1Sa 2:18 But Samuel ministered before the LORD, being a child, girded with a linen ephod.

1Sa 3:1 And the child Samuel ministered unto the LORD before Eli. And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; there was no open vision.

2Sa 13:17 Then he called his servant that ministered unto him, and said, Put now this woman out from me, and bolt the door after her.

Amnon

1. ([13:1-22](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Sa+13%3A1-22)) **Rape, Example of— Lust, Example of— Immorality, Example of— Tamar, Rape of— Amnon, Sin of— Jonadab, Evil Advice of— Incest, Example of**:

There was the rape of Tamar by the oldest son of David, Amnon, who was heir to the throne, the crown prince of Israel. David's sin of adultery with Bathsheba influenced and made an impression upon his son, and his son walked in the footsteps of his father, committing a fateful act of immorality. This is a striking lesson on lust and immorality, showing just how despicable and reprehensible lust and immorality can be.

1.  The craving lust of Amnon for Tamar was despicable, reprehensible ([2 Samuel 13:1-2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Sa+13%3A1-2)). Tamar was his half-sister who had been born to David's wife Maacah, the daughter of Talmai who was the king of Geshur ([2 Samuel 3:3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Sa+3%3A3)). Note that Tamar was the full sister of Absalom. Amnon lusted so much after Tamar that he became ill, for he could not figure out a way to have her sexually. Why? Because Tamar was faithful to the Lord, obeying His commandments and living a pure, righteous life.

2.  The evil scheme suggested by a friend and cousin, Jonadab, was also despicable and reprehensible ([2 Samuel 13:3-5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Sa+13%3A3-5)). Note that Jonadab is said to be a subtle, shrewd, or crafty man. He noticed and questioned why Amnon looked so dejected and troubled. After Amnon shared his infatuation and craving for Tamar, his friend Jonadab suggested a scheme to lure Tamar into his bedroom ([2 Samuel 13:5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Sa+13%3A5)). The crown prince Amnon was to pretend to be ill and go to bed. When his father David came to see him, the crown prince was to ask if his sister Tamar could prepare and feed him one of her special meals.

3.  The evil scheme was carried out with Amnon going to bed while pretending to be ill ([2 Samuel 13:6-10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Sa+13%3A6-10)). When his father, King David, visited him, he followed through with the scheme by requesting David to ask Tamar to prepare and feed him one of her special meals. David agreed and ordered Tamar to do as Amnon had requested ([2 Samuel 13:7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Sa+13%3A7)). In obedience to her father, Tamar went to Amnon's house and baked a special bread for him. But note what he did while she was cooking: he lay down close by her, watching and lusting after her.

After Tamar had finished cooking the bread, she took it to him. But the crown prince pretended to be so sick he could not eat, so sick in fact that he wanted no one around him except Tamar ([2 Samuel 13:9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Sa+13%3A9)). Ordering everyone else to leave, he immediately asked Tamar to bring the food to him in the privacy of his bedroom and to feed him there ([2 Samuel 13:10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Sa+13%3A10)). Being a compassionate, concerned sister and being totally unaware of Amnon's wicked motive, Tamar did just as the crown prince requested. She brought the food to him in the privacy of his bedroom with no one present but him and her.

4.  The incest committed by the crown prince Amnon was abominable. He raped Tamar, his half-sister ([2 Samuel 13:11-14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Sa+13%3A11-14)). As she began to feed him, he grabbed her and pulled her into bed, begging her to have sex with him. But Tamar strongly resisted ([2 Samuel 13:12-13](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Sa+13%3A12-13)). She immediately shouted out either "No" or "Do not" several times. In struggling to resist his lustful advances, Tamar made four appeals to the crown prince:

⇒  She reminded him that rape was a crime and that such a thing should not be done in Israel (nor in any other nation).

⇒  She appealed to his conscience, emphasizing that rape was a wicked evil.

⇒  She begged him to think of their reputations: she would be disgraced and his reputation would be ruined, for people would look upon him as a wicked fool.

⇒  She appealed for him to control his urges and to ask permission to marry her if he was burning with lust.

But the crown prince refused to listen. Being stronger, he raped his half-sister, committing incest with her.

5.  The rape and incest exposed the appalling shortcomings of the crown prince as a person. Once he had committed the reprehensible evil, his emotions immediately turned from attraction to hate ([2 Samuel 13:15-17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Sa+13%3A15-17)). Suddenly realizing the seriousness and possible repercussions of his wicked action, the crown prince ordered Tamar out. But she refused, for they now needed to be married. Because she had been violated, she could not legally be offered to any other man, not by her father, King David ([2 Samuel 13:16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Sa+13%3A16)). But Amnon refused to listen to her appeal for marriage. He called his personal servant to evict her and to bolt the door after her ([2 Samuel 13:17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Sa+13%3A17)).

6.  Because of the shameful rape, four tragic results soon took place ([2 Samuel 13:18-22](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Sa+13%3A18-22)). First, Tamar suffered deep anguish and grief ([2 Samuel 13:18-19](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Sa+13%3A18-19)). As she ran out of the house of the crown prince, she deliberately tore her robe, the distinctive robe worn by the virgin daughters of the king. Then as quickly as she could find ashes, she put the ashes on her head, as was the custom of that day, weeping and covering her face as she ran to her room.

Second, Tamar was emotionally broken and forced to live the life of a desolate woman ([2 Samuel 13:20](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Sa+13%3A20)). A woman who was shamed and raped in the culture of that day was as good as dead. Raped women stood little chance of ever being married and having a family. For this reason, as soon as Absalom found out about the rape, he moved his sister into his own house to care for her and to provide a sense of security.

Third, when David heard about the incestuous rape, he was furious ([2 Samuel 13:21](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Sa+13%3A21)). But the king did nothing. He could have insisted that Amnon marry Tamar and take care of her, giving her a family and providing security for her ([Exodus 22:16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ex+22%3A16); [Deut. 22:29](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Dt+22%3A29)). But he failed to correct and discipline his son, indulging and giving license to his wicked immorality. Being lenient and condoning the sinful behavior of his sons would eventually lead to the death of Amnon and to the revolts of Absalom and Adonijah. The consequences of David's sin were continuing to fall upon his own family.

Fourth, Tamar's brother Absalom grew bitter and hated Amnon ([2 Samuel 13:22](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Sa+13%3A22)). But he remained silent, saying nothing to anyone. For as we will see, he was secretly plotting and waiting for a convenient time to take revenge upon Amnon.

The lesson for us is clear: we must guard against lust and immorality, all forms of immorality such as adultery, premarital sex, homosexuality, bestiality, fornication, and lasciviousness. Sex is to be pure and holy, set apart for one man and one woman. This is the clear teaching of God's Holy Word. And anything short of sexual purity and holiness is impure—despicable and reprehensible, shameful and disobedient to God's Holy Word.

As we walk through life, we see the sights and scenes of this world. In looking, our eyes often fall upon some enticing, seductive sight. It may be the seduction of pornographic literature or a person who is dressed immodestly or else dressed to attract attention. We cannot help the first look, but we can control the second look. It is the second look and the thoughts that follow the second look that lead to lust. And when lust has conceived in the human heart, it becomes sin. Scripture declares that a man who looks at a woman with lust in his heart is guilty of committing adultery. With all diligence and control, we must guard against lust and immorality.

**"But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart" (**[**Matthew 5:28**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+5%3A28)**).**

**"Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body" (**[**1 Cor. 6:18**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Co+6%3A18)**).**

**"Nevertheless, *to avoid* fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband" (**[**1 Cor. 7:2**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Co+7%3A2)**).**

**"*This* I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh" (**[**Galatians 5:16**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Gal+5%3A16)**).**

**"And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts" (**[**Galatians 5:24**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Gal+5%3A24)**).**

**"But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints" (**[**Ephes. 5:3**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eph+5%3A3)**).**

**"Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry" (**[**Col. 3:5**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Col+3%3A5)**).**

**"For this is the will of God, *even* your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God: That no *man* go beyond and defraud his brother in *any* matter: because that the Lord *is* the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified" (**[**1 Thes. 4:3-6**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Th+4%3A3-6)**).**

**"Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart" (**[**2 Tim. 2:22**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Ti+2%3A22)**).**

**"But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death" (**[**James 1:14-15**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jas+1%3A14-15)**).**

**"Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world" (**[**1 John 2:15-16**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Jn+2%3A15-16)**).**

**"I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid" (**[**Job 31:1**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Job+31%3A1)**).**

**"Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids" (**[**Proverbs 6:25**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Pr+6%3A25)**).**