

## **SERMON NOTES**

**FEBRUARY 21, 2021**

*Start by praying and asking for God's help as you seek to grow as authentic followers of Jesus.*

### **LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD**

1. Read 2 Samuel 13:1-22. Make a few observations. What is the setting? Who is present? What horrific event happens? What emotions are shown?
2. Why is 2 Samuel 13:15 so strange and so terrifying after seeing Amnon's earlier strong claim to "love" Tamar? What does this demonstrate about the nature of sin?
3. After two years of patiently plotting for revenge against Amnon, we see Absalom execute his plan in 2 Samuel 13:23-29, 37-39. What does Absalom get right? What does Absalom get wrong?
4. Chapter 14 describes Absalom's exile from King David and his family. After three years, Absalom is allowed to return to Jerusalem, but even then David refuses to allow his son to enter his presence for another two years. How would you describe David during the events of chapter 13 and 14?
5. Read 2 Samuel 15:1-14. In what ways do we see Absalom focused on appearance and public platform rather than character and a heart for God? How does 1 Samuel 16:7 speak to this? Consider the ways that Absalom is more like a young King Saul than a young King David.
6. 2 Samuel 15:6 says, "Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel." From whom did he steal their hearts? *Hint: there is an immediate answer and an ultimate answer.*
7. How does what happens in 2 Samuel 13-15 (and the following chapters) fulfill the prophecy of Nathan in 2 Samuel 12:9-14? How do these events reveal the consequences of David's sin?

### **LIVING IT OUT**

8. Why do you think the consequences of sin remain in our lives even after we have repented and our sin has been forgiven?
9. How does sin twist our desire for a potentially good thing (sex, justice, relationships, influence, ambition) and turn it into something bad?
10. What is one way you can seek to be more present spiritually, present emotionally, and present strategically in the lives of those around you?
11. How is our Heavenly Father a better father to us than David was to his children? Can you think of any Bible passages that speak to God's care for us?

*Consider verses that speak to his being present, his compassion, his justice, his taking initiative in our lives, and his welcoming us home rather than isolating us?*