

**Recap of 2/8/26 message by Chris Sommerfieldi  
("The Danger of Unchecked Desire") 2 Samuel 13:1-22"**

This passage recounts the harrowing story of Amnon, who becomes infatuated with his half-sister Tamar, leading to a series of tragic events that reveal the destructive consequences of unchecked desire and sin. As we read, we are challenged to examine our own hearts for areas of unchecked desire or sin that can lead to destruction. The text tells us that Amnon "loved" his sister Tamar, but as the story unfolds his actions reveal the truth of his feelings. He lusts after Tamar. "Lust is the Devil's counterfeit for love. There is nothing more beautiful on earth than a pure love and there is nothing so blighting as lust" (D.L. Moody). Amnon's so-called "love" was as perverse as Jonadab's so-called "wisdom." It was a sensual craving for sexual gratification that was just as earthly, unspiritual, and devilish as Jonadab's wisdom (Robert Bergen).

As Amnon carries out his deceitful scheme Tamar is seen as a picture of purity. Amnon was given multiple opportunities to turn away from this perilous path, but he chose to continue. After Amnon is gratified in his selfish pleasure he discards Tamar like an object, unable to even speak her name (vs 15-17). C.S. Lewis says, "How much he [the lustful man] cares about the woman as such may be gauged by his attitude to her five minutes after fruition (one does not keep the carton after one has smoked the cigarettes)" (The Four Loves, 94). Unchecked desires can lead to manipulation and violation of others.

We must recognize our own heart's potential for disordered desire. "The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; who can understand it?" (Jeremiah 17:9). "He who trusts in his own heart is a fool, but he who walks wisely will be delivered" (Proverbs 28:26). We also need to seek godly counsel, not the counsel of people like Jonadab who espouse worldly wisdom. Proverbs is clear that associating with fools will make you foolish but uniting with the wise will make you wise. Therefore, we need to be in relationships with other Christians who are seeking to walk with Jesus. We need to give these brothers and sisters freedom to speak into our lives, just as we have freedom to speak into theirs. Lastly, we must bring our desires in line with the written and incarnate Word of God! We do this by taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ (2 Corinthians 10:4-5).