

October 6, 2019
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
SON OF ANARCHY
Episode 2: Crafty Is As Crafty Does.
Pastor Adam Stadtmiller

2 Samuel 18:1-10

Now Absalom, David's son, had a beautiful sister, whose name was Tamar. And after a time Amnon, David's son, loved her. ²And Amnon was so tormented that he made himself ill because of his sister Tamar, for she was a virgin, and it seemed impossible to Amnon to do anything to her. ³But Amnon had a friend, whose name was Jonadab, the son of Shimeah, David's brother. And Jonadab was a very crafty man. ⁴And he said to him, "O son of the king, why are you so haggard morning after morning? Will you not tell me?" Amnon said to him, "I love Tamar, my brother Absalom's sister." ⁵Jonadab said to him, "Lie down on your bed and pretend to be ill. And when your father comes to see you, say to him, 'Let my sister Tamar come and give me bread to eat, and prepare the food in my sight, that I may see it and eat it from her hand.'" ⁶So Amnon lay down and pretended to be ill. And when the king came to see him, Amnon said to the king, "Please let my sister Tamar come and make a couple of cakes in my sight, that I may eat from her hand."

²⁰Her brother Absalom said to her, "Has that Amnon, your brother, been with you? Be quiet for now, my sister; he is your brother. Don't take this thing to heart." And Tamar lived in her brother Absalom's house, a desolate woman. ²¹**When King David heard all this, he was furious.** ²²**And Absalom never said a word to Amnon, either good or bad; he hated Amnon because he had disgraced his sister Tamar.**

A continuing pattern of familial neglect.

Vs. 21 *David was furious but did nothing.*

- **Proverbs 13:24** *Whoever spares the rod hates their children, but the one who loves their children is careful to discipline them.*
- **Before we judge, let us not forget David's own abandonment.**
 - **David was a neglected son himself.** **1 Sam 16:11** *So he (Samuel) asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?" "There is still the youngest," Jesse answered. "He is tending the sheep." Samuel said, "Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives."*

David's family displays two of the most common traits in broken families.

1. The minimizing of trauma.
2. The inability to communicate.

The minimizing of trauma: Vs. 20 *Her brother Absalom said to her, "Has that Amnon, your brother, been with you? Be quiet for now, my sister; he is your brother. **Don't take this thing to heart.**" And Tamar lived in her brother Absalom's house, a desolate woman.*

- **We serve a God who never minimizes our trauma.**

- **Psalm 91:4-6.** *"He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler. You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor the destruction that wastes at noonday."*
- **Isaiah 53:5.** *"But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed."*

The inability to communicate: Vs. 22 *And Absalom never said a word to Amnon, either good or bad; he hated Amnon because he had disgraced his sister Tamar.*

Food For The Journey: Use these questions and challenges to go deeper in personal reflection or small group discussion.

1. Proverbs 13:24 states that whoever does not discipline their child hates them. Why do you think that the scripture uses such strong language here?
2. David was a neglected son himself, being left to tend the fields and not included when Samuel went to meet his family and anoint a new king. Does this give you any more compassion for some of David's failures? Why?
3. Absalom told his sister not to "take this thing to heart." What are the effects in a family when we minimize family trauma.
4. David's family seemed to hold to a strict code of silence, never confronting issues in a healthy manner. Why is it so tempting not to address difficult issues and what can be the consequences?
5. What is the greatest lesson you have learned so far from this story?