

Tuesday, May 28

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2 Samuel 13:1 - 39

13 **1** Now David's son Absalom had a beautiful sister named Tamar. And Amnon, her half brother, fell desperately in love with her. **2** Amnon became so obsessed with Tamar that he became ill. She was a virgin, and Amnon thought he could never have her. **3** But Amnon had a very crafty friend—his cousin Jonadab. He was the son of David's brother Shimea. **4** One day Jonadab said to Amnon, "What's the trouble? Why should the son of a king look so dejected morning after morning?" So Amnon told him, "I am in love with Tamar, my brother Absalom's sister." **5** "Well," Jonadab said, "I'll tell you what to do. Go back to bed and pretend you are ill. When your father comes to see you, ask him to let Tamar come and prepare some food for you. Tell him you'll feel better if she prepares it as you watch and feeds you with her own hands." **6** So Amnon lay down and pretended to be sick. And when the king came to see him, Amnon asked him, "Please let my sister Tamar come and cook my favorite dish as I watch. Then I can eat it from her own hands." **7** So David agreed and sent Tamar to Amnon's house to prepare some food for him. **8** When Tamar arrived at Amnon's house, she went to the place where he was lying down so he could watch her mix some dough. Then she baked his favorite dish for him. **9** But when she set the serving tray before him, he refused to eat. "Everyone get out of here," Amnon told his servants. So they all left. **10** Then he said to Tamar, "Now bring the food into my bedroom and feed it to me here." So Tamar took his favorite dish to him. **11** But as she was feeding him, he grabbed her and demanded, "Come to bed with me, my darling sister." **12** "No, my brother!" she cried. "Don't be foolish! Don't do this to me! Such wicked things aren't done in Israel. **13** Where could I go in my shame? And you would be called one of the greatest fools in Israel. Please, just speak to the king about it, and he will let you marry me." **14** But Amnon wouldn't listen to her, and since he was stronger than she was, he raped her. **15** Then suddenly Amnon's love turned to hate, and he hated her even more than he had loved her. "Get out of here!" he snarled at her. **16** "No, no!" Tamar cried. "Sending me away now is worse than what you've already done to me." But Amnon wouldn't listen to her. **17** He shouted for his servant and demanded, "Throw this woman out, and lock the door behind her!" **18** So the servant put her out and locked the door behind her. She was wearing a long, beautiful robe, as was the custom in those days for the king's virgin daughters. **19** But now Tamar tore her robe and put ashes on her head. And then, with her face in her hands, she went away crying. **20** Her brother Absalom saw her and asked, "Is it true that Amnon has been with you? Well, my sister,

keep quiet for now, since he's your brother. Don't you worry about it." So Tamar lived as a desolate woman in her brother Absalom's house. **21** When King David heard what had happened, he was very angry. **22** And though Absalom never spoke to Amnon about this, he hated Amnon deeply because of what he had done to his sister. **23** Two years later, when Absalom's sheep were being sheared at Baal-hazor near Ephraim, Absalom invited all the king's sons to come to a feast. **24** He went to the king and said, "My sheep-shearers are now at work. Would the king and his servants please come to celebrate the occasion with me?" **25** The king replied, "No, my son. If we all came, we would be too much of a burden on you." Absalom pressed him, but the king would not come, though he gave Absalom his blessing. **26** "Well, then," Absalom said, "if you can't come, how about sending my brother Amnon with us?" "Why Amnon?" the king asked. **27** But Absalom kept on pressing the king until he finally agreed to let all his sons attend, including Amnon. So Absalom prepared a feast fit for a king. **28** Absalom told his men, "Wait until Amnon gets drunk; then at my signal, kill him! Don't be afraid. I'm the one who has given the command. Take courage and do it!" **29** So at Absalom's signal they murdered Amnon. Then the other sons of the king jumped on their mules and fled. **30** As they were on the way back to Jerusalem, this report reached David: "Absalom has killed all the king's sons; not one is left alive!" **31** The king got up, tore his robe, and threw himself on the ground. His advisers also tore their clothes in horror and sorrow. **32** But just then Jonadab, the son of David's brother Shimea, arrived and said, "No, don't believe that all the king's sons have been killed! It was only Amnon! Absalom has been plotting this ever since Amnon raped his sister Tamar. **33** No, my lord the king, your sons aren't all dead! It was only Amnon." **34** Meanwhile Absalom escaped. Then the watchman on the Jerusalem wall saw a great crowd coming down the hill on the road from the west. He ran to tell the king, "I see a crowd of people coming from the Horonaim road along the side of the hill." **35** "Look!" Jonadab told the king. "There they are now! The king's sons are coming, just as I said." **36** They soon arrived, weeping and sobbing, and the king and all his servants wept bitterly with them. **37** And David mourned many days for his son Amnon. Absalom fled to his grandfather, Talmai son of Ammihud, the king of Geshur. **38** He stayed there in Geshur for three years. **39** And King David, now reconciled to Amnon's death, longed to be reunited with his son Absalom.

John 17:1 - 26

17 1 After saying all these things, Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son so he can give glory back to you. **2** For you have given him authority over everyone. He gives eternal life to each one you have given him. **3** And this is the way to have eternal life—to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to

earth. **4** I brought glory to you here on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. **5** Now, Father, bring me into the glory we shared before the world began. **6** “I have revealed you to the ones you gave me from this world. They were always yours. You gave them to me, and they have kept your word. **7** Now they know that everything I have is a gift from you, **8** for I have passed on to them the message you gave me. They accepted it and know that I came from you, and they believe you sent me. **9** “My prayer is not for the world, but for those you have given me, because they belong to you. **10** All who are mine belong to you, and you have given them to me, so they bring me glory. **11** Now I am departing from the world; they are staying in this world, but I am coming to you. Holy Father, you have given me your name; now protect them by the power of your name so that they will be united just as we are. **12** During my time here, I protected them by the power of the name you gave me. I guarded them so that not one was lost, except the one headed for destruction, as the Scriptures foretold. **13** “Now I am coming to you. I told them many things while I was with them in this world so they would be filled with my joy. **14** I have given them your word. And the world hates them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. **15** I’m not asking you to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one. **16** They do not belong to this world any more than I do. **17** Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth. **18** Just as you sent me into the world, I am sending them into the world. **19** And I give myself as a holy sacrifice for them so they can be made holy by your truth. **20** “I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. **21** I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me. **22** “I have given them the glory you gave me, so they may be one as we are one. **23** I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me. **24** Father, I want these whom you have given me to be with me where I am. Then they can see all the glory you gave me because you loved me even before the world began! **25** “O righteous Father, the world doesn’t know you, but I do; and these disciples know you sent me. **26** I have revealed you to them, and I will continue to do so. Then your love for me will be in them, and I will be in them.” Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.”

Psalm 119:81 - 96

81 I am worn out waiting for your rescue, but I have put my hope in your word. **82** My eyes are straining to see your promises come true. When will you comfort me? **83** I am shriveled like a

wineskin in the smoke, but I have not forgotten to obey your decrees. **84** How long must I wait? When will you punish those who persecute me? **85** These arrogant people who hate your instructions have dug deep pits to trap me. **86** All your commands are trustworthy. Protect me from those who hunt me down without cause. **87** They almost finished me off, but I refused to abandon your commandments. **88** In your unfailing love, spare my life; then I can continue to obey your laws. **89** Your eternal word, O LORD, stands firm in heaven. **90** Your faithfulness extends to every generation, as enduring as the earth you created. **91** Your regulations remain true to this day, for everything serves your plans. **92** If your instructions hadn't sustained me with joy, I would have died in my misery. **93** I will never forget your commandments, for by them you give me life. **94** I am yours; rescue me! For I have worked hard at obeying your commandments. **95** Though the wicked hide along the way to kill me, I will quietly keep my mind on your laws. **96** Even perfection has its limits, but your commands have no limit.

Proverbs 16:6 - 7

16 6 Unfailing love and faithfulness make atonement for sin. By fearing the LORD, people avoid evil. **7** When people's lives please the LORD, even their enemies are at peace with them.