroom and I’ll eat it from your hands there.’  
  
As a result, Thamar took the biscuits she’d made and carried them into her brother AmNon’s bedroom.  
  
11And when she brought them to him, he grabbed her and said:  
  
 ‘Now, come to bed with me, my sister!’  
  
12But she said to him:  
  
 ‘No, my brother, don’t rape me; for such things aren’t done in IsraEl!  
  
 ‘Don’t be so foolish, 13for I could never handle the scandal, and you’d be considered one of the fools in IsraEl!  
  
 ‘Just speak to the king and ask him to let you [marry me]!’  
  
14However, AmNon wouldn’t listen to her... He just overpowered her, shoved her onto his bed, and raped her!  
  
15Well, [after he was finished], AmNon’s love turned to hate... In fact, his hatred was greater than the love that he once had for her. So he told her to get up and leave.  
  
16But she said:  
  
 ‘No, O my brother!  
  
 ‘For sending me away like this is even worse than the terrible thing that you just did to me!’  
  
But AmNon wouldn’t listen to that.  
  
17So he called his head servant in and said to him:  
  
 ‘Take her away from me, then throw her outside and lock the door!’  
  
18Well at the time, all she had on was a long-sleeved slip (for that’s what the virgin daughters of the king wore under their clothes). Nevertheless, the servant led her outside and he locked the door behind her.  
  
19So, Thamar took ashes and put them on her head and she ripped the slip she was wearing, then she put her hands on her head and ran away screaming.  
  
20And later, her brother AbSalom asked her:  
  
 ‘Has your brother AmNon been with you?  
  
 ‘If so, my sister, don’t say anything, because he’s your brother… Don’t put it into your heart to say anything about this!’  
  
So from that time on, Thamar lived as a widow in the house of her brother AbSalom.  
  
  
21Well when King David heard what had happened, he was furious! But he wasn’t angry with his son AmNon, since he was his firstborn, 22nor did he say anything bad or good to AbSalom about AmNon.  
  
However, AbSalom detested AmNon because he’d raped his sister Thamar.  
  
  
23It was exactly two years later that [all the brothers] went out to shear sheep for AbSalom at BelAsor (near the land of Ephraim), because AbSalom had called for all the sons of the king to help him.  
  
24He’d gone before the king and said:  
  
 ‘Look, your servant has to do some shearing. So, may the king and his servants come along with me.’  
  
25However, the king said to AbSalom:  
  
 ‘No my son, we shouldn’t all go, for we’d just be a burden on you.’  
  
So David refused (because he really didn’t want to go), but he blest him.  
  
And AbSalom said:  
  
 ‘Then, send my brother AmNon along with me.’  
  
And the king asked:  
  
 ‘Why should he go with you?’  
  
27But because AbSalom kept insisting, he sent along AmNon and all of his other sons to help him.  
  
  
Well, when they got there, AbSalom prepared a banquet that was fit for a king.  
  
28Then he told his servants:  
  
 ‘When AmNon starts feeling the wine, I want you to strike him down and kill him! Don’t be afraid, because I’m the one who’s telling you to do this.  
  
 ‘Just be strong and act like men!’  
  
29So AbSalom’s servants did just as they were told… And after they did that, all the sons of the king mounted their mules and fled.  
  
  
30Meanwhile, as they were headed back, a [false] report came to David that AbSalom had killed all of the king’s sons… That none of them had been spared! 31So the king ripped his clothes and fell to the ground, and all his servants that were standing around him also ripped their clothes.  
  
32But then JoNadab (son of ShimeAh, David’s brother) said:  
  
 ‘They shouldn’t have told our lord that all of his sons were killed, for it was just AmNon!  
  
 ‘He died alone at the instructions of AbSalom, because this is the same day thatAmNon had raped his sister Thamar... 33May my lord the king not think in his heart that all of his sons have died, for it was only AmNon!’  
  
34Meanwhile, AbSalom had run away.  
  
Well just then, [David’s] watchman happened to look out and he noticed many people coming along the road down the side of the mountain.  
  
So he went and reported this to the king, saying:  
  
 ‘I see men coming down the mountain along the road to OrOnen.’  
  
35And JoNadab said to the king:  
  
 ‘Look, it’s your sons! They’re coming back, just as your servant said they would.’  
  
36Then, shortly after he’d finished speaking, {Look!} the king’s sons came in, shouting and crying! And the king and all his servants wailed and cried along with them.  
  
  
37Well at the time, AbSalom had run away and gone to stay with King TholMi (son of EmiUd) of GedSur in the land of HamAchad. And because King David mourned over his son for a long time, 38AbSalom spent three years in GedSur... 39But by then, the [wrath] of the king had abated and he was no longer chasing AbSalom, for he was no longer grieving over the death of AmNon.