

Sermon Text Discussion Notes 3/24/2019

2 Samuel 13– “Where Can I Carry My Shame? Healing and Hope for the Abused” by Drew Hunter

Overview

This chapter tells the deeply painful story of sexual assault that occurred in King David's household. It reflects the unique cultural moment in which we live as we are confronted with the need to not be silent about issues of abuse, accountability, and healing. As this tragic and disturbing story unfolds, we read that Amnon, David's son, rapes his beautiful half-sister Tamar. Her life is greatly affected in adverse ways, David is angered but inactive, and David's son Absalom minimizes the crime but later murders Amnon.

Quotations

“What happened to you was not your fault. You are not to blame. You did not deserve it. You did not ask for this. You should not be silenced. You are not worthless. You do not have to pretend like nothing happened. Nobody had the right to violate you. You are not responsible for what happened to you. You are not damaged goods. You were supposed to be treated with dignity and respect. You were the victim of assault and it was wrong. You were sinned against. Despite all the pain, healing can happen and there is hope”

Justin and Lindsey Holcomb, Rid of My Disgrace

What happened to you is not your identity. It is part of your story, but is not your whole story. And it is not the end of your story. You do not need to pretend this didn't happen. Nor do you need to let this consume your life. There is a path of healing that acknowledges the pain, and walks ahead to a new life of healing in Christ. And you can also seek justice. We are not to seek vengeance like Amnon did; but we are to be people of justice.

Drew Hunter

Understanding & Application

- 1) What are the purposes and benefits of reading and teaching on this kind of scriptural passage? What are negative consequences of a society, church, or family being silent about issues of sexual assault?
- 2) What was inadequate in David and Absalom's response? What do you think contributes to people's inaction today in regards to sexual abuse and mistreatment?
- 3) Tamar was a victim of sexual assault. What did she, and all those in similar situations, need to hear, acknowledge, and embrace, in order to heal. [For reference read the quotes listed above]
- 4) How can parents teach their children that they are lovingly made by their Heavenly Father and possess dignity? What kinds of measures help protect them in a broken world?
- 5) Drew encouraged us to cultivate environments of compassion and safety that utilize strength to protect those weaker. What can we do to work toward men, women, and children being treated with honor and dignity.
- 6) In a practical sense, how does the life and love of Jesus impact the shame of both the victim and the perpetrator?