

# Westwood Baptist Church *Grounded. Growing. Going.*

Worship Guide for February 11, 2024

## Sermon Notes

### Evil in The House

2 Samuel 13

Many of us were raised in church and, more likely as not, Sunday School was a part of that routine. But it is highly unlikely 2 Samuel 13 was a story we heard in any of those Sunday School classes. It is not a children's tale. It is a dark and tragic episode in the life of David's family. There is no mention of God in the chapter and the only statements mentioning right or wrong come from Tamar, the victim of the godless acts that are committed by David's son. David is forgiven, but the long-lasting consequences of his actions are beginning to be seen – and they are ugly. After David's sin with Bathsheba, nothing is the same in his life, in his family, or in his kingdom. That unraveling is on full display in this sordid story. Nathan's message to David from the Lord said, "Behold, I will raise up evil against you out of your own house" (2 Sam 12:11). Evil in the house is what we see here in the account of Tamar, Amnon, and Absalom.

#### The Characters

Amnon: "faithful" in name; a godless pervert in heart

Jonadab: "Jehovah gives willingly" is his name; selfishly unethical advice when expedient

Tamar: "beautiful and upright" in name & heart; raped, discarded, and dismissed in shame

Absalom: "father of peace" in name; minimizing and manipulating for revenge in actuality

David: "king" in name, but impotent and passive in practice

#### The Lessons

From the men: NOTHING here is exemplarily. What we learn from them is what NOT to do!

From Tamar: See this issue as she did: godless, perverse, and destructive....and lament!

#### The Applications

Power – whether positional, spiritual, or physical, is exploitive and destructive when motivated by personal desires and guided by worldly wisdom. Christ, not the culture, must be our example and guide in this. David's 'son of peace' failed. Jesus, the Prince of Peace, has not and will not!

Peace and protecting the status quo is not the goal for a gospel community and gospel people. *He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?* Micah 6:8

Protection, and providing a haven of help and healing for the 'Tamar's' among us is a priority for our church. The Elders have received training in this area and an Abuse Rapid Response Team is being formed and will soon be in place.

## Life Group Preparation Guide

"Let the *Word* of Christ *dwell* in you(all) *richly*  
*teaching* and *admonishing* one another in all *wisdom*..."

- *Colossians 3:16a*

### Focus #1: GOD

1. What does this passage reveal about the character or nature of God?
2. What does this passage reveal about God's eternal plans and purposes?
3. What does this passage reveal about how God interacts with his creation?

### Focus #2: ME

4. How does this passage reveal sin in my own mind, heart, or life?
5. In what ways does this passage help us to see how we need to be aligned with God's will?
6. What is one tangible and measurable way that the Spirit is leading me to respond to his Word?

### Focus #3: OTHERS

7. What is one truth that I can share meaningfully with someone, and with whom?
8. How can I specifically encourage someone or everyone in my Life Group from this passage?

Three contributions (reflections, questions, observations, etc.) I plan to include in our next Life Group discussion:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

#### Westwood Staff

**Gerald Hodges:** Lead Pastor  
**Jonathan Taylor:** Associate Pastor  
**Jason Engle:** Pastor of Students  
& Discipleship

**Yvonne Hager:** Executive Assistant

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#### FEBRUARY

17-19 Student Winter Retreat  
23-24 AHG ExPiPa Lock-in

#### MARCH

10 Daylight Saving Time begins  
14 Life Choices Banquet  
15-17 TL Campout @ Falls Lake  
20 Member's Meeting @ 6:30pm  
21 Blood Drive - 10:30am-3pm  
28 Maundy Thursday Service @ 7pm  
29 Good Friday - Church Office Closed