



A House Divided

2 Samuel 13:1-3 (NIV)

[1] In the course of time, Amnon son of David fell in love with Tamar, the beautiful sister of Absalom son of David. [2] Amnon became so obsessed with his sister Tamar that he made himself ill. She was a virgin, and it seemed impossible for him to do anything to her. [3] Now Amnon had an adviser named Jonadab son of Shimeah, David's brother. Jonadab was a very shrewd man.

1. Deception _____

2. Division _____

3. Destruction _____

Life Application _____



Staying Together in a Culture Divided

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Introduction:

- There is a parallel text to our passage this morning, a Psalm written by David carrying with it an ominous title.
- It's titled, '*A Psalm of David when he fled from Absalom his son*'.
- We begin a saga today that will take us on a journey through one of the most tragic seasons of David's life. It will be a story of deceit and betrayal. And the perpetrators of his misery are not his enemies, they are his trusted friends, his own family.
- The names are those close to him:
 - Ahithophel, his trusted counselor
 - Jonadab, the nephew
 - Amnon, his son
 - Absalom, another of his sons
 - Even the descendants of Saul, who he honored because of his covenant with Jonathan.
- His house has been over run, but not from without, from within.
- And so, he writes in verse one of Psalm 3:

- Psalms 3:1 (NIV) — [1] O LORD, how many are my foes! How many rise up against me!
- We can learn a lot from this difficult journey of David, for we see the same things in our culture today.

1. Deception

1. [3] Now Amnon had a friend named Jonadab son of Shimeah, David's brother. Jonadab was a very shrewd man.
2. Soon after a plot is laid for Amnon to have Tamar, and Jonadab is at the center of it.
3. 2 Samuel 13:5 (NIV) — [5] “Go to bed and pretend to be ill,” Jonadab said. “When your father comes to see you, say to him, ‘I would like my sister Tamar to come and give me something to eat. Let her prepare the food in my sight so I may watch her and then eat it from her hand.’”
4. "O, what a tangled web we weave when first we practice to deceive!" — Sir Walter Scott
5. A web of deceit and destruction has been cast across the reign of David and it spreads wide and reaches every corner of the kingdom.
6. In the event that follows, Amnon raped his half sister. As much as he loved her before, he hates her even more now because he has disgraced her.
7. 2 Samuel 13:22-23 (NIV) — [22] Absalom never said a word to Amnon, either good or bad; he hated Amnon because he had disgraced his sister Tamar. [23] Two years later, when Absalom's sheepshearers were at Baal Hazor near the border of Ephraim, he invited all the king's sons to come there.
8. And now, another plot of deceit and revenge is laid, this time for Amnon. Absalom has his brother Amnon murdered in revenge for his sister Tamar. In the chaos of murder, all the kind Sons rise up and flee, but the web of deceit is just getting started.

9. 2 Samuel 13:30-32 (NIV) — [30] While they were on their way, the report came to David: “Absalom has struck down all the king's sons; not one of them is left.” [31] The king stood up, tore his clothes and lay down on the ground; and all his servants stood by with their clothes torn. [32] But Jonadab son of Shimeah, David's brother, said, “My lord should not think that they killed all the princes; only Amnon is dead. This has been Absalom's expressed intention ever since the day Amnon raped his sister Tamar.
10. When I came to this verse, I said, "Wait a second, what's this guy Jonadab doing here?" And then in verse 35, here he is again.
11. 2 Samuel 13:35 (NIV) — [35] Jonadab said to the king, “See, the king's sons are here; it has happened just as your servant said.”
12. It's like wolves circling in the dark. You can't see them but you know they are there. You can here them in the darkness, but how many are there?
13. Psalms 3:1-2 (NIV) — [1] O LORD, how many are my foes! How many rise up against me! [2] Many are saying of me, “God will not deliver him.” Selah

2. Division

1. 2 Samuel 15:1-4 (NIV) — [1] In the course of time, Absalom provided himself with a chariot and horses and with fifty men to run ahead of him. [2] He would get up early and stand by the side of the road leading to the city gate. Whenever anyone came with a complaint to be placed before the king for a decision, Absalom would call out to him, “What town are you from?” He would answer, “Your servant is from one of the tribes of Israel.” [3] Then Absalom would say to him, “Look, your claims are valid and proper, but there is no representative of the king to hear you.” [4] And Absalom would add, “If only I were appointed judge in the land! Then everyone who has a complaint or case could come to me and I would see that he gets justice.”

2. And now, deception is about to give birth to division.
3. 2 Samuel 15:5-7 (NIV) — [5] Also, whenever anyone approached him to bow down before him, Absalom would reach out his hand, take hold of him and kiss him. [6] Absalom behaved in this way toward all the Israelites who came to the king asking for justice, and so he stole the hearts of the men of Israel. [7] At the end of four years, Absalom said to the king, “Let me go to Hebron and fulfill a vow I made to the LORD.
4. Divide and conquer has always been the plot of the enemy of our souls. Even the disciples of Jesus argued among themselves about who would be greater.
5. Matthew 12:25 (NKJV) — [25] But Jesus knew their thoughts, and said to them: “Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand.
6. And so, it begins. Absalom will divide the people against the king.
7. 2 Samuel 15:10-12 (NIV) — [10] Then Absalom sent secret messengers throughout the tribes of Israel to say, “As soon as you hear the sound of the trumpets, then say, ‘Absalom is king in Hebron.’” [11] Two hundred men from Jerusalem had accompanied Absalom. They had been invited as guests and went quite innocently, knowing nothing about the matter. [12] While Absalom was offering sacrifices, he also sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David's counselor, to come from Giloh, his hometown. And so the conspiracy gained strength, and Absalom's following kept on increasing.
8. But when division comes, there are no winners in this fight. David is not a stranger to war. He has slain Goliath, the Philistines, and the armies of Saul. But now, the battle comes within, from within his own house.
9. Psalms 3:3-4 (NIV) — [3] But you are a shield around me, O LORD; you bestow glory on me and lift up my head. [4] To the LORD I cry aloud, and he answers me from his holy hill. Selah

10. And so, the destruction begins.

3. Destruction

1. 2 Samuel 15:13-14 (NIV) — [13] A messenger came and told David, “The hearts of the men of Israel are with Absalom.” [14] Then David said to all his officials who were with him in Jerusalem, “Come! We must flee, or none of us will escape from Absalom. We must leave immediately, or he will move quickly to overtake us and bring ruin upon us and put the city to the sword.”
2. What Absalom has begun will have far reaching impact — not just in the life of David, but in his own and everyone around them. Revenge is a terrible path to navigate. It will always lead to destruction.
3. Deuteronomy 32:35 (NIV) — [35] It is mine to avenge; I will repay...
4. When we try to take vengeance into our own hands, we bring everything around us down upon ourselves. Our hope must be in the Lord.
5. Psalms 3:5-8 (NIV) — [5] I lie down and sleep; I wake again, because the LORD sustains me. [6] I will not fear the tens of thousands drawn up against me on every side. [7] Arise, O LORD! Deliver me, O my God! Strike all my enemies on the jaw; break the teeth of the wicked. [8] From the LORD comes deliverance. May your blessing be on your people. Selah

Conclusion:

- So, how can we apply this in our lives today. With all the deception, division, and destruction happening in our culture today, how should we as Christians respond?
- Look again at Psalm 3 at David’s response.
 1. Wait

- Psalms 3:1-2 (NIV) — [1] O LORD, how many are my foes! How many rise up against me! [2] Many are saying of me, “God will not deliver him.” Selah
- That word at the end of the first stanza, Selah, means 'wait'. We have to wait on the Lord. — Many are saying of me, “God will not deliver him.” ...WAIT

2. Pray

- Psalm 3:4 (NIV) — [4] To the LORD I cry aloud, and he answers me from his holy hill. Selah
- Pray, and then, there it is again — WAIT

3. Believe

- Psalm 3:7-8 (NIV) — [7] Arise, O LORD! Deliver me, O my God!... [8] From the LORD comes deliverance. May your blessing be on your people. Selah
- And there it is, one more time — WAIT
- Isaiah 40:31 (NKJV) — [31] But those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.